



Summit Church of the Brethren

Celebrates 150 years
in the community as a house of worship



Summit Church of the Brethren, ca. 1952

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.” – II Corinthians 13:14

Summit Church of the Brethren
314 Summit Church Rd.
Bridgewater, VA 22812
www.summitcob.org



1874-2024

Sunday, September 15, 2024

11 am

*A History of
Summit Church of the Brethren
1874-2024*

The Summit Church of the Brethren had its inception in the early 1870s in the minds of those few families who were then members of the northwest section of the Pleasant Valley congregation and were living in the area around what is now called Centerville (then called Milnesville). Like other members of the Pleasant Valley congregation further south who would soon build the Lebanon church building, these members felt the need of a meeting place closer to their residence to meet their needs better.

These families began meeting in their homes for worship, but soon a larger place was needed. The first Harmony schoolhouse, located on the north end of what is now Roman Road, became their meeting place. Some older members also recall attending Sunday School at the Summit schoolhouse, on the Samuel T. Miller property at that time. The Summit schoolhouse was located 3/4 mile north of north of Naked Creek Hollow Road, on the west side of Fadley Road.

By early 1874, many discussions had been held as to what to do about a church building and where to build one. The two-acre plot of ground on which the church and cemetery (before its expansion in 2005) now sit was bought from William and Sarah Landes, for the sum of \$60, with the deed dated April 30, 1874. Trustees for the church in that transaction were Samuel Frank, John Craun, Jr., and Samuel T. Miller, as appointed by Judge William McGaughlin of Augusta County. Because of the location, on top of one of the higher hills, the name, Summit, was chosen for the new church.

The church building erected in that same year was a wooden frame building, containing one large room for worship, with a small kitchen in the back. As there were no Sunday School classes at that time, no classrooms were needed. Samuel T. Miller served as the first minister of Summit church.

With strong leadership and dedicated workers, the

church began to grow. For the first 24 years, preaching was held once a month at Summit, but no Sunday School was held for the first eleven years, as many Brethren felt that it was not Biblical. However, Samuel T. Miller had observed successful Sunday Schools to the West, and through his efforts Summit began holding Sunday School classes in the spring and summer of 1885 (Miller served as the first Sunday School superintendent). By 1909, classes were meeting all year. Preaching had changed, meanwhile, to twice a month, beginning in 1901.

A history of Summit would be incomplete without mention of Glade church. Brother A.C. Miller, as much as anyone, through his visiting in the area west of Summit, found a need for a meeting place in that area. In a small glade of trees, with split logs for benches, a group began outdoor worship services on Sunday evenings, two times a month. The movement grew, under the leadership of the Summit people, and in 1901 a church building was erected on the spot where the meetings had been held in the glade of trees. Although sponsored and staffed by the Summit church, the Glade church was as much a community church as anything. At no time did the Glade church become a separate congregation from the parent church.

For 22 years the Glade location continued to be a vital part of the Summit congregation, many persons attending services at both places, usually at Summit in the morning, and at Glade in the evening. In 1922, there was a considerable lessening of interest in services at Glade due to several families moving away from that vicinity. Therefore, the Summit congregation sold the Glade building for \$800, using this money for remodeling and adding classrooms to the Summit building in 1924.

The Glade building was turned into a residence. It is located at the junction of Stoutmyer Road (753) and Ridge Road (699), and is owned by Earl Puffenbarger.

As the Summit congregation continued to grow both numerically and in program, there was an increasing feeling that they should separate from the parent Pleasant Valley congregation. In the February council meeting in 1914 a vote was taken to put this separation into effect.

The date was February 28, 1914, and 145 persons organized the new independent congregation as new members. The Pleasant Valley church appointed Peter Garber and Samuel D. Miller as the elders of the new Summit church for the first year. (As Pleasant Valley is the mother church of Summit, Middle River is the mother church of Pleasant Valley, and thus the grandmother church of Summit.) Although some members wished to change the name of the newly-organized congregation to "Concord", Council voted in the March meeting to retain the name of "Summit" for the new church.

By this time, partially due to the Sunday School now being conducted, the building at Summit no longer met the needs of the congregation. In 1924 classrooms were added to the building, along with a "mother's room." Even this was sufficient for only eleven years, and in 1935 the necessary excavation was done to permit a fellowship hall to be constructed beneath the building.

The church grew and expanded during the following years. The task of pastoring the congregation falling to ministers within the congregation during the early years gave way to having student ministers from Bridgewater College help serve in the preaching capacity. S. Earl Mitchell was the first student minister in 1931. Among the many others who served were Dr. Jesse H. Ziegler and the W. Harold Row, both leaders of the denomination at the Brotherhood level.

In 1942, Summit entered a new phase of pastoral leadership, sharing a full-time minister with the Cooks Creek (Dayton) church. Jacob F. Replogle served in this arrangement for two years, to 1944. At this time it was the Lebanon church that began sharing a full-time minister with Summit, an arrangement that lasted for four years. Newton L. Poling was the pastor during this time. Following Brother Poling's resignation in 1948, the church began to seriously consider having a full-time pastor alone. With this end in mind, the Charles Snow property in Centerville was purchased and remodeled, to be used as the church parsonage.

For two years following Rev. Poling's leaving, Summit was pastored jointly by John T. Glick and R.V. Simmons. In the fall of

1950, following much discussion and planning, William C. Eicher was called to be the first full-time pastor of the Summit congregation.

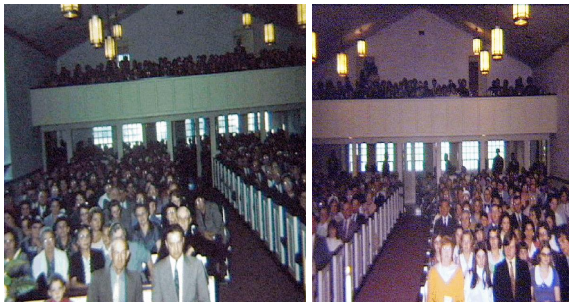
About this time, discussions were being held on the matter of repainting and remodeling the church building. A significant number of members believed that the building, since it was almost 80 years old, had served its purpose, and that a new building was needed. Many discussions were held, and various committees were appointed to consider the matter in the next few years.

Thoughts about the building were put on hold in 1954, with the resignation of Rev. Eicher and the necessary procedure of securing a new pastor. Beverly A. Smith was called as the new minister at this time, and his service began in the fall of 1955.

With Rev. Smith duly installed, movement began again toward the matter of a new building. On October 30, 1955, the Council finally took a forward-looking vote to have the Wells Organization come to conduct a fund-raising canvass, with the building of a new building in mind. The canvass was completed, and shortly afterward a vote was taken in Council to build a new building. Two years later, on March 3, 1957, a ground-breaking ceremony was held. The building was completed with countless hours of labor donated by the men of the church to speed the contractor's work. The architect for the building was Forrest U. Groff. J.B. Wine and Son Construction Company served as the builders.

The following year, on September 7, 1958, the congregation worshiped in the new building. A formal service of dedication was held three weeks later, on September 28, 1958. Guest speaker for the morning service was Dr. Warren D. Bowman, president of Bridgewater College. The afternoon dedication sermon was





Mitchell, R.V. Simmons, and Beverly Smith. Hurst and Smith delivered messages of celebration.

delivered by Dr. S. Earl Mitchell, a former student minister at Summit.

According to the program for the Dedication Service, "The new church building is basically Colonial in architectural concept though modified in design and planning to conform to the needs of our day and to utilize more efficiently the benefits of contemporary ideas in decor and mechanical equipment.... Aesthetically, the church represents that which is fine and beautiful. In proportion, treatment, lighting and color, it reflects an atmosphere of reverence and peace in which one is aware of His Presence. Worship and Prayer come easily in this setting."

The old church building was sold at auction on September 30, 1958, for \$525, on the condition it be torn down within 60 days. The burning of the note took place 10 years later in 1968.

In 1962, Rev. Smith resigned, having completed seven years at Summit. Wilmer R. Hurst replaced him as pastor for the next nine years. During these years, the church continued to increase in membership and to develop new programs of service.



In 1968 plans were begun to replace the parsonage. In late 1969, on a parcel of land given by Roy and Lena Wright, construction was begun on the new parsonage. The Hurst family moved into the new, ranch-style house in March of 1970.

In September of 1971, John D. (Jack) Byers began serving the Summit church as pastor. During Pastor Byers' six-year tenure, Summit celebrated its 100th Anniversary on May 5, 1974. The services were conducted by Pastor Byers and five former ministers at Summit: Bill Eicher, Wilmer Hurst, Earl

In April of 1977, Allen D. Pugh became pastor of Summit. Also in 1977, the church completed a project long talked about and dreamt about when it acquired approximately five acres of land located directly behind the original two-acre plot. This land was owned by Mrs. Edith Fries. On May 4, 1980, the church installed a library and meeting room on the main floor of the church. The library committee consisted of Helen Craun, Audrey Slaven, Lena Wright, and Viola Wright.



In June of 1982, Donald G. Hubbell became the pastor of Summit. During this time, improvements were made to the church property, such as paving the parking area. In the fall of 1990, a picnic shelter was built behind the church. Later, playground equipment was added next to the picnic shelter. These projects were due to the hard work and fundraising of the Women's Fellowship. Most of the labor for building the shelter was provided by the Men's Fellowship.

Earl D. Rowland served as interim pastor from 1992-1993, followed by James H. Baker who began as pastor in April of 1993. Following the resignation of Rev. Baker, Samuel H.

Following the resignation of Steve Spire in 2009, Al Sauls served as an interim until the arrival of Cole Scrogam in 2010. When he resigned in 2012, John W. Glick served as interim until August 2014, when Tim Craver was installed as pastor.

In 2016, new tile was installed in the vestibule and new carpet was laid in the narthex and first floor classrooms. In 2017, new flooring was laid in the fellowship hall and the Women's Fellowship updated the kitchen.

More recent updates include the installation of new windows, new flooring in the basement, new shrubbery and trees, the installation of a playground directly behind the church building, a new fence around the cemetery, the installation of monitors in the sanctuary to assist with worship, and a new sign in the front yard.

Summit has had a proud past of serving the community

Flora, Jr., served as interim pastor from 1995-1997. During this time, extensive remodeling was done throughout the church, and a new sound system was installed.

Steve Spire became the pastor of Summit in October of 1997. In the summer of 1998, the project of installing water and electricity to the picnic shelter was completed. Also in 1998, the Summit Church Museum was established in a basement room. Geraldine Shifflett and Audrey Slaven oversaw this project of placing historical artifacts from Summit and Brethren history. The outcome is an impressive and beautiful display of these artifacts and donated items.

In 1999, the congregation approved the addition of air conditioning to the church building. This was completed in 2000 with the sanctuary, all rooms on the main floor, fellowship hall, and kitchen now air conditioned.

In 2003, the youth group had a barbecue pit built behind the church. Chicken barbecues have raised a lot of funds for the active group to attend Brethren youth workcamps and the Church of the Brethren National Youth Conference.

The cemetery was expanded in 2005 onto a portion of the land purchased from Mrs. Edith Fries in 1977.

and of supporting the denomination and district, both by financial aid and the number of persons going out from the church into service as ministers.

Throughout its history, Summit has a fine record of outreach through Heifer Project (in its early days) and Disaster Response. Current outreach involves Vacation Bible School, Backpack Pals, Noisy Offering, Open Doors, Salvation Army, Operation Christmas Child, and other partnerships.

We look forward to continuing the work of Jesus as Summit Church of the Brethren in this beautiful building in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. We pray that Summit will continue to be a caring, Christ-centered family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while reaching out to the community.

Praise God for blessing Summit for 150 years!

Memorable Dates

April 30, 1874	deed made for land purchased for building a meeting house
1874	first meeting house built
February 28, 1914	officially split from Pleasant Valley
February 10, 1955	decided in Council to build a new church
March 3, 1957	groundbreaking ceremonies for the new church
April 3, 1957	beginning of actual construction
August 25, 1957	the laying of the cornerstone
August 31, 1958	last Sunday of worship in old church
September 7, 1958	first Sunday of worship in new church
September 28, 1958	dedication of the new church
1968	burning of note
1969-1970	construction of parsonage

Elders Elected By Summit Congregation

Ernest B. Craun	Wilmer R. Hurst
Marion J. Craun	Cecil C. Ikenberry
John S. Flory	Olen B. Landes
Peter Garber	R.V. Simmons
John T. Glick	C.B. Smith

Ministers that Served Summit 1874-1931

Benjamin H. Craun	H. Newton Glick	Samuel D. Miller
Ernest B. Craun	J. Paul Glick	Samuel T. Miller
Marion J. Craun	John T. Glick	Luther Painter
Peter Garber	Abraham C. Miller	R.V. Simmons
	Daniel Miller	

Student Pastors from Bridgewater College, 1931-1942

Bruce H. Flora	William Hotchkiss
Wendell Flory	S. Earl Mitchell
Robert Garber	W. Harold Row

May 5, 1974	100 th Anniversary celebration
September 26, 1999	125 th Anniversary celebration
September 9, 2007	50 th Anniversary celebration of current church building
September 10, 2017	60 th Anniversary celebration of current church building
September 15, 2024	150 th anniversary of Summit Church

Ministers Elected, Licensed, or Ordained by Summit

Andrew L. Brunk	J. Paul Glick	Luther Painter
David L. Brunk	John T. Glick	Jerry W. Ruff
Benjamin H. Craun	John W. Glick	Garold Senger Jr
Ernest B. Craun	Joseph L. Glick	E.B. Shoemaker
Marion J. Craun	Paul E. Glick	Gary Shull
Timothy A. Craver	Wendell P. Glick	Charles Simmons
Jonathan Farmer	Katie Heishman	Randall Simmons
G. Wayne Glick	A. Gene Knicely	Glenn D. Stevens
H. Newton Glick	Mark Lenker	
J. Paul Glick	Abraham C. Miller	

Jesse H. Ziegler

Pastors Who Have Served Summit

Jacob F. Replogle	1942-1944
Joint Pastor with Cooks Creek (Dayton) Church	
Newton L. Poling	1944-1948
Joint Pastor with Lebanon Church	
John T. Glick	Interim 1948-1950
Rolandus Velton Simmons	Interim 1948-1950

Full-Time Pastors

William R. Eicher	1950-1954
Beverly A. Smith	1955-1961
Wilmer R. Hurst	1962-1971
John D. Byers	1971-1976
Allen D. Pugh	1977-1982
Donald G. Hubbell	1982-1992
Earl D. Rowland	Interim 1992-1993

James H. Baker		1993-1995
Samuel Flora	Interim	1995-1997
Steven R. Spire		1997-2009
Albert Sauls	Interim	2009
Cole Scrogham		2010-2012
John Glick	Interim	2012-2014
Timothy A. Craver		2014-

Norman Armstrong
 Norman Brunk
 C. Frank Craun
 Henry Craun
 Ethel Evers
 Roy Evers
 Helen Fifer
 Ward Fifer
 Grace Glick
 Orven Knicely

Newton Shiflett
 R.V. Simmons
 Bill Wise
 Ann Wright
 Lena Wright
 Richard C. Wright
 Roy C. Wright
 Beverly Smith, pastor
 Cecil Ikenberry, moderator

Summit Members who Served in Brethren Volunteer Service

Andrew Brunk	Ray Glick	Boyd Shull
Katie Cummings	Gene Knicely	Nancy Shull
Carolyn Fifer	Jerry Ruff	Debbie Simmons
Glenna Glick	Barbara Shiflett	Wanda Simmons
John W. Glick	Martha Shiflett	Robert Wright
Margaret Glick		

The Building Committee 67 Years Ago

Jesse L. Glick, chair	Emma Lamb
Eva C. Bowman, secretary	Henry C. Lamb

1958 Financial Statement on New Church Building

Estimated cost	\$108,921
Actual cost	\$ 98,658
Pledges	\$ 87,500
Paid Pledges and Memorials	\$ 65,000
Unpaid Pledges	\$ 22,460
Amount Borrowed	\$ 44,000
Furniture	\$ 11,135.10

A list of bills paid for by Samuel Frank when he helped build Summit Church in 1874

March ?? 1874	Paid to Landes for the church lot	\$20
	Paid to William Eavers (?) on shingles	\$16
	Paid to Roller (?) for lime	\$3.75
May 1?	Paid to Pat Loid	\$46
	Paid to Dr. Croff(?) for acknowledgment of deed for church lot	\$1
June 8	1 keg? of 8 penny(?) of ?	\$6
July 20	?? of nails, clasp locks, hinges, ????	\$0.18
	4 door bolts and balance ?	\$1.18
	plastering lather(?)	
	2 ? of putty 5 glasses(?) 10x12	\$0.60
	For 50 bushels of lime of ?	\$3
	and hauling(?) the ?	
August 5	Screens(?) bought of George E. Price	\$3.47

August 31	Paid on church to Pat Loid	\$66
	Paid on safeguard(?) to S.L. Griner	\$10
	Paid 5 dollars for stove	\$5
	For timber for the church	\$29.29
	3 days getting ? one day getting timber on the lot (?)	\$4
	? selecting money 1 day arranging to ? the kitchen	\$2
	5 days cutting rock for steps and cleaning up yard	\$5
	4 days for the boys making ? and cleaning up yard	<u>\$4.50</u>
	Total Paid	\$245.97
	Unpaid at Time of Listing	<u>\$10.30</u>
	Total:	\$256.27

am't of \$75.00 added to this Bill

Bill paid one the Summit Church by Samuel Frank		
March the 21 st 1874	paid to Lander for the Church lot	\$ 20.00
	paid to William Savers one Shingles	16.00
	paid to Roller for lime	3.75
May the 1	paid to Pat Loid	46.00
	paid to Dr Cropper for acknowledgment of deed for church lot	1.00
June the 8	To 1 Keg of 5 penny of Letter	\$ 0.00
July the 20	Bill of Garsaman of nails wash locks hinges brass samplings	1.18
	To 4 Door bolts and ballance one plastering lathe	1.18
	To 2 th of putty 5 glasses 10x12	0.60
	for 50 bushels of lime of Mungen and holding truck	13.00
August 5	To Screws bought of George E. Price	3.47
31	paid one Church to Pat Loid	86.00
	paid one Sapeyard to M. L. Grisen	10.00
	paid 5 Dollars for Stone	5.00
	for Timber for the Church	29.29
	To 3 days getting subscribers on raft ^{getting timber on the lot}	4.00
	To 1 day collecting money 1 day arranging to build the kitchen	2.00
	To 5 days cutting rock for steps and cleaning up yard	5.00
	To 4 th days for the boys making stile & cleaning up yard	4.50
	Garsaman	Not Paid 245.97
	one laugh	Not paid 7.00
		130
		256.27

A LIST OF BILLS PAID FOR BY SAMUEL FRANK WHEN HE HELPED
BUILD SUMMIT CHURCH, IN 1874.

Early History of the Summit Church School

It is interesting to note that Summit was among the first of the congregations of the Valley to have a Sunday School. When the Sunday School first started Summit was a part of the Pleasant Valley congregation. Summit and Valley started Sunday Schools at about the same time.

These Sunday Schools were conducted in school houses, the Valley school near Pleasant Valley Church in Centennial School house with Mrs. Sophia Garber as the first Superintendent. In 1881 Mr. Noah Early proposed to have a school at West View school house. In 1882 or 1883 a Sunday School was started in a house near Valley Church. In 1886 the Pleasant Valley congregation voted 35 to 4 to start a Sunday School at the Pleasant Valley Church.

At the same time the young people of the Summit Church were attending Sunday Schools of other denominations against the wishes of their parents and the sanction of the church. Rev. Samuel T. Miller made a visit to the west, and coming in contact with the Sunday School work there was so favorably impressed with it that he came back enthusiastic over starting one at Summit which he did in the spring of 1886.

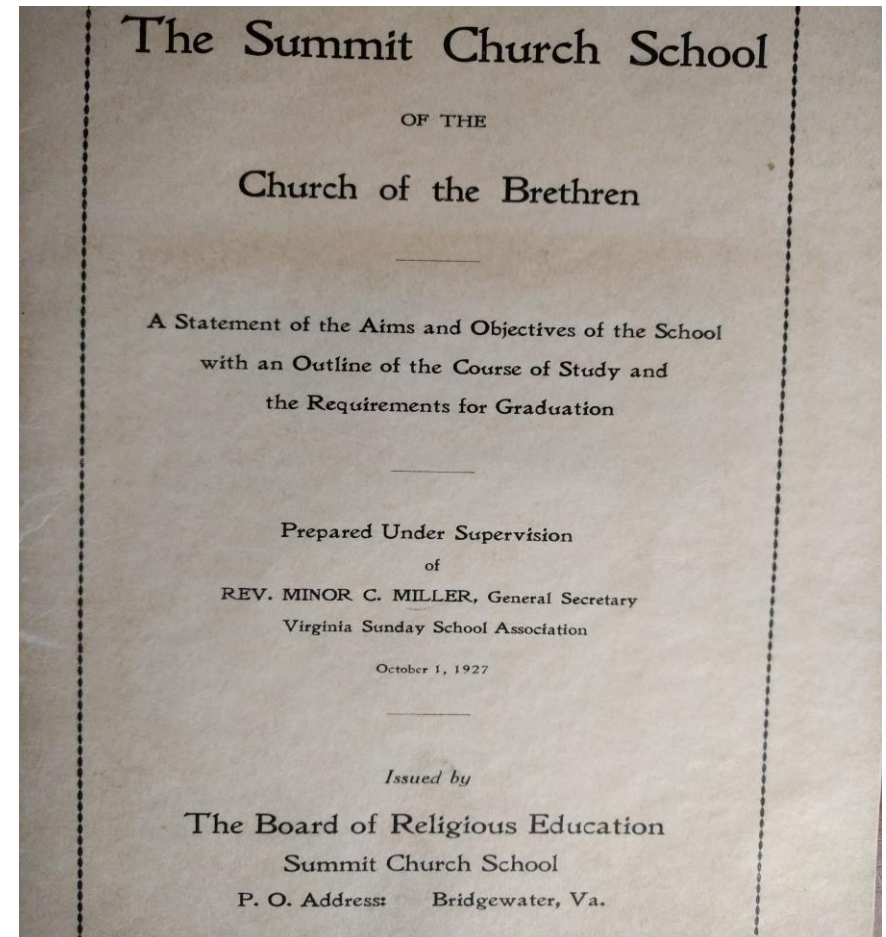
Rev. Samuel T. Miller was the first Superintendent, with J.M. Glick and J.G. Miller following. Lucious Earman served as secretary and librarian for a number of years during the infancy of the Sunday School. He and his wife were two of the staunchest pioneers in the movement.

The attendance at first was about 25 or 30. The Bible was the textbook which led up to other helps. Among the early teachers and leaders were S.T. Miller, J.M. Glick, Samuel Sheets, D.L. Evers, Mrs. D.L. Evers, Mrs. J.M.

Glick, Mrs. Susan Earman, Mrs. Rebecca Burns, Barbara Long, Rebecca and Mary Miller and others. In 1898 we have a record stating that Samuel Shiflet was elected Superintendent.

At first missions were unknown in our church, but after a few years Mrs. Earman started the "Mission Collection" movement. A few pennies were given at first by the children who would come to the front and drop the pennies in a box held by the Superintendent. The sum gradually increased as the older folks became interested.

The early school was in session only six months during the spring and summer of each year.



*Memories of the Building of the Church
67 Years Ago*

The following remembrances of the process of building the current church building have been re-printed from the 50th anniversary booklet that was compiled 17 years ago. Although these people are no longer with us, their voice and their legacy lives on.

Compiled by Audrey Craun Slaven

AS I REMEMBER...

told By Sam Shifflett



When the Summit Church congregation decided to build a new church building, I was serving as a Trustee along with Garold Senger, Sr., Joe Craun, Richard Wright and Jesse Glick.

We worked very closely with the newly appointed Building Committee of twenty-two members along with the Pastor, Beverly Smith, and our Moderator, Cecil Ikenberry. This committee met at least once a week and sometimes twice a week. A lot of accomplishments were made during these meetings, good arguments took place and sometimes very heated arguments took place, but our Moderator, Mr. Ikenberry seemed to resolve them with great things accomplished. Mr. J. B. Wine was our contractor to build our new church building. He had three full-time employees, Norman Sandy, the foreman, Eldon Carver and Golden Brunk. These men came on the job every day until the building was complete. Mr. Everette Huffman was the appointed person to supply Mr. Wine with enough man power from among the Summit men each day that was needed for the daily project.

The footers of the church were dug with Henry Craun's backhoe. The front right of the new building was a wheelbarrow's width from the back left corner of the old church building. At least the workers could walk all of the way around the foundation. The new church building was more centered on the church lot and not as close to the road. The foundation was dug with Henry Craun's backhoe loosening the dirt to keep the foundation squared. Those who owned farm tractors could use their pond scoops to haul the dirt out of the foundation. Arthur Craun, Henry's brother, let the church men use his crawler for two weeks. Sam Shifflett ran this piece of equipment.

All of the roof trusses were built on the property. The lumber was West Coast Fir. There were no knots in the lumber. The lumber came into Weyers Cave on the railroad car and was picked up and hauled by the members to the church. Each truss cost approximately \$100 each at that time. Norman Sandy, the foreman, took the plans and cut the lumber. There was a large oak tree at the sanctuary end of the church. A pulley was fastened to the oak tree and a rope was used to stand the trusses up.

J. B. Wine had sub-contractors to lay the block and brick and to do the plastering. The sanctuary floor has four inches of cement and was poured all at one time on reinforced steel trusses. The men helped to push cement in with wheelbarrows. Mr. Wine had a power trowel, so Norman Sandy ran it. The men from the church worked the edges with hand trowels to make it smooth. Later that afternoon, a thunderstorm came. It was quite a thunderstorm, with lots of hard rain. Mr. Sandy began to be concerned about the cement because it was still very sloppy from just being poured. As he checked on the freshly poured cement, he saw a large puddle of water in the middle of the concrete floor. He immediately took a digging iron and started punching a hole in the sloppy cement and yelled for help to join him so the trusses

would be relieved from the extra weight. The water and sloppy cement went into the basement, but the basement floor had not been poured at this point and it did not matter. Mr. Sandy stuffed paper in the hole and took more cement and repaired the floor. At this point all was well. The church men were very grateful that Mr. Sandy knew exactly what to do to relieve this situation.

At the balcony, they used heavy fir lumber at the Sunday School class room and a heavy beam to support the weight. The fir lumber that holds the balcony was cut on 16 inch centers.

The Church pews came from Lynchburg and were already painted and ready to install. The colored glass for the windows was made in Winston Salem, North Carolina. The top and lower tilt glass has four panes, but two different sizes. The same color cannot be found side by side in the sanctuary glass windows. This glass cannot be cut because it will break into pieces. This style makes a beautiful colonial style window.

The cinder block in the basement was painted with a white wash cement mixture made by Mr. Wine that had soap in it. The men of the church painted this mixture to close the small holes in the block. The adding of the soap to this mixture made it paint easier.

There was a lot of discussion about putting a steeple on the church at this time, because of the cost. Eventually one was placed. They used a crane to place the steeple.

When lunch time came, out came the lunch boxes. Lots of the men brought their lunch, however, there were those that lived close by and went home to eat.

AS I REMEMBER...
told by Geraldine Shifflett

There were lots of different sub-committees, and I was Chairman of the Kitchen Committee. The ladies of the church wanted two new electric stoves. They were going to put a new stove in the church parsonage and one new stove in the church along with the used stove from the parsonage. We went to the building committee to ask for the money. I waited for an answer in the hallway and overheard the discussion that there was not enough money. The stoves were voted down. The ladies were disappointed when I told them, however, the building committee said we should plan to use the old black kitchen stove that came out of the old church. This stove is housed today in the downstairs storage room. The women of the church were determined to raise money and buy their own stoves. They served many oyster suppers and bought two electric stoves, and donated \$10,000 to the church building fund.

AS I REMEMBER...
told by Richard Wright

Serving as one of the Church Trustees, I remember the Council voting to have the Wells Organization instruct us on how to canvass for a new Church. Mr. Henry Lamb, was in the construction business, and he gave a lot of good ideas on how to raise money for a new church building. A canvass committee was formed. The committee went into teams to start canvassing for the new church building. As one family in the community was visited, the committee member was joking by saying, we have you down for \$5,000, for your pledge. The gentleman quickly said he would only give \$500. After much discussion, a compromise was agreed on that evening. The next day a phone call to the committee confirmed the pledge of \$5,000. This was the beginning of a great canvass contribution for the new church building.

At one of the committee meetings, a discussion of the EXIT light took place. Many in the committee meeting decided that an EXIT light looked like something you would see in a movie theatre. Mr. J. B. Wine, the contractor, said the EXIT sign was in the county building code laws for public buildings. However, he could provide us with the color green instead of red so we wouldn't look like a movie theatre. The committee voted for the green colored EXIT signs in our church.

Even though a sub-contractor laid the brick for our church, it was remembered that a German refugee worked with that company. Everyone was amazed at how efficient and quick the German fellow could lay brick. After the brick was laid, a concern of water coming into the front part of the church was discussed. After much discussion from the building committee, it was decided that an outside drain pipe would not be needed underground to carry off the water in front of the church along the bottom of the foundation. However, after the church dirt had been filled in, hard rains let water seep into the basement floor. This was a muddy mess. The men washed and carried muddy water out of the church basement the next few days and already knew it was a mistake by not putting in the drain tile. The basement was hosed down and allowed to dry. At a later date a sealer was installed on the inside basement wall.

Old Church Memoirs

I can still see in my mind the old wood stoves in the old church. One wood stove was on the side of the church where the women sat and one on the side where the men sat. This is how the church was heated until after the basement was finished in the late 30's. A 550 gallon oil tank was installed for an oil furnace. There was a carbide tank near the small graveyard, which furnished light to the carbide lamps in the church. The church used carbide lamps along with kerosene lamps. They were placed around through the church at various places

Glen area. The terms were to take the building down in ninety

including on the organ and piano, until (REA), Shenandoah Valley Electric Coop., placed electricity in the church during 1939. This was a welcome change because the carbide was a very stinky substance to smell.

In the late 30's, it was decided that a basement was needed. There was only a three to four foot crawl space under the church floor. The members decided to open the west end of the church foundation to dig the dirt out. This basement was hand-dug with picks and shovels. They used a horse with a dirt scoop to help haul out the dirt from under the church floor. Someone found a horse that would bow his head to enter the basement as he dug out the dirt with the scoop. There was a large limestone rock near the entry way where the men were taking out the dirt, so they decided to dynamite this rock. They used an iron chisel to drill the holes in the rock. Caps and fuses were put in the holes of this rock. There was much discussion on how much dynamite to use, and everyone's opinion was different. However, once it was agreed upon, everyone helping to dig the dirt and eliminate the rock went to the graveyard except the one putting the fuse off. After the fuse went off, it took care of the rock and also blew a large hole in the floor on the men's side of the church. It took days to clean up the church and repair the floor. A wall and concrete floor was put down, with a head space of about seven to eight feet high. Steps were added to the inside of the church on the women's side through the children's Sunday school classroom. A kitchen with water from the cistern was installed. This area of the church served many oyster suppers until they outgrew the area, then the suppers were served at the Centerville School house. There was never a bathroom installed in the old Summit Church Building.

The Building Committee decided to sell the old church at auction. Richard remembers being the auctioneer. The church building was bought by Mr. Norman Whetzel from the Singers

days. Mr. Whetzel built a house out of the good lumber and the



beams. Some of the Sunday School rooms were used for rooms in the house. The old foundation was filled in by Henry Craun's backhoe equipment.

The Summit Congregation bought the Snow property at Centerville, in the 1940's and sold it in 1969 for \$17,000.00. The new parsonage was built in 1969 across from the church on land given by Roy and Lena Wright. The new parsonage was built with Golden Brunk being chairman of this project. John Root dug the well.

AS I REMEMBER...

told by Orven Knicely

I can remember the long and many meetings of the



Building Committee. Sometimes discussions would last for hours, however, fifty years ago, the people of the church thought a long time before spending money to make sure the quality merchandise was there. Mr. Jessie Glick was the Chairman of the Building

Committee and he valued each other's opinion until agreement was made on each project. People can't realize today how hard it was for us to support our families during this time, because most of us lived on a farmer's income. The families of Summit pledged as much of their income to the building fund as they could. Lots of children in the congregation had building fund envelopes that they put their nickels and dimes into for the Sunday morning collection.

The Building Committee went to banks locally to borrow the money to build the Church. They would not lend the money unless the Trustees of the Church signed a note.

AS I REMEMBER...

told by Frances Knicely

The committee did not want to have any one sign their signature for the funds that would be spent on the Church. Mr. J. B. Wine said he usually dealt with a bank in Staunton, Virginia, and he would see what he could do to help us. The Staunton Bank loaned us money without any signatures. The only thing the Bank required was a copy of the business meeting minutes, where the Building Committee voted to build a new church building.

I remember serving on the Electricity Sub-Committee. The furnishings, fixtures, switches, and receptacles were bought from Hartley Electric in Staunton, Virginia. They saved the church 40 percent on all of the electrical supplies and fixtures. Clarence Sheets Electric did the main wiring of the church according to the architect's plans. Ward Fifer and I hung most of the fixtures in the Church Sanctuary with help from the men that were holding the ladders.

On our Dedication Sunday, Mr. J. B. Wine announced that the Summit Church Congregation saved \$40,000 by helping with the building projects on the church.

The Church's standards have changed since worshipping in the old church building. Today our families sit together; no lady wears a prayer bonnet or head covering to worship; we marry out of our denomination; going to church functions is not the main interest of families today. These are just a few changes from fifty years ago. However, I believe you are a Christian when accepting Christ, not becoming a Church member.

Rev. Beverly Smith was our Pastor through this building of our new Church. He was always patient and kind. I am thankful my family experienced the building of the new Church, because working together holds a family together and I believe it was meaningful for all of our Church families.

It seemed like my boys were really excited about having

a new church to worship in. One Sunday morning we were getting ready for Church, and I dressed them extra special because we were going to another event afterwards. I was about to get into the car when I saw Don down on his knees in the backseat of the car floor. I told him to get up off of his knees, so “you won’t get your Sunday pants dirty.” He said, “But Mother, I’m praying to thank God for us building a new church”. Don was 9 years old.

AS I REMEMBER...

told by Garold Senger, Sr.

I guess those of us on the Church Building Committee will always remember the long meetings and discussions. Those meetings created a beautiful colonial style building in which we all enjoy worshipping. One of the most exciting memories was the digging and scooping out the foundation. There were many men on tractors with dirt scoops. They followed each other, scooping up dirt and hauling it behind the church. It surely looked like ants crawling in and out of the foundation, one behind the other.

On the Sunday that Beverly Smith preached his last sermon, he knew the next preacher would be making more money than he had gotten, so in his sermon he said “A new broom sweeps clean, but an old broom knows where the dirt is”. This was his way of letting the congregation know about the raise the next preacher was getting.

The Summit Church Oak

If the stately oak on Summit's front lawn
Had a mouth instead of leaves,
The tale it could tell of past events

Spiritual Summits

Composed by Perry L. Huffaker

Words by Perry L. Huffaker and Wilmer R. Hurst

On spiritual Summits of Old Testament,
Jehovah revealed His love heaven sent.
On Sinai, Pizgah, and Zion so high,
He gave of His power to all who drew nigh.
The soul searching Summits of New Testament,
The Transfiguration, and Olivet’s side,
From Calvary’s Summit, with Temple veil rent,
His cross and His teaching from mount is our guide.

In spiritual Summit for us on this hill,
We worship the Father, whose Presence doth fill,
Our hearts with His merit, of love and good will,
To spread Holy Spirit o’er valley and hill.
We gather together at Summit to sing
The praise of our Savior, whose love e’er will bring
Renewal of new life in mind, heart, and soul,
With courage so full, rife, we press toward the goal.

From spiritual Summit, flows forth o’er the earth,
His spirit of sharing to bring men New Birth.
In peace, action glorious, we show them the Way.
World mountain tops daring, to bring His new day.
In heart dedication at Summit Church now,
With firm consecration, fulfill this, our vow.
Let this congregation affirm, “Here am I!
Send me” in Your service, for Thee, live and die.

Huffaker led revival at Summit from October 15-22, 1967 and probably wrote this song around that time.

Would be true beyond beliefs.

We would hear of hammers and nails
In construction,
Sweat, prayer and tears
Of heated discussion.

The laughter of children
Touching home base,
In a lively game
Of tag or chase.

Bashful young men and
Lovely young ladies,
Planning a future
Of daises and babies.

Scampering squirrels and
Tight-lipped chipmunks,
Gathering life's bounty
And preparing their bunks.

Brightly feathered birds
Teaching fledglings to fly,
And sweetly sing
In The By And By.

Funerals of God's saints
Both young & old,
Who have gone on to walk
Heaven's streets of pure gold.

Neighbors who've met

At the end of their day,
To help one another
Along life's challenging highway.



Inspiring sermons preached
Full of the Spirit,
Aimed at all souls
Who need to receive it.

Brides in white dresses
And long, lovely veil,
Vowing to anxious grooms
To be true without fail.

Choirs sweetly singing
To God Be The Glory,
High key and low
With fanfare and flurry.

Cantatas rehearsed
For many a long hour,
Presented to God
With vigor and power.

Bible school classes
Planned to a tee,
Happily greeted
By elder and 'wee'.

Holy Communion and
Sacred Love Feast,
Observed with grape juice wine
And bread without yeast.

Her leafy arches
And welcoming arms,
Enfold and shield us
From many of life's harms.

These are some thoughts
From the stately old oak,
As she continues to greet
All the special Summit folk!

Ruth A. Fifer began this poem in 2003 and finished it in 2006. This tree was removed in 2022 and a new tree was planted in the front lawn in memory of Betty Jo Cline.

The Sunday Before Christmas

'Twas the Sunday before Christmas when all through the
church
Not a coo nor a whisper from the dove on its perch.

The church is bedecked in its Yuletide array,
Awaiting its guests for this Christmas Eve day.

The children rehearsing in the basement away,
To sing their glad tidings on this joyous day.

Their faces all beaming like the candles aglow,
Lining the aisles and the pews below.

When eleven o'clock appears on the scene,
The music begins with a melody serene.

With great expectations as the Wise Men of old,
The congregation awaits the great drama to unfold.

The holly and ivy and red velvet bows,
Give a luster of beauty to each of the rows.

When what to our wondering eyes should appear,
But a procession of children to bring us good cheer.

With rehearsing all ended and every line learned,
The children are eagerly awaiting their turn.

The parishioners joining in joyful song,
Help move the all musical hour along.

Now sopranos, now altos, now tenors and basses,
Are assembled and ready to take their assigned places.

From the rafters high to the beams below
A SONG WAS BORN fills the church all aglow.

Rehearsals that were begun in late September,
Are now giving us music this twenty-fourth of December.

The great Christmas story begins to unfold,
As they sing in their robes of ivory and gold.

How Gabriel announced the miraculous birth,
Filling Mary and Joseph with infinite worth.

Because of the taxing a journey they began,
Which took them bravely to lowly Bethlehem.

The song that was born on that silent night
Now rings through our church filling us with delight.

The shepherds came with wondering eyes,
To behold the Christ child where He lies.

Wise Men bearing gifts so fine,
Followed a star, Mary's firstborn to find.

May your heart be warmed by this song of the ages,
That was foretold long ago by the three Eastern sages.

As GLORY TO GOD peels through the air,
Messages of PEACE ON EARTH all tongues now bear.

May the song that was born be reborn in your heart,
And bring PEACE ON EARTH that will never depart.

-Written by Ruth & Judy Fifer, December 1978

A History of Summit's Baptistry Mural

The new Summit church was just about completed in the spring of 1958, so the committees were doing the finishing touches throughout the church. The decorating committee decided to have a mural painted behind the church baptistry. The committee was hoping for a beautiful scene to compliment the acts of baptism that would take place there. Lots of thought and many ideas passed through the committee until they heard that an artist with great quality and unique ideas lived and worked in the area.

Helen Virginia Fancher Marshman was contacted by the decorating committee and was invited to come and look at the baptistry wall to see if she would be willing to draw a mural to compliment the area. While visiting, she saw a great opportunity to use a water scene that would fall into the baptistry, and the committee liked her idea and accepted her services.

It was July 1958 when she began painting. The thoughts of water falling into the baptismal pool was the main idea. A waterfall running with a river-like effect, beautiful trees, shrubs, and flowers complimented the baptistry. Since our church had the colonial style interior, colors of pink, blue, and green completed the most gracious-looking mural with a beautiful river effect, mountains in the background, and adjoining blue sky. Helen finished the mural in two weeks. Helen grew up in Racine, Wisconsin, about 20 miles from Milwaukee. She grew up knowing the value and the love of art from her mother, Helen Louette Fancher, who painted Victorian paintings on dishes and other types of pottery. Watching her mother paint gave her the inspiration to study art professionally. Her parents sent her to art school at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts during 1933-1934. Helen attended art school with Walt Disney and Frank King, the cartoonist for Gasoline Alley. After art school, she painted from her own studio; then in 1941, she accepted employment at the Case Manufacturing Company in the drafting department.



Helen's husband, Robert Marshman, served in the military at Camp Lee, which is now Fort Lee, Virginia. He was also stationed in a military base in Aberdeen, Maryland. In 1948, Helen's husband accepted a job as Display Manager at Joseph Ney's in Harrisonburg. Helen painted all of the display art. Each department had its own story to tell, like the masterpiece of the cowboys and Indians in the boys department.

Helen displayed her talents in other places in Harrisonburg: the mural at the Spotswood Bank on East Market Street, Spotswood Country Club, the ceramic tile mosaic at the Jewish Temple at the entry way, and the Ten Commandments on the outside of the Temple. She also painted the mural at Shenandoah Valley Electric in Dayton.

Helen was interviewed for this article in the fall of 2006 at her home in northwest Rockingham County. At 97 years old, she was still creative through knitting, crocheting, and weaving. She remembers painting the baptism mural at Summit because of the water scene and the colors she used in the landscaping. She noted it was one of her favorite paintings.

Helen passed away on March 11, 2007.

VBS Then and Now



1953



1950s



1955



2024

Old Booklet Rediscovered in Summit Library

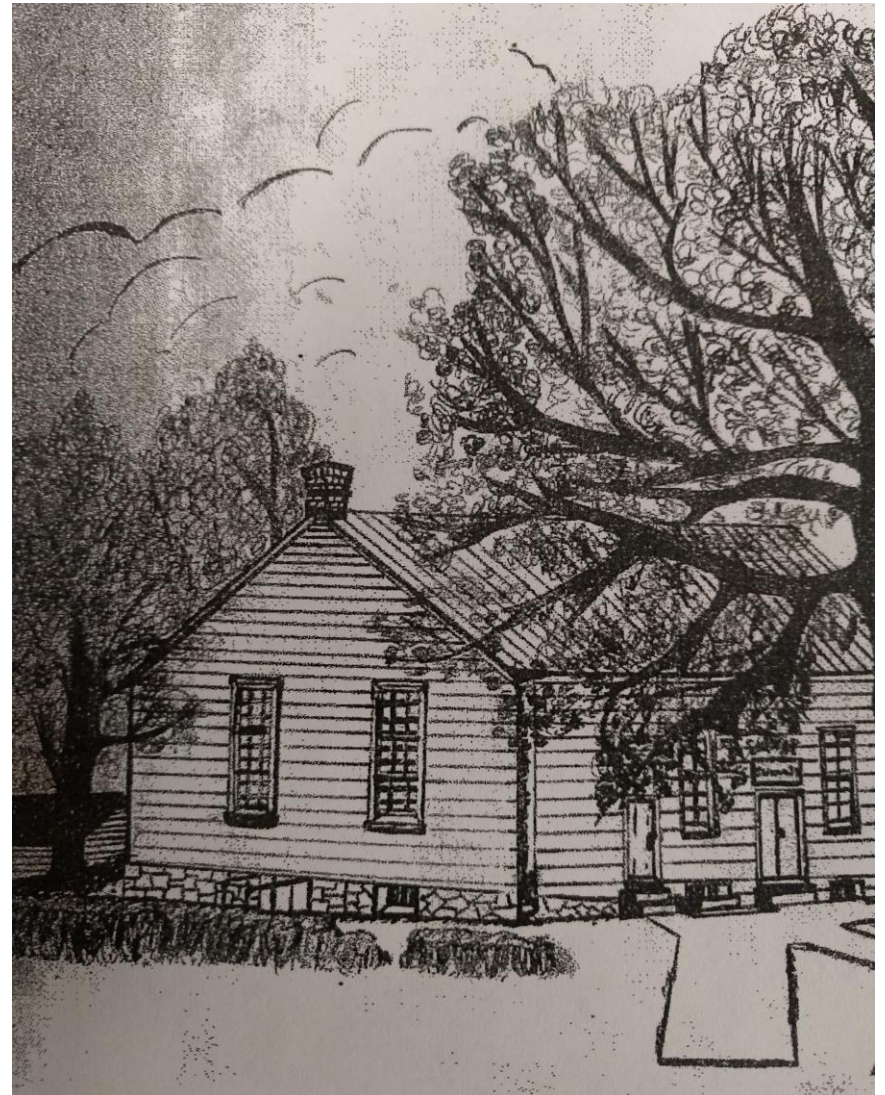
Our congregation at Summit has always been blessed with various kinds of talents – from various kinds of music, teaching talents, great cooks, and artists. Mrs. Virginia Craun, a Sunday School teacher at Summit in the early 1950s, knew that one of her students could draw. She invited that student, John Paul Miller, to the church one sunny morning to help put together a booklet of programs and projects that the class she taught, the CBYF, would follow for the upcoming year. Upon his arrival, John Paul was told to wait in the front yard of the church. It wasn't long until Mrs. Craun appeared with a table, chair, paper, and various artists' pens with a variety of tips. She had black ink and John Paul knew that if he made a mistake, he would have to start his drawing all over again. This drawing of the church was made on that summer day by the then 17-year-old John Paul Miller. He recalls sitting under the old oak tree that still stands on the front lawn of the church today.

The booklet of programs, which included the Christmas and Easter plays performed by the CBYF that year, artwork, stories; projects, and pictures was rediscovered in our church library recently.

John Paul Miller has always enjoyed drawing and painting. His third-grade teacher, Mrs. Margaret Alexander, would let him design the classroom blackboard with seasonal decorations. He took art lessons from Mrs. Ella Reeves at North River High School. He was always asked to design the backdrops for school plays. One evening after school, Mr. Lee Cupp, the school principal, asked John Paul to draw a round circle in the middle of the basketball court at North River High School and paint a gold NR with a purple background. What an honor!

Virginia Craun was also an artist and playwright. Virginia is the grandmother of Kim Garrison. Lee Cupp's wife was Marilyn Evers' aunt. They all lived in Centerville.

Contributed by Audrey Slaven



On June 9, 2012, an auction was held on the estate of Dr. Hollen Garber Helbert and his wife, Janet Lee Miller in Tenth Legion. Both of them are descendants of Elder Johannes Garber who died in 1787 and established Flat Rock Church of the Brethren in Southern Shenandoah County, the mother church of the Brethren churches in Shenandoah, Rockingham, and Augusta Counties. Elder Garber's wife is Barbara Miller, daughter of Michael Miller and Susanna Berchtol. They are my 6th great-grandparents. Many of the Brethren faith descend from them. Dr. Helbert was a member of the First Church of the Brethren and practiced medicine in Harrisonburg from 1945 to 1990. Mrs. Helbert taught school in Winchester prior to WWII and later in Harrisonburg City Schools.

The auction house listed this Counterpane or Summer Sheet on its website. It is a 1917 white on white embroidered Brethren Counterpane. There are 30 names embroidered of members of Summit. My Glick cousin, Eloise Shull, who works at the Virginia Quilt Museum in Harrisonburg, said that it is usually embroidered with red thread where it is red on white. Often churches would create these counterpanes to raise money by charging 10 cents to embroider your name and then auctioning it off to the highest bidder. It is likely that Dr. and Mrs. Helbert won this counterpane, which could explain how it came into their possession.

The counterpane has now come into my possession, a current member of Summit.

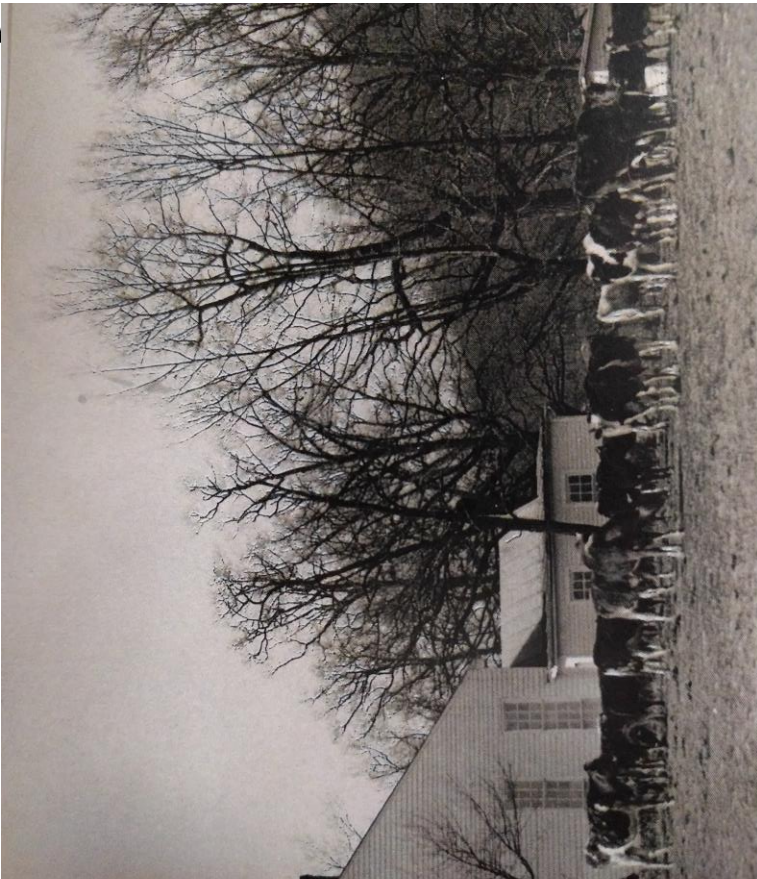
- Kim D. Garrison
12 August 2012



*1917 Counterpane with embroidered names
of members of Summit Church of the Brethren*

<i>Lizzie Sheets</i>	<i>Mattie Craun 1917</i>	<i>Annie Evers</i>	<i>Bettie Shull</i>	<i>Henrietta Williams</i>
<i>Laura Craun</i>	<i>Emma Hawkins</i>	<i>Louella Craun</i>	<i>Mattie Wise</i>	<i>Gertie Evers</i>
<i>Maggie Clower</i>	<i>Christina Sheets</i>	<i>Rebecca Wise</i>	<i>Diana Glick</i>	<i>Eva Craun</i>
<i>Minnie Craun</i>	<i>J. T. Glick</i>	<i>Sada Craun</i>	<i>Mae Cline</i>	<i>Mary Sheets</i>
<i>Lillie Eagle</i>	<i>Effie Glick</i>	<i>Cretia Plecker</i>	<i>Carrie Craun</i>	<i>Ida Craun</i>
<i>D. L. Evers</i>	<i>Maud Williams</i>	<i>Gourney Craun</i>	<i>Manola Evers</i>	<i>Pearl Bosserman</i>

Heifer



Heifers waiting to be shipped to Poland on the property of Richard Wright.

Summit was one of the first churches in the area, along with Bridgewater, Lebanon, and Pleasant Valley to donate heifers to the International Heifer Project. Some of the members that donated heifers from Summit were Daniel Craun, Hugh Cline, Steve Wise, Joe Craun, Frank Craun, Henry Craun, Roy Wright, Kenny Sheets, Roy Evers, and E.B. Craun.

Cletus Houff and Richard Wright took their fathers' trucks. They made two trips, and unloaded the heifers at the Leivson Brothers property near Newport News on Rte. 60. This is where the heifers received their shots for shipping. They were put on the C&O Railroad and shipped to Newport News, VA. Then the heifers were loaded one at a time in a crate by a crane, and then

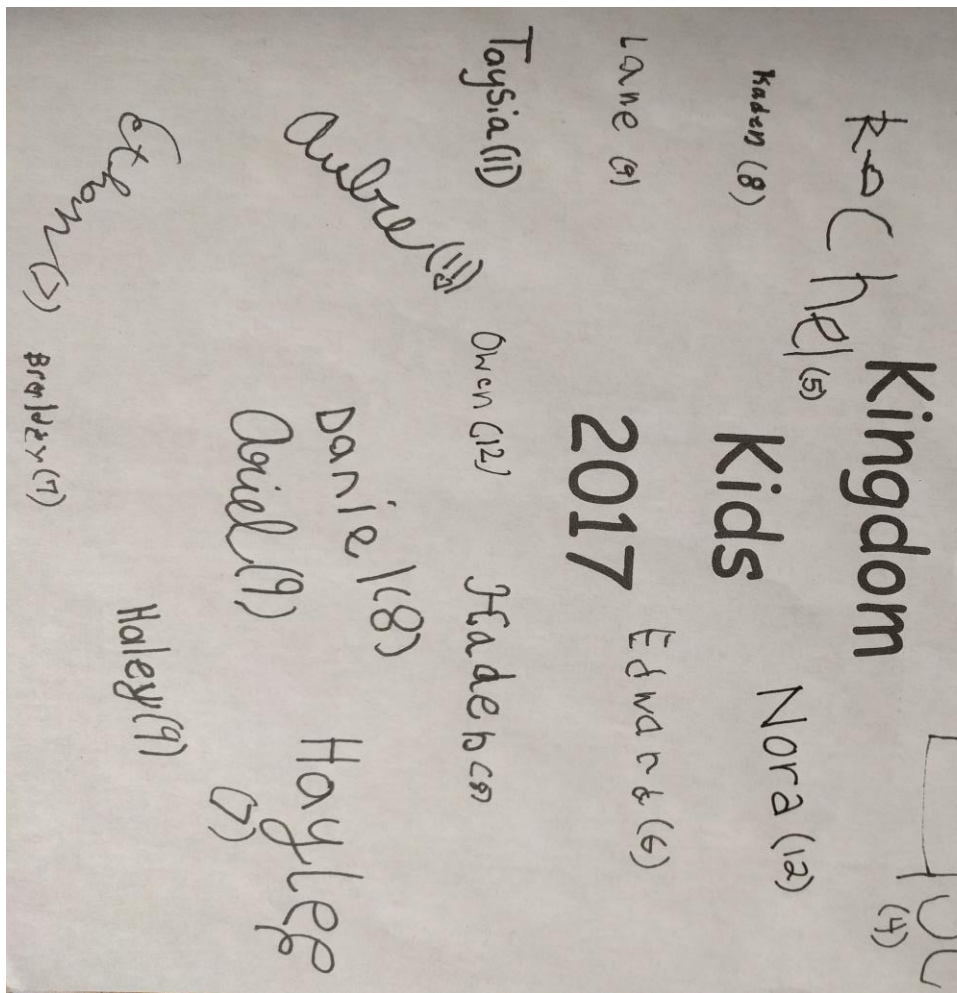
loaded on the ship. The ship was supposed to leave in December after Christmas, but the hay for the cattle did not arrive until January.

Richard Wright was the only person from Summit that sailed with these cattle to Danzig, Poland, on January 25, 1947.



Richard Wright
USS Mt. Whitney at Karlskrona Sweden harbor enroute to Poland, 1947
delivering heifers and horses.

Seagoing Cowboys



To celebrate this land they'd found
 Now to which their souls were bound

Up it came wall by wall
 They must have been on quite the ball
 Before the leaves fell the following fall
 The steeple was standing straight and tall

Stained-glass windows drew in the light
 And everything was set just right
 That first Sunday voices took flight
 As they sang to God with all their might

Because of them here we are today
 Most have been here all their days
 The work that was done had left them unfazed
 So now that we keep reliving their praise

As I was told that's the story
 That led to this house of glory
 So that we can thank Him up above
 For sending us His grace and love.

This House of Glory

a song by Morgan Leigh Slaven, 2007

(dedicated in memory and honor of those who built our church)

Now listen close as I recall
 How our fathers had had the call
 Brick by brick to build these walls
 Of a church loved by one and all

Men came to break the ground
 While women gathered all around



Summer 1942
The Summit Church congregation enjoying a picnic behind the old church.



November 1958
A scene from behind the old Summit Church. Mother's Room on left, kitchen in center, and cistern shed on right.