



WASHINGTON
CHURCH OF CHRIST

700 Allison Avenue
Washington, PA 15301

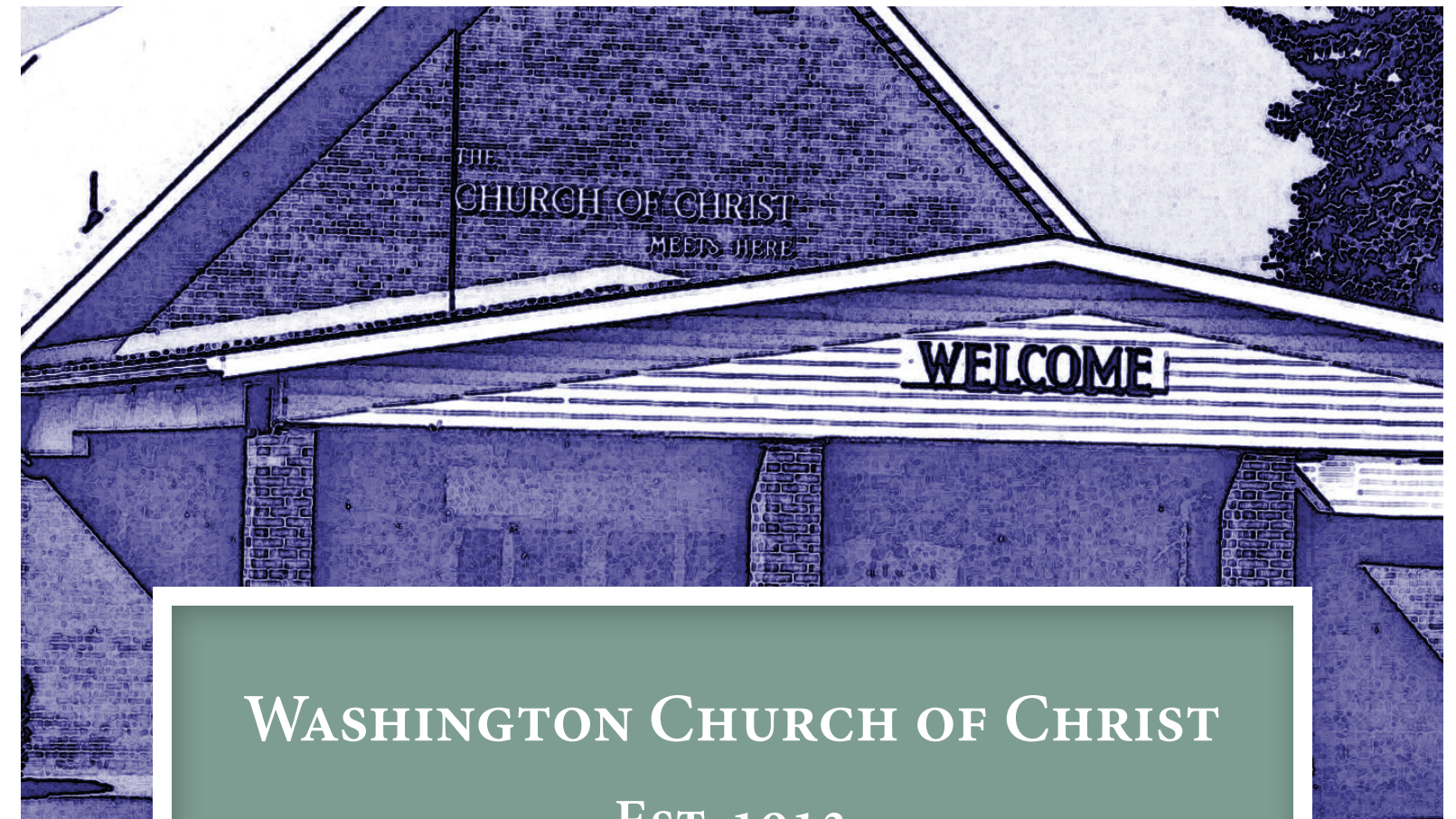
A SPECIAL THANKS

The history in this booklet, prior to 2003, was written by Jack Hammond, with the help of his wife Peggy, with the early history written by Ray Beggs. From 2003 to 2013, the historic information has been compiled by David and Amanda Deagle.

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<i>Decorations</i>	<i>Lina Rager and Patti Piatt</i>
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<i>Food Committee</i>	<i>Brenda Bishop, Pamela Norris, Rich Norris, Darrel Thomas, and Pauline Thomas</i>
<i>History Book</i>	<i>Ray Beggs, David Deagle, Amanda Deagle, Jack Hammond, Peggy Hammond, and Pamela Norris</i>
<i>Mailing List</i>	<i>Nancy Bishop, Jack Hammond, Mona Martin, Patti Piatt, and Pauline Thomas</i>
<i>Print Materials</i>	<i>Pamela Norris, Coordinator</i>
<i>Sunday Dinner</i>	<i>DoubleTree Hotel, Mary Ann Papantonakis</i>
<i>Saturday Reception</i>	<i>The Upper Crust, Caterer</i>

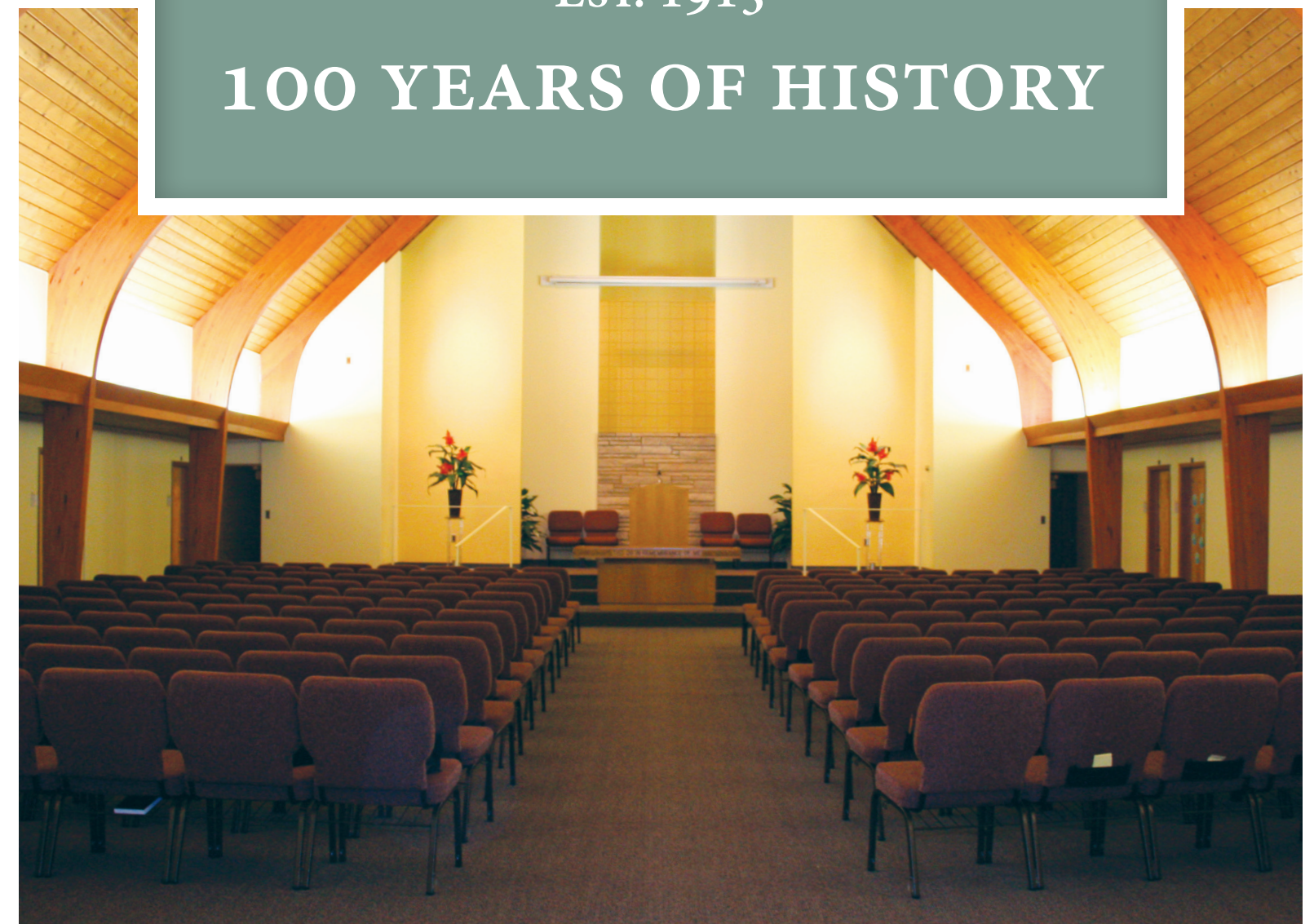
Thanks to everyone who is not listed above that has helped make this event a success.



WASHINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

EST. 1913

100 YEARS OF HISTORY



THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

THE FIRST RECORDED HISTORY OF THE WASHINGTON CONGREGATION WAS COMPOSED BY RAY D. BEGGS, WHO WAS THE FIFTH LOCATED PREACHER OF THE CONGREGATION. RAY PREPARED THE ERA OF TIME FROM THE BEGINNING IN 1913 TO 1963. IT WAS DELIVERED AT A SPECIAL FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM IN 1963.

In his introduction, Ray wrote the following: "Since moving to Washington in 1956, I often wondered about the history of the present congregation of the Lord's church at 600 Allison Avenue. It is my conviction, that most members would show more appreciation if they knew more about the history. All too often, we accept it as having always been here without considering the faith and work of those who are no longer numbered among the living.

"We appreciate the church when we are aware of the purchased price. If we were ignorant of the life, sufferings, and finally the death of Jesus Christ, if we were not made aware of sacrifices made by the Apostles and the early Christians that the Gospel might be preached, how could we appreciate the church of our Lord? In like manner, how can we appreciate the local congregation if we are not made aware of its trials, struggles, troubles, disappointments, and achievements? We are truly building on another's foundation. I am especially indebted to brother Fred Gatten and sister Victoria Hennen for their cooperation in supplying information relative to the beginning of the present congregation. I lay no claims to the perfection either in facts presented or in manner of presentation, but as near as I have been able to find out, these are the historical facts about the church of Christ at 600 Allison Avenue."

The history of the current congregation of the church of Christ presently meeting at 700 Allison Avenue, Washington, Pennsylvania, dates back to 1913. Dennis Gatten and his wife Elizabeth moved to western Pennsylvania from West Virginia. A daughter, Miltilda, and their son, Fred, and his wife Edna moved with them. The Gatten family were members of the church when they moved to Pennsylvania. That is, except Edna. She was baptized in April 1913.

At the time Fred and Edna Gatten moved to Washington, they had two children, Reva (Beatty) and Una (Laws Nystrom), who were about four and one respectively. Mildred (Rogers), another daughter to Fred and Edna was born after moving to Washington. Mildred is the mother of Tom Rogers.

They purchased a farm on Route 40 (West Chestnut) at the edge of town. It was in the vicinity of where Day's Inn now stands. After getting settled in their new surroundings, they began to inquire around the city to see if they could find others who were members of the church.

Shortly after, another son of Dennis Gatten, Thomas, with his wife Emma, moved to Washington. Thomas and Emma were the parents of Brady and Clarence Gatten who years later became elders.

The first meeting of the congregation was held in the old school building located on the corner of Scott and McGovern Avenues in the west end.

The new congregation was made up mostly of the Gatten family and relatives. They continued meeting in the Scottdale School for about six months, but due to difficulty over the time they could meet, they had to move their meeting place to the home of Fred and Edna Gatten.

Six months later, arrangements were made to meet on the ground floor of the Fuller Building at 511 Fayette Street, which is no longer standing. There were about 15 adult members in regular attendance at that time. While in the Fuller Building, Victoria Hennen and Blanche Main moved to the city and joined the group.

This created complications for space, so they made arrangements to meet on the third floor of what was the Old West Side Hotel located at the corner of Baird Avenue and Fayette Street. This afforded them a nice place to meet so far as the size of the room was concerned, but the older members had some difficulty climbing the stairs to the third floor. So once again, they started looking for a better meeting place.

Around 1920, the congregation had an opportunity to purchase a frame building from an Adventist group on Brookside Avenue between Fayette Street and Addison Street in the west end of town. This was the first building owned by the church of Christ in Washington. The group had always rented buildings or met in private homes. The purchase of this building was an occasion for rejoicing for the congregation. However, it brought some complications. Although they finally had their own building, it did not have a basement or seats. The congregation got busy and purchased seats and dug a basement large enough to accommodate a furnace, one classroom and one restroom. Each move had been for the better and the congregation was happy to finally have their own meeting place. Whether they realized at the time or not, the congregation was to continue to meet in this building for more than 30 years.

Some of the preachers who preached on Sundays or conducted gospel meetings while meeting at Brookside were, Fred Dennis, Hoarce Taylor, C. D. Plum, Tom Butterfield, George Butterfield, Reed Robinson, C. W. Rock, M. Gallagher, Oliver Johnson, Chester Gray, C. D. Beagle, Hallie Smith, Jim Marberly, and Raymond Norris, (father of Richard Norris, one of the current elders). There were others whose names we do not have.

Brother Truex was a frequent visiting song leader during the gospel meetings. There were no elders appointed in the congregation until 1952; however, in 1937, three deacons were appointed. These first deacons, Roy Sams, Warren Keener, and Joe Anderson, served in a leadership capacity and saw after the affairs of the church.



Brookside Avenue 1920-1954

WASHINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST TIMELINE:

1939

- The first preacher to serve on a regular basis was George Butterfield. He and his family moved to Washington in November. He continued preaching until the time of his death six years later.

1949

- After Butterfield's death, the congregation was without a regular fulltime preacher until L. J. Nicklas moved to Washington. He was noted for his artwork and his chart lessons.
- He stayed with the congregation for fourteen months. During this time, he baptized Andrew Kotora, who later became a deacon, and then an elder.

1950

- Nicklas left Washington in May.
- In August, R. B. Riffle and family moved to Washington.
- He worked with the congregation for two years.
- During this time, there were 13 baptisms and 8 restorations. Jack Hammond who later became a deacon, and then an elder, was one of the thirteen baptized.

1952

- Riffle left Washington.
- Although the church in Washington had been in existence since 1913, it wasn't until December 1952, 39 years later, when they selected three men, Herschel Bissett, Brady Gatten, and Earl Sweat, as the first elders. Four more deacons, Andy Kotora, Keller Oldfield, Newman Anderson, and Brooks Fox were appointed to serve with the existing deacons, Warren Keener, and Roy Sams. J. W. Gallagher was the visiting preacher who had charge of the installations.
- Another important phase began to take shape which would benefit the cause of Christ in Washington. The congregation purchased a lot on the corner of Fourth Street and Allison Avenue for the purpose of constructing a new meeting place. A lot was purchased on August 20.
- Herschel Bissett was in charge of the project along with the assistance of Warren Keener.
- The lot was purchased on August 20.

1953

- Construction began in March.
- The building was financed and constructed by the members without soliciting any outside funds. The lot and the cost for the building amounted to \$30,000, with an appraised value of \$60,000. George Jams, a civil engineer and friend of Herschel Bissett, drew the plans free of charge.
- Of the three original elders, Earl Sweat resigned after serving only a few months. Brady Gatten died in September, leaving Herschel Bissett as the only elder.

1954

- C.W. Rock, a visiting preacher from Waynesburg, appointed Okey Cross and Eldridge Laurence as elders to serve with Herschel Bissett. After serving one year, Okey Cross resigned.
- The old building at Brookside was sold to a Pentecostal group.
- The congregation began meeting in the new building at 600 Allison on February 14. The building consisted of an auditorium seating 250, five classrooms and a furnace room.
- The dedication was held on March 14. Denver Cooper was conducting a Gospel meeting at that time and spoke at the dedication.
- Don Cooper, brother of Denver Cooper, began working with the congregation as the regular preacher. His records showed 24 baptisms and 15 restorations.



600 Allison Avenue 1954-1965

1955

- During this time without elders, all decisions were made in business meetings. Coyt Feaster, who had served the congregation as treasurer for several years, requested someone to take over his responsibilities. Steve Lukas volunteered to relieve Coyt.

1956

- After Cooper and his wife moved from Washington, some men of the congregation did most of the preaching. On July 31, Ray D. Beggs and his wife Glynda and their family moved from the Beaver Street congregation in Lisbon, Ohio, to Washington.
- Although the congregation had been established for 50 years, it only had a regular preacher for eighteen of those years with six different preachers.

1956 (Continued)

- Ray said one of his memories was when he visited the church in Washington in 1955 and F. S. Harper was conducting a gospel meeting. He said, "Little did I know that sixteen months later I would be moving to Washington."
- The church never owned a preacher's home until the arrival of Beggs. It was during a business meeting that Sweat and Keener were appointed to find a suitable place. In May, it was decided to purchase the property located at 790 Allison Avenue. On July 13, the Beggs family moved into the residence.
- Kenneth Franklin held a gospel meeting the spring.
- In November, Dan Smith from Waynesburg held another meeting.
- There were 2 baptisms and 5 restorations in the last six months of 1956.
- An average attendance for the five months was 143 on Sunday morning, 96 on Sunday Evenings, and 71 on Wednesday nights. The average contribution was \$179. (Remember, this was 1956.)
- An IBM electric typewriter and a Speed-O-Print mimeograph machine were purchased in September to publish the first weekly bulletin and lesson materials.
- The bulletin began in October, and was called *The Exhorter*.

1957

- A men's training class was held in January and February.
- F. S. Harper conducted a gospel meeting in April.
- The congregation had its first Vacation Bible School in June. There were 175 enrolled.
- Will Slater, song writer, conducted a singing school in June.
- Winston Atkinson from Biloxi, Mississippi, was the speaker in the fall meeting in August.
- A partition was installed in the basement, making room for another classroom. Blackboards and tables were placed in each classroom.
- The average attendance for Sunday morning was 149 and 99 for Sunday night. The contribution averaged \$207.
- There was one baptism and 14 restorations.

1958

- The congregation began a daily (Monday through Friday) 15 minute radio program on January 1, over WCNG, Canonsburg, which was broadcast directly from the preacher's study in the church building. This program continued for three years.
- During the same period, a weekly series of articles was published each Saturday in the local newspapers, *The Observer* and *The Reporter*.
- The second men's training class was conducted on Tuesday nights during January and February with an average of 14 men in attendance.
- Fred Dennis and Don Cooper held Gospel meetings.
- The second VBS was held in June.
- The average attendance on Sunday morning was 163, Sunday evening 109, and the contribution was \$258.

1959

- On June 29, Andy Kotora was appointed as an elder to serve with Eldridge Laurence.
- On this same date three men were appointed deacons to serve with Warren Keener and Brooks Fox. They were Jack Hammond, Clarence Gatten, and Ralph Cross.
- The church purchased a new 30 ft. x 50 ft. tent complete with 144 wooden chairs and a loud speaker system for the purpose of holding tent meetings. One meeting was held in 1959 at the corner of DeMar Boulevard and Route 19 for the Canonsburg area. Meetings in the same and other areas continued for a couple of years.
- Building improvements consisted of installing two large exhaust fans in the copula or steeple and sliding blackboards behind the pulpit.
- Bernard Bunner hand-painted a beautiful scene on the wall behind the baptistery.
- Special activities continued throughout the year, included VBS, special classes on qualifications of elders, men's training class, gospel meeting with Paul Casebolt and Denver Niemeier, and food baskets for the needy.
- The radio and newspaper continued to attract outsiders with 142 tracts requested and responses.
- The average attendance on Sunday morning was 159, Sunday evening 105, and the contribution of \$282.

1960

- Men's training classes were held in January and February and special Bible classes in March and April.
- Lewis Case held a meeting in May.
- VBS in June.
- A two week tent meeting in Venetia in July.
- July was the beginning and turning point of a spiritual move in the congregation. Brother Davis, along with eleven Harding students, worked with the congregation for a week in a Campaign and personal work training classes. Campaigning was done during the day and personal work classes were held in the evening. This opened the eyes of the congregation to the possibilities and responsibilities of growing for the Lord.
- Another tent meeting was held in October.
- A teachers training course was held during November and December.
- Work on the building included, painting of the basement, a ceiling was put in the basement, Coyt Feaster supervised a new nursery in the back of the building, Richard Tennant built baby beds and cabinets for the nursery.
- Clarence and Dorothy Gatten donated a public address system.
- A thousand tracts were distributed.
- The radio program continued in its third year until July 29. The elders re-directed the money to missions.
- The article in the newspaper continued until the end of the year and was discontinued primarily because of a slowdown in employment and shortage of funds.

1961

- A ladies' Bible class was begun on Tuesday mornings during January and February.
- A men's training class met on Friday evenings during the same period.
- In March, a work class began.
- In April a campaign on "regular attendance" started by dividing the congregation into zones.
- Gynnath Ford, from New Kensington, conducted a gospel meeting in September.
- In November, Mrs. Ruth Thompson from Nashville, Tennessee, conducted a five-day-and-night teacher's training course for all teachers.

1961 (Continued)

- Improvements to the building consisted of placing tile on the inside of the metal baptistery. This was done by Don Dielman, who also donated the tile and labor.
- The church purchased a lot on September 9, at the corner of Fourth Street and Donnan Avenue.
- Jack Hammond drew up the plans for a new preacher's home and Coyt Feaster, with his crew and some assistance from the congregation, began construction on September 12.
- When finished, the Beggs family moved into the new house.
- The house at 790 Allison Avenue was sold to the third Presbyterian Church.
- The attendance average on Sunday morning was 176, Sunday evening 111, Wednesday night 105. The average contribution was \$298.
- There were 22 baptisms and 13 restorations.

1962

- The systematic chain Bible study method proved very successful in winning souls to Christ, although it was difficult to get many to use the method.
- The Jule Miller film strips, complete with projectors and screens, were purchased and a program set up to train members to use them. Several cottage meetings were conducted that produced favorable results.
- A visitation program was started for the ladies.
- The food shelves were kept filled and distribution was made as opportunities presented themselves.
- An area wide sing was held and a record attendance of 298 filled the building. Twenty congregations were represented with twenty song leaders participating.
- A special gospel meeting was held with preachers from all over the area participating. The theme was "Jesus." Those taking part were Ray Beggs, Richard Brewer, Charles Hendershot, Dan Smith, Rod Goodmiller, Horace Taylor, Pat Gibbons, and Frank Higginbotham.
- The sixth VBS was conducted in June.
- In the last half of 1962, the announcement was made to the congregation that Ray Beggs and his family planned to move from Washington to Indiana, Pennsylvania, in June of 1963.

1963

- The year began with a fundamentals class for new members. A class on how to hold cottage meetings and a training class for young boys in the congregation began soon after.
- A gospel meeting was held in March with F. W. Gould from Paducah, Kentucky.
- A special attendance drive was held on May 12 to break the old record of 280. Encouragement in the classes and from the pulpit resulted with an overflowing attendance on Sunday morning of 302. Chairs had to be placed everywhere.
- Ray Beggs conducted his seventh and final VBS in June.
- On June 16, Ray delivered his farewell sermon after spending seven years with the Washington congregation.
- The records show there were 72 baptisms and 61 restorations during this time.
- During most of the time Ray was with the congregation, Andy Kotora and Jack Hammond served as song leaders.
- In June of 1963, Lawrence J. Gardner was contracted by the elders to be the sixth located preacher.
- In August, Franklin Camps of Birmingham, Alabama, held a gospel meeting.
- There were five new deacons added, Nick Davidoff, Steve Lukas, John Gatten, Richard Tennant, and Coyt Feaster.
- Ralph Cross resigned as a deacon when he and his family moved to Baltimore, Maryland. This left eight deacons and two elders, Eldridge Laurence and Andy Kotora.

1963 (Continued)

- The 50th Anniversary was held in the main pavilion at Washington Park.
- The brethren were considering enlarging the building at 600 Allison Avenue because of the need for more classrooms. Drawings were made by Jack Hammond and submitted to the city for approval to attach an educational wing to the rear of the building. Even though parking around the perimeter of the new structure would equal the parking in existing space, the city's new parking ordinance would not permit the congregation to build the addition.
- The congregation then began to consider a building site somewhere else. Several lots were considered, but none seemed suitable. Julian Rogers located a large property just one block away at 700 Allison Avenue. It was the Montgomery homestead estate with paved streets on all four sides. It had a large two and a half story house and a two-car garage on the property. It was surrounded by large trees and consisted of approximately two acres.

1964

- On January 24, the Montgomery property was purchased for \$30,000. Several plans and bids were submitted including one with a full basement, the front facing Allison Avenue. However, because of the high cost required for the suspended concrete floor and fewer classrooms, the building committee chose a Texas builder's design which was at that time the most square foot for the lowest price of \$113,000. The total cost for the building and ground was \$143,000. Larson Construction Company of Pittsburgh was the low bidder.

1965

- The contract was signed on May 24, ground breaking took place on Sunday, May 29, and construction began on June 16.

1966

- On Wednesday, January 26, the congregation held its first service in the new building at 700 Allison Avenue.
- On April 14, the first funeral was conducted in the new building for Flora McDonough. Olive Anderson was the first custodian. She served many years as custodian and then worked with Tuesday School until she moved to Arkansas in 1996.
- On May 12, the parking lot was paved by Herschel and Charles Bissett Paving Company.
- On May 15, the new building was dedicated with an open house to the public. A gospel meeting, with Franklin Camps, was in progress at this time. There were 523 at the dedication service. This was the seventh location for the congregation.
- There were 37 baptisms during this period of time.
- Fred and Wanda Bunner moved to Washington and he later became the educational director for all Bible classes; also, Bunner and Don Colby worked with the teenagers.
- A two-way intercom and bell system was installed in the classrooms.
- Fred and his twin brother Frank were the first from the Washington congregation to go to a Christian college.
- In August, L. E. Wishum moved from Birmingham, Alabama, to Washington to be the seventh located preacher.
- In November, brother Jim Mankin, who was later the minister at Madison, Tennessee, held a successful meeting.



700 Allison Avenue 1966-Present

1967

- The congregation began installing chalk boards and bulletin boards in the classrooms.
- Wishum left Washington to return to the south at the end of 1967, staying less than two years.

1968

- Robert Davison and family moved from Lima, Ohio, to begin work on April 4.
- Ray Beggs held a meeting in April.
- In June, the church purchased a used A. B. Dick offset press with plate maker and in September a new IBM Selectric typewriter. Bob Davison operated the press until he left in 1973. Delbert Stewart and the late Mark Wise took over till the press was replaced with a copier.
- Bob conducted VBS in August with the average attendance of 194 and a high attendance of 204. They made coloring books on the new press and used them as they canvassed the area.
- A youth rally was hosted in September with Ellis Bedford as the speaker, having 200 young people in attendance.
- A pictorial directory was prepared for the congregation in October. Pictures were taken and placed on single pages and run off on the press then placed in a 6x8 ring binder.
- Singing at the Washington Manor Extended Care Facility began during the fall.
- Roller skating parties started in December.
- The congregation chartered a bus from Ohio Valley College and, along with other congregations from the area, rode to Nashville, Tennessee, to engage in a workshop at the Madison church of Christ.
- After returning from the workshop, Tuesday school began with Rachael Davison being the first of several leaders.
- Two school buses were purchased and adults along with teenagers worked by canvassing neighborhoods and picking up children of all ages, bringing them to Bible classes, and worship. At times they washed and dressed some of the children. Alanna Carroll and her family were the first to be baptized as a result of the bus program.
- There were 20 baptisms, 22 restorations and 9 placed membership.



1969

- A teacher training series began for five weeks.
- An exchange gospel meeting was held with Dan Smith coming to Washington and Bob Davison going to Connellsville.
- A successful team visitation was started.
- The Ohio Valley College Chorus was hosted in March.
- In August, the congregation began the Fair Evangelism where two booths were acquired at the Washington County Fair-grounds. The idea for this outreach began when Jack Hammond visited the New York World's Fair in 1964 and again in 1965. He visited the church of Christ booth and learned about Fair Evangelism. After presenting it to the congregation, several got excited and plans, material, furniture, and schedules began for the double booth. All the booth workers dressed alike, dark pants or skirts, white tops with matching ties and scarves made by Una Laws.
- Bob Davison was instrumental in having a Bible question machine made for the fair booth. He drove to Ohio and borrowed a question machine from another congregation for a pattern. Richard Tennant built the machine and Jim Scott wired it. Jim Fringer built all the furniture for the booth. It was very attractive and successful in spreading the Word for several years. The first converts from the Fair were the Fisher Family. John Fisher loved to go out on Bible studies as the silent prayer partner.

1971

- On July 18, six elders were installed: Coyt Feaster, Andy Kotora, Dave Hall, Clarence Gatten, Cephus Fowler, and Jack Hammond. Five deacons were appointed, Rossevelt McPhail, Jim Scott, Chuck Thomas, John Baldwin, and Van Wolfe.

1973

- The Fair outreach continued using various Bible correspondence courses each year.
- The bus program continued; VBS was always a great success; the men continued having workshops; teacher's workshops were successful; and the church continued to grow.
- Bob Davison resigned and moved to Hamilton, Ohio.

1974

- Ken Denkins moved to Washington from New Jersey with his wife and daughter to be pulpit minister and worked with the congregation for 18 months, before moving to Pittsburg, Kansas.

1975

- Dan Smith and family moved to Washington from Connellsville to work with the congregation.
- Bob and Dot Rainey published a the bulletin for two years until they moved to New York in September 1976.
- Several things took place for the first time:
 - A group from Washington went to the Tulsa Soul Winning Workshop in Oklahoma.
 - Dial-A-Devotion began and continued through Smith's stay.
 - The congregation hired its first secretary to be at the building five days a week during the morning hours.
 - The elders met with the Lover congregation which then consisted of only three women. The Shirky family who worshipped in Washington, but lived closer to Lover, agreed to meet and work with them. The congregation supported the Lover work with \$500 per month. This effort eventually led to a full time minister at Lover.

1976

- The Washington congregation divided into four geographical zones to begin a zone program.
- The average attendance for the year was 212 and the average contribution was \$1,725 per week.

1978

- Joe Barnett from the Herald of Truth television program in Texas held a three day meeting. Around 400 people attended the first evening with about 25 congregations from the area attending.
- Record attendance of 419 filled the building with a contribution of \$2,170.

1979

- Carpet was installed over the tile floors in all the classrooms; a kitchen was built by Jim Foringer in the fellowship room; several tables were purchased for the fellowship room; and the building was completely insulated with foam blown into the walls.
- Heating and cooling units were installed in the secretary's and preacher's offices. New furniture was purchased for the secretary's office.
- Baseboard heating was installed in the nursery and ladies restroom.
- In July, the congregation started supporting Roland Moshen, missionary to Paris, France.

1980

- Peggy Moore agreed to take charge of the bulletin in place of the weekly news sheet. A new folding machine and address machine were purchased.
- Van Wolfe agreed to become the education director. New classes were organized and needed classroom furniture was purchased.
- Peggy Moore agreed to take charge of the bulletin in place of the weekly news sheet. A new folding machine and address machine were purchased.

1980 (Continued)

- A new bathroom was built off the fellowship room; folding doors were installed to divide the fellowship room into two classrooms; new aluminum front doors were installed to replace the original wooden doors, and a window was installed in the secretary's office to be able to see into the foyer.
- The 1980 budget included a building fund for an educational building to be constructed.
- The budget continued at \$1,600 per week.
- The congregation helped to support a second man in preacher's school. This brought the mission budget to over \$900 per month.
- A singing workshop was held in June with Ralph Casey from Atlanta, Georgia.
- A teacher's workshop was conducted in the fall by Charles Smith along with a group from Dayton, Ohio.
- Dennis Jones returned in November for his second "Three Unusual Days" workshop.
- The fair booth had a new look by having a large display of literature.
- A new effort was given to our Correspondence Course Program. Telephone and personal contacts were made during the studies.
- The World Bible Correspondence Course was started in the congregation and the program was managed by Helen Fisher.

1981

- Dan Smith stayed until April, 1982, when he left to start a new work in Clarion, Pennsylvania.
- Several of the men in the congregation managed the preaching for four months after Smith left.

1982

- It was announced in June, that Glenn Gleim and his family would be moving to Washington on August 1, as the new minister.
- The deacons at that time were John Baldwin, Chuck Thomas and Van Wolfe.
- There were five baptisms.
- The average contribution was \$1,400 per week.

1983

- In January, the congregation began with a great spirit and new concepts in adult education, called ACT (Advanced Christian Training). The first course was entitled "Old Testament Survey," a college level course. The concept was that the students sit at tables taking notes and followed by time for discussion and tests. Interest was so good that the Wednesday evening attendance increased dramatically. On April 3, twenty nine students received certificates of completion. Other ACT courses followed.
- In May, the decision was made to re-organize the Bible school. New curriculum by Donnie Baker called "Bible Study Guide for All Ages" was adopted. Donnie was invited to hold a workshop to instruct the teachers in using the material.
- Two film series were shown on eight consecutive Wednesday evenings. At each showing, the attendance was very good with over 100 visitors.
- In the fall the "Focus on the Family" series by James Dobson was shown on seven consecutive Sunday evenings. Attendance was fairly good but only a few visitors.
- There were two successful Tuesday School sessions.
- After years of needing a new roof over the classrooms, plans were drawn by Jack Hammond in the summer and Calvin Rogers changed the flat roofs to a new slope design.

1984

- On January 4, another ACT class “The New Testament Survey” was offered. The interest was so good, a Sunday and Wednesday class was offered. On May 31, several students received their certificates of completion.
- On February 5, eight new deacons were installed to serve with the current deacons, Chuck Thomas and John Baldwin. They were Roger Brown, Curt Clemens, Scott Fowler, Ed Henderson, Roy Kimble, Lee Neal, Fred Orndoff, and Van Wolfe. This made two elders and ten deacons.
- In the late summer, the congregation was made aware of a problem of pornography in Washington. Several went to the church building, made signs and pickets, and were staged in front of the stores selling pornography. Although it was proved successful, the support was minimal.
- In September, the congregation leased/purchased a Panasonic copier. It was a tremendous improvement over the old offset press. Delbert Stewart and Mark Wise had faithfully operated the old press for a number of years.

1985

- On February 5, the Wayne Shanor family departed for Sunset School of Preaching in Texas. The Washington congregation supported Wayne to the extent of \$600 per month.
- Also in February, another ACT class on “Galatians” was offered. This was a significant class because the course exposed the error of salvation by works and explained true justification through faith. Twenty three completed the course.
- In the spring, the congregation purchased a new Royal electric typewriter for \$845. This was a real step forward in office efficiency.
- In May, Gleim announced his intention to accept new work in Huber Heights, Ohio. He preached his last sermon on Sunday, June 30.
- There was a special homecoming in September. Several who had moved away came to be a part of the all day celebration.
- The first Holiday Dinner for those in need in the community was held in December. Several in the congregation phoned to see if anyone needed transportation, while others volunteered to use their cars to taxi people to and from the building. The congregation was excited over this outreach of cooking, serving, and showing kindness to those lonely over the holidays. This special dinner continued for several years until the Health Department required a special kitchen. Even though the church had a certificate to serve food, it did not meet the new standards, so the Holiday Dinner had to stop.
- The congregation experienced another good year at the Fair, enrolling 125 for the Bible Correspondence Courses; Tuesday School had a waiting list going into the next semester; and the zones were successful.

1986

- In February, a special film series “The Heart of a Fighter” began for several weeks.
- In March, a teacher’s workshop was conducted by a group from NCJC (Northeastern Christian Junior College).
- The first Tri-State Worship was held in the Civic Arena in Pittsburgh on April 20. More than a 100 people filled the large GG&C buses provided by Bill Clark through Tom Rogers along with car loads from the Washington congregation to attend the special services. Thirteen hundred people from congregations throughout the tri-state area attended that day.
- In May, John and Gayle Wilkins moved from New Jersey to Washington to begin a great work. John preached his first sermon on Sunday morning May 4.
- Beginning Sunday afternoon June 29, the congregation began singing every 5th Sunday at the Humbert Lane Nursing Home.
- The congregation held its second homecoming on Sunday August 31.
- During Wilkins tenure in Washington, he requested permission to purchase his own house and move out of the house on Donnan Avenue provided by the church.

1987

- Dick James, a retired air force officer, held a meeting titled “Street Talk!” on February 27 through March 1.
- The congregation, with the assistance of Debbie Herbener and Virginia Gray, adopted its first child through the Christian Relief Fund in June. Her name was E. Radha. Mildred Henderson took over the project when they both moved. Joan Rogers now oversees the project and the girl they now support is Swetha.
- October 2–3, the congregation held a ladies retreat. Marianna Long from Fresco, Colorado, was the main speaker of the retreat. She and her husband were missionaries. The retreat was held at the Grand Vue Park in Moundsville, West Virginia. The theme was from Isaiah 40:31 “Flying High.”
- In November, a large canopy was constructed at the entrance of the building. It was designed by Jack Hammond to match the slope of the side roofs over the classrooms.

1988

- The Ambassadors from Northeastern Christian Junior College performed.
- The Love Bugs (a group of young girls) was begun by Ora Lee Foringer with the assistance of Glenda Watt and Peggy Moore.
- Gayle Wilkins started a Secret Sister program.
- In April, the preacher’s house was sold. The money was placed in the bank and would later be used for necessary projects rather than borrow and pay interest.
- On September 31—October 2, Gynnath Ford held a “Three Unusual Days” workshop. It was very successful in building spiritual enthusiasm and motivating an increase in giving.
- A special elders and deacons banquet was held at the Beau Regency. Later a Teachers Appreciation Banquet was also held there.
- With the assistance of Andy Kotora, the church purchased its first computer in November. It was an IBM.
- The congregation made Thanksgiving baskets and delivered them to the elderly and shut-ins.

1989

- A Special evangelism class was conducted by John Wilkins and Jack Hammond with 26 present.
- The first Sweetheart Dinner was held on February 14. Van Wolfe organized this dinner for several years.
- The congregation purchased a van in May. It was used mostly by the youth and later, by the senior citizens (The Sunshiners), for field trips.
- John Wilkins conducted a special class on Marriage and Divorce.
- A great step forward was taken when Mike Williams was hired as an intern youth minister for the summer. He was the first of several summer interns.
- There were 4 baptisms and 4 placed membership.

1990

- After a lapse of 10 years, the congregation had a successful VBS in June. The average attendance was 90 with a high of 116. The age group was from two years through sixth grade. Van Wolfe directed the school with the assistance of Helen Orndoff.
- There were 5 baptisms and 1 restored.

1991

- The auditorium and classrooms were painted, new carpeting was installed in the auditorium, and the pews were re-upholstered.
- On September 29, Bob and Rachael Davison returned to Washington.
- There were 5 baptisms, 3 restored and 2 placed membership.

1992

- In January, there were three new furnaces and a controlled system installed.
- A new idea for the children's Bible class began on May 5, called "The Challenger Class." Rachael Davison supervised the class. There were several teachers at small tables with 3 students at each table with a teacher. This was a competitive type class, but each student worked at their own speed. It continued for several years.
- In April, Jim Woodroof held a special meeting prior to speaking at the Keystone Worship.
- May 1, Bob Davison began a senior program each Friday morning called "The Sunshiners."
- The elders dedicated Sunday morning May 17 to the Tuesday School program. They celebrated their 19th year.
- Small home groups began Sunday evening July 23.

1993

- Jim Woodroof held another gospel meeting.
- In June, the congregation held its 80th Homecoming celebration.
- Jim Corner from Garland, Texas, was invited to hold a workshop concerning World Bible School.
- There were 5 baptisms, 2 restored and 6 placed membership.

1994

- Rich (Hoss) Ridgeway, with his new bride, did his summer internship as the youth minister.
- A special gospel meeting on love was held by Larry Deason in September, titled "Genuine Discipleship."
- On September 18, Lee Neal and Larry Straight were installed as elders.
- Andy Kotora resigned as elder September 25 after serving for 30 years. Andy and his family moved to Tennessee. The Kotora's were known for their hospitality.
- There were 14 baptisms.

1995

- April 23, Tom Rogers was appointed as a deacon. Tom took over the duties of overseeing the maintenance of the building and grounds and the 16 passenger van.
- Richard Norris was installed as an elder to work with Larry Straight and Lee Neal.
- The congregation hired a summer intern youth minister, Chet White.
- The men's breakfast began on October 14. It continued one Saturday each month for several months; David Blevins was appointed treasurer in November.

1996

- On February 11, four men were appointed as deacons: Richard Bishop, David Blevins, Al Cole and Richard Tomsic.
- In March, Patrick Mead held a gospel meeting.
- Chet White returned as the youth minister on March 31 and stayed through August 18. Chet began the Junior Worship called JAM (Jesus And Me, which is still going on).

1996 (Continued)

- With special interest in the small children, and not wanting to see JAM discontinued, Helen Omdoff, with the assistance of B.J. Bunner and others, continued this program.
- There were 10 baptisms and 4 placed membership.

1997

- June 1, Jeff Knox served as the intern youth minister for the summer.
- In August, a new roof was installed on the main building.
- Tracy Webb became the church secretary.
- Darnell Webb became the youth leader.
- Fred Orndoff was put in charge of the Home Groups.
- There were 11 baptisms and 2 restored.

1998

- A cappella performed on November 19.
- Brian Camps took over the Fair booth and continued until 2002 when the elders decided to place the emphasis of outreach in other areas.

1999

- In the summer, Bob Davison resigned as pulpit minister. He served the congregation two different times. The first time he served for five years and the second time for eight years.
- April 25, John Wright began as the pulpit minister. John, and his wife, Pam, and one son, Eric, moved from Clearfield. They had two other children, a daughter (Amanda) in college and a son (Jeremy) in the Army.
- Bob Davison served as part time minister to the senior citizens. On June 20, he was appointed as an elder.
- A new outreach began with the Life Bible Correspondence Course training class in June. The course was written by Jack Hammond and published by Gospel Light Publishing Company. It was offered to the community and later, in August, at the Washington County Fair.
- On Sunday, September 12, the congregation held its first Friends and Family Day under the direction of John Wright.
- New song books were purchased on August 22.
- John Ellas held a "Congregational Growth" workshop in November.
- Also in November, the elders and preachers went on a retreat.
- There were 10 baptisms, 4 restorations and 9 place membership.

2000

- The ladies began a Secret Friend program in March.
- The A cappella singers performed on Saturday April 8 prior to the Keystone Worship on April 9.
- Steve Flatt, speaker for Keystone spoke for the congregation Sunday morning, April 9.
- Later in April, Patrick Mead held a Marriage Enrichment Seminar.
- Another step forward was taken when George Suhon designed a Web site for the congregation.
- The youth minister for the summer was Scott Bayles from Freed Hardeman.
- On Wednesday, September 13, a new Ladies Class began. The ladies provided their own teachers.
- The bulletin took a new look and format change. It was named *The Messenger*.

2000 (Continued)

- There were more than a hundred personal Bible studies.
- There were with 25 baptisms and 5 restorations.

2001

- In January, the Life Home Groups began again.
- The congregation began playing volleyball/basketball fellowship at the Brownson House.
- In May, Ohio Valley College held a Teacher's Training Workshop.
- In May, Richard Walton was hired as the Family Life Minister. He and his wife, Molly, moved to Washington from St. Clairsville, Ohio.
- Bob Harsh spoke about his trip to Russia and the great possibilities for the Lord there.
- Charles Aebi was a quest speaker in August.
- A Super Saturday VBS was held in August.
- A revival, with Don Bennett as the speaker, was held September with the average attendance of 200 per night.
- A new class for non-members from the community (Searcher's Class) was begun. There were 14 non-members enrolled in the first class. John Wright and Bob Davison continued in Searchers # 1 and #2. The course was designed by Jack Hammond and included a Searcher class book.
- A cappella performed again in October.
- Jack Nelson was appointed a deacon in charge of the Life Home Groups.
- Brian Camps, who is in charge of involvement, was installed as a deacon.
- Darrel Thomas was appointed as an elder October 10.
- A work called "One Night for the Master" began for a period of ten weeks. There were a total of 1,754 contacts for our Lord.
- Brenda Jordan resigned as church secretary and Beth Suhon became the new secretary.
- The congregation continued to support Swetha, Tuesday School, Potter's Children's Home, and Tray Favors for the nursing homes, devotions at Cherry Tree and Humbert Lane nursing facilities, Thanksgiving baskets, food bank, and cookies for the jail.
- There were 20 baptisms and several restorations.

2002

- In January a Weigh Down Program began.
- In March a new class, "Marriage: Enrichment," began.
- As the congregation continued to grow in numbers, John Ellas was invited back to hold an Evaluation workshop April 5-7.
- A Youth Rally was held on April 13 with speaker, Kyle Butt.
- Marvin Phillips spoke Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday morning prior to the Keystone Worship Sunday afternoon on April 28.
- Isaiah Krause was hired as an intern youth minister for the summer.
- Brian Bunner was appointed as a deacon in May and Larry Straight was installed as an elder.
- There were 32 baptisms.

2003

- One Night for the Master began on June 2.
- The youth participated Monday nights in "teen night" at the Walton's. They continued attending youth rallies at area churches of Christ.

2003 (Continued)

- VBS, MOPS, and Tuesday School were held.
- Idlewild Church of Christ Day was attended by several families.

2007

- Tom Flickinger was installed as an elder in January.
- Sunshiners met under the leadership of Bob Davison.
- Hosted the Keystone State Area Sing.
- Scott Lenhart from Nashville, Tennessee, spoke for us.
- Many get togethers were held such as family bowling, movie night, campfire devotionals, New Year's Eve party, Valentine Dinner, Friends and Family day, wedding and baby showers.
- There were 14 baptisms.

2008

- The youth attended various youth rallies activities, including Winterfest, Camp Concern, and a mission trip to Mexico.
- Life Groups were held in members homes and they studied the bible together.
- A Marriage Enrichment Workshop was held.
- Care packages were made and sent to our military.
- Fruit baskets were delivered to shut-ins.
- Held a Friends and Family Day, VBS, Men's and Ladies' breakfast, Valentine Dinner, Harvest Dinner, and participated in Church of Christ day at Idlewild Park.

2009

- Many family events were held throughout the year such as family bowling, New Year's Eve party, church picnic, and Christmas caroling.
- Supported the Potter Children's Home, a sponsor child (Swetha) from India, City of Children in Mexico, the Claysville Food Pantry.
- Participated in the Lads to Leaders program; several attended the convention in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Ladies were involved in the secret sister, quilting class, ladies' nights out, and scrapbooking.
- There were 18 baptisms and 6 weddings.

2010

- Duke Lippincott was appointed as deacon in November.
- First Annual Toy Drive was held as an outreach to the community. Toys were donated by church members and ladies wrapped presents for those who came. Donuts and coffee were served and they were given information about the church.
- A Harvest/Thanksgiving dinner was held in November.
- Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes (L2L) program and City of Children mission trip to Mexico.

2011

- David Deagel was hired as Minister in June. David moved to Washington from Moundsville, West Virginia, with his wife Amanda, and 3 children Hailey, Zechariah, and Alyvia.
- John Wright resigned as Minister in November and began work at National Road Church of Christ in Wheeling, West Virginia.
- A new 12-passenger van was purchased by the church.

2011 (Continued)

- The 2nd annual toy drive was held for the community and was larger than the year before.
- Men of the church attended Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, in October.
- Work on the building included removal of the pews which were replaced by chairs; new carpeting was laid in the auditorium; the kitchen was updated with new flooring, cabinets, countertop, paint, and tile.
- Many events were held such as a chili and BBQ cook-off, Valentine Dinner, Harvest Dinner, church picnic, family bowling, ice skating, ladies trips, Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes (L2L) program, City of Children mission trip to Mexico, and Idlewild Church of Christ Day.
- There were 7 baptisms and 10 births.

2012

- Danny Campbell began in September as minister moving from Augusta, Maine, with his wife Kimberly and son Daniel and daughter Hannah. They have 2 older daughters, Madison, who is married and attending college at Harding and Phoebe who attends Arkansas State College.
- Rochester College Chorus performed on Sunday evening in April.
- Held 3rd Annual Toy Drive in December as an outreach to the community.
- A Gospel Meeting was held in July with Michael Griggs as a guest speaker. Griggs is from Charleston, South Carolina.
- JAM (Jesus and Me) program continued under the direction of Pauline Thomas. The previous director Mona Martin stepped down after much time of great service.
- Ladies participated in quilting classes, secret sisters, ladies night out, trip to Shaker Woods craft festival, Mother/Daughter banquet and Christmas party.
- Picnic was held at East Finley Park.
- Children and families participated in family bowling, Church of Christ Idlewild Day, Camp Concern, game night, Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes program, and mission trip to Mexico.
- There were 5 baptisms and 2 weddings.

2013

- A Super Saturday VBS was held on June 8, and the children learned about Paul.
- Children participated in various youth rallies, Camp Concern and Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes Program.
- Jam (Jesus and Me) program was offered to children during the Sunday morning service.
- Ladies quilting class met monthly doing various projects and also made a quilt in honor of the church's 100th anniversary.
- Prayer Meetings began on Sunday evening.
- ESL (English as a Second Language) classes were held as an outreach to the community.
- Ladies Bible class delivered fruit baskets, participated in secret sister, held a mother/daughter dinner in May with around 160 in attendance.
- Support missions such as Potter Children's Home, James Connection, Swetha (a sponsor child from India), and mission trip to Mexico's City of Children.
- Celebrated the church's 100th anniversary of being located in Washington, Pennsylvania. There was a fellowship reception on Saturday, June 22, at the church building. After worship on Sunday, there was dinner and entertainment at the DoubleTree Hotel in Meadowlands.
- There have been 6 baptisms and 3 weddings so far.

ELDERS, PREACHERS AND INTERNS—OVER THE YEARS

ELDERS:

1. Earl Sweat	1952–1952
2. Brady Gatten	1952–1953
3. Herschel Bissett	1952–1955
4. Oaky Cross	1954–1955
5. Eldridge Laurence	1954–1966
6. Andy Kotora	1959–1966, 1969–1994
7. Coyt Feaster	1969–1982
8. Dave Hall	1969–1982
9. Clarence Gatten	1969–1982
10. Cephus Fowler	1969–1982
11. Jack Hammond	1969–1996
12. Lee Neal	1994–1998
13. Larry Straight	1994–2001
14. Richard Norris	1995–
15. Bob Davison	1999–
16. Darrel Thomas	2001–
17. Tom Flickinger	2010–

MINISTERS:

1. George Butterfield	1939–1945
2. Lewis J. Nicholas	1949–1950
3. R.B. Riffle	1950–1952
4. Don Cooper	1954–1955
5. Ray D. Beggs	1956–1963
6. Lawrence Gardner	1963–1966
7. L.E. Wishum	1966–1967
8. Robert Davison	1968–1973
9. Ken Denkins	1974–1975
10. Dan L. Smith	1975–1982
11. Glen Gleim	1982–1985
12. John Wilkins	1986–1990
13. Robert Davison	1991–1999
14. John Wright	1999–2011
15. Richard Walton	2001–2010
16. David Deagle	2011–
17. Danny Campbell	2012 –

SUMMER INTERNS

1. Mike Williams	1989
2. Rich Ridgeway	1994
3. Chet White	1995, 1996
4. Jeff Knox	1997
5. Scott Bayles	2000
6. Isaiah Krause	2002