

*The History
of the
Page United
Methodist
Church*

METHODIST
CHARGE



*Bethel
Methodist
Church*

Bethel Church was located east of Kimball on State route 612, better known as the Rocky Branch road. It was a wooden structure approximately 28 X 38 feet, having two chimneys and two doors, built in 1897.

The land for the church was given by John A. Alther and the folks in the community built it, giving the materials and time.

Worship services were held once or twice a month at Bethel. Sunday school was conducted during the summer months for a long time, then discontinued altogether.

Before the church was built, worship services were held in the one room Hall school house which stood on the hill adjacent to the donated land. Aunt Carrie Shend remembers attending as a youngster when a William Keyser preached there.

Earliest records found for Bethel was the membership roll which started Jan. 15, 1897, while Thomas J. Miller was the preacher. He served the Page Circuit from 1895 - 1899. There were 51 members on roll at that time dating from Jan. 15, 1897 through Aug. 1, 1902. John A. Alther was received into the church in 1902 by profession of faith. He died in 1919 at the age of 79 years.

The church was closed in 1960 and the 24 members on roll at that time merged with Springfield. Fifteen of these members remained faithful and helped make the total of 79 that Springfield moved to Page in 1970.

The Bethel church and land was sold to Thurman Richards. He tore the building down and used the timbers in his house that was built on that site. The original deed, dated the 7th day of April, 1897, conveyed to Henry H. Griffith, trustee of Bethel Church by Mary Alther, 1 acre of land, more or less. Thurman Richards deed is dated Dec. 5, 1961 and signed by the following trustees: John W. Shank, Orville L. Shank and Harry L. Judd.

I want to add that Mary Alther was the mother of John A. Alther, who donated the land. These Althers are ancestors of Armond Alther, deceased husband of our own Edith Alther here at Page. Henry H. Griffith was the father-in-law of Mrs. Pearl B. Griffith, also of Page, and the Grandfather of Sam Henry Griffith.

My roots were implanted at Bethel, although I did not join any church until after Joe and I were married. Then I became a member of Springfield. My

Grandfather Casper Judd, my Grandmother
Martha Ann Batman Judd, my Father
Elmer Judd and my oldest sister, Edna J.
Histon are all products of Bethel.

Garnetta J. Foley
April 29, 1984

PAGE NEWS & COURIER

100 years ago

March 6, 1864

THE REV. MR. WELLES

The near approach of the annual conference of the Methodist Church suggests the fear that the Rev. Mr. Welles who for two years has been in charge of Page Circuit may not be returned.

Mr. Welles by his genial and gentlemanly bearing while among us as well as by his untiring energy and well directed zeal in the service of the church has commended himself greatly to all our people without regard to denomination and we are assured that we echo the sentiments of all who know him here when we express the wish that he may again receive the appointment to Lacey.

*Compton
Methodist
Church*

Compton Union Church

Rev. William Peters, a circuit riding Brethren preacher from the Fort Valley, came to Compton where he and the community started building a worship house in 1883 on land belonging to Charles Madison Keyser, grandfather of Emmett and Frank Keyser.

The lumber as well as the land were donated by Madison Keyser and the windows were donated by Rev. Peters. It is told by one source that Mrs. Kate Heiskel sold pianos to buy the bellfry for the church.

There were four denominations working and worshipping together. They were the Brethren, Lutherans, Baptist and Methodist. Each denomination held service one Sunday a month.

Six years later on May 27, 1889 the land was deeded to the Dry Run Trustees (Compton) Church by Madison Keyser. Until this time the church was called Dry Run. In 1890 the name was changed to Compton Union and was to be used by any denomination.

The church joined the Methodist conference in 1888 and remained under the Methodist leadership for 87 years. The Rev. J. W. Walters was the first Methodist Minister. There were as many as 19 members in 1886 to 25 members in 1925.

In 1968 the Compton Church decided not to merge with the newly formed Page Charge. In 1975 five years after the Page Charge merged the Compton Church withdrew from the Conference. Dr. Franklyn Melton was the last conference minister to speak in the Compton Church.

The church still holds service each Sunday under Methodist ministers, Robert Hamers and Leo Dunbar on alternate Sundays with Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come and worship.



Picture COMPTON METHODIST
CHURCH and COMPTON sign
taken by Jon Marque
Blubaugh



*Fletcher's
Chapel
Methodist
Church*

HISTORY OF FLETCHER'S CHAPEL CHURCH

McKendra Watson Strickler deeded the land for Fletcher's Chapel Methodist Church to the Methodist Conference January 19, 1884. A building was erected on said lot to be used only for a house of worship. McKendra W. Strickler was a direct descendent of Abraham Strickler who was born in 1690 and came to America from Switzerland in 1710. McKendra Strickler was born in 1855 and died in 1929.

The lumber for the church as well as the wood for the pews was sawed and donated from timber owned by McKendra W. Strickler.

The first trustees of the Fletcher's Chapel Methodist Church were: McKendra W. Strickler, George Sedwick and Henry Shenk. The first pastor was Rev. G. W. Rubush.

The first Fletcher's Chapel Sunday School was organized in 1899 with 60 people on roll. Officers and teachers follow:

Officers

Librarian-----J. D. Murray
Treasurer-----Miss L. M. Strickler
Secretary-----O. W. Smith

Teachers

Miss L. M. Strickler
Mr. T. Lee Cullers
Mrs. E. Cullers
Mr. Malboy Huffman
Miss Lena Hammer
Miss Lizzie Murray
Mr. Phillip Goode

The building was used for Methodist church services until June, 1971 when Felcher's Chapel withdrew from the United Methodist Church Conference.

The last Methodist pastor was Rev. J. Blaine Blubaugh. A new name was given to the church--Fletcher's Chapel Community Church.

S. Paul Dovel was the first pastor of the pastor of the community church.

At present, Fletcher's Chapel Community Church has approximately 45 members and is served by Pastor Fred Weirs (April, 1984).

Reports for

Fletcher Chapel,

M. E. Church, South

Sunday School.

100 years ago

Jan. 20, 1884

PENCILGRAPHS

We are glad to see Johnnie Broadus on the streets, apparently all recovered. He had a narrow escape.

The ice house is full.

Whet your appetite for the opening of a new business this spring. Give Page a boost this year.

There were 26 marriages in Page County in 1883.

LURAY MARKETS

Bacon, 13 cents lb.; shoulders, 12 cents lb.; eggs, 16 cents dozen; turkeys, 9 cents lb.; chickens, 4 cents lb.; flour extra, 45 barrel; rye, 63 cents.

NEW METHODIST CHURCH

An effort is on foot for the building of a new church by the Methodists in the neighborhood of George W. Sedwick's.

100 years ago

Sept. 25, 1884

WORTHY OF IMITATION

The Sunday School of Fletcher's Chapel, learning that there was due a balance of about \$80 for the constructing of the chapel, resolved that the debt should be lifted and led by Messrs. Strickler, Murray, Young and others equally as zealous went to work to carry its resolve into effect.

On Friday and Friday night a lawn party given near the chapel contributed handsomely to the required fund and some Bible plays and tableaux on Saturday night swelled the receipts to more than \$70, nearly enough to liquidate the whole debt. The action of this school is especially commendable when we come to know that it is badly in need of a library and had a long cherished plan of raising means to secure one. No church should worship in a house not paid for and we are glad that members of this Sunday School seem to have appreciated this fact.

100 years ago

June 14, 1884

CHAPEL DEDICATION

Fletcher's Chapel on the river, recently completed, will be dedicated on the fifth Sunday in June. Rev. H.M. Strickler and Rev. J.F. Hyde of Winchester will be present on the occasion. The service will be of interesting one and the public is invited.

PENCILGRAPHS

Everyone notes the rapid improvement of Luray.

Much hay was damaged by the heavy rains of last week.

The Spring Farm mill property is advertised in this issue of the Courier.

The Luray Band is now able to go it alone.

L.C. Priests is putting up a handsome dwelling on the corner of Main Street and Frawel's Avenue.

Dr. T.A. Bohannon has appointed Jacob R. Devel of Marksville as one of his deputies.

The Board of Supervisors was in session last Friday but transacted no important business except the allowance of claims.

C.O. Harbour and Bros. will finish plastering the Hotel Laurance next Saturday.



FLETCHER'S CHAPEL
METHODIST CHURCH

Two pictures below, taken by Jon Marque
Blubaugh



Report of S. S. for month of Apr. 1899

S. S. Sunday morning Apr. 16. ^a Apr. 23.			
Supt.	W. H. Strickler	P.	P.
Officers	Librarian, L. C. Murray	P.	P.
	Treasurer, L. C. Murray	P.	P.
	Secretary, A. W. Smith	P.	P.
Teachers	Miss L. C. Strickler	P.	P.
	Rev. T. Cullers	P.	A.
	Mrs. C. Cullers	P.	A.
	Enalloy Kuffman	P.	P.
	Miss Lina Kammer	A.	P.
	Miss Lizzie Murray	P.	P.
	Philip Goode	P.	P.

		Apr. 16	Apr. 23	Apr. 30
Scholars	Geo. on roll	60	73	71
	Geo Admitted	6	13	2
	Geo Present.	47	67	51
	Geo Absent	13	6	2

Collection { Apr. 16 \$1.09 \$0.24 \$5.33
 { .13
 { .47

Report of S. S. for month of Apr. 1899

S. S. Sunday morning Apr. 16. 1899.			
Supt.	W. H. Strickler	P.	P.
Officers	Librarian, J. C. Murray	P.	P.
	Treasurer, L. W. Strickler	P.	P.
	Secretary, A. W. Smith	P.	P.
Teachers	Miss L. W. Strickler	P.	P.
	Rev. T. Lee Cullers	P.	A.
	Rev. C. Cullers	P.	A.
	Malloy Kuffman	P.	P.
	Miss Lina Schammer	A.	P.
	Miss Lizzie Murray	P.	P.
	Philip Goode	P.	P.

		Apr. 16	Apr. 23	Apr. 30
Scholars	No. on roll	61	73	71
	No Admitted	6	13	2
	No Present	47	67	3
	No Absent	13	6	2

Collection { Apr. 16 \$1.09 \$0.24 \$1.33
 \$1.33
 47

Report of S. S. for 1914,
 Written up by Elizabeth Miller.
 Organized April, 5 - 1914

Officers

Supt. = Mr. M. W. Strickler
 Treas. = Miss L. M. Strickler
 Librarian = Mr. Elmer Strickler
 Sec. = Miss Elizabeth Miller
 Organist = Mrs. Marion Strickler
 Asst. O. = Miss Louise Sedwick

Female Teachers =

Bible Class = Mrs. Emma Cullers
 Asst. B. C. = Miss L. M. Strickler
 2nd Class = Miss Elizabeth Miller
 Asst 2nd C. = Mrs. Terie Mauck
^{Infant} C. = Miss Louise Sedwick

Male Teachers

Bible Class = Mr. T. Lee Cullers
 Asst. B. C. = Mr. Hubert Strickler
 2nd. Class = Mr. Oswald Cullers
 Asst 2nd C. = Mr. Will Mauck
~~Infant~~
 Catechet. = Collection Expended.

April 5	fair	\$ 1.11	1.85
12	fair	.58	
19	fair	.25	.25
26	^{Rainy} Canton		
May 3	f.	Collection	Expended
10	fair	.29	
17	fair	.43	
24	fair	.36	
31	fair	.29	

Feb. 1918.

Month	Date	Weather	Collection	Expenses
February	3	=		
	10	=	blowy.	
	17	=		21
	24	=		27
March	5	=	Weather =	Collection = Expenses
	10	=		25 49.
	17	=	Fair	70 1 40
	24	=		35 2 92
	31	=		86
April	7	=	Weather =	Collection = Expenses
	14	=		84
	21	=		48
	28	=	Fair	77.
May	5	=	Weather =	Collection = Expenses
	12	=	Fair	75
	19	=	blowy	66
	26	=	Fair	40.
June	2	=	Weather =	Collection = Expenses
	9	=	Fair	62
	16	=	Fair	48
	23	=	Fair blowy	7.06
	30	=	Fair	68.
			Fair Cool.	69.

Restable \$ 2.00

April 6th 1919.

Mr. T. Lee Cutlers	10				P	P	P	P	P	P
" O. L.	"	2			P	P	P	P	P	P
" P. N. Shuler	15	3			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Elmer Hinton	"	3			P	P	P	P	P	P
" A. B. Hofflemoyer	20	5			P	P	P	P	P	P
" J. R. Bean	"	4			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Harold Hofflemoyer	"	7			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Willie Burner	"	7			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Daniel Kibler	21	9			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Harry Blusher	6	11			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Emmet Brubaker	27				P	P	P	P	P	P
" Harry Strickler	"	12			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Dock Barham	"	11								
W Roscoe	"	18								
" Harry Shuler	27	15								
Mrs. W. W. Strickler	"	1			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Lillie Hofflemoyer	"	2			P	P	P	P	P	P
Miss Ruth Sherk	"	3			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Winnie	"	4			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Bessie Gollings	"	5			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Florence Meyer	"	6			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Margaret Bausman	"	7			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Virginia Burner	"	8			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Salena	"	9			P	P	P	P	P	P
" Ethel Burnham	"	10			P	P	P	P	P	P
" May	"	11			P	P	P	P	P	P
Mrs. Emmet Brubaker	"	12			P	P	P	P	P	P
Miss Kathleen Rickard	"	13								
" Geneva Hofflemoyer	"	14								
" Gladys Brubaker	"	16								
John S. Davis	"	18			P	P	P	P	P	P

April 18, 1968

On April 18, 1968 Rev. Blubaugh and Dr. Eaton, the district superintendent, met with members of Fletcher's Chapel Church for an informal meeting concerning the future of the church if there should be a withdrawal from the conference.

The meeting was opened with scripture reading and a prayer by Rev. Blubaugh. The meeting was then turned over to Dr. Eaton.

Dr. Eaton then explained that since the three churches, Rileyville, Oak Hill and Springfield have merged that Fletcher's Chapel and Compton churches will remain as individual churches; thus making a three point charge with the two merged churches as one and the two independent ones Compton and Fletcher's Chapel.

Then Dr. Eaton asked the members present to present at this time any questions they wished answered.

Mrs. Lucille Sedwick asked the ~~same~~ following question, "Would our budget change with only the two remaining independent?"

Answer Dr. Eaton: "There would probably be a change in the budget for all three churches; but our budget would probably not be any higher."

Question Mrs. Janice Snyder: "Would the conference supply our church, Fletcher's Chapel, with a minister if we should withdraw from the conference?"

Answer Dr. Eaton: "The conference probably couldn't find a full time minister only a part time one and that would be a ~~size~~ disadvantage; as he would ~~have~~ be available only at times; thus being in the conference you are sure of a full time minister who will be available at all times."

Question Mr. Raymond Sedwick, "If we should withdraw from the conference what would we have?" "Would we have the church building or nothing?"

Answer Dr. Eaton: "The church belongs to the congregation. The deed to Fletcher's Chapel Church was studied and the land was given to the Methodist church for the soul purpose of erecting a church. A Congregation can withdraw from the conference but they can't ~~we~~ take the church. An individual can leave the church or a group, or the congregation as a whole; but the property of this church and the church belongs to the congregation and the Methodist church as long as there is one church service held each year."

It was then asked by Dr. Eaton if there were any further questions. There were not, so the meeting was then adjourned with a prayer by Dr. Eaton.

Notes from this meeting were taken by Janice Snyder.

FLETCHER'S CHAPEL

<u>1969-70 Church Apportionsments</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>
Pastor's Salary	\$648.00	\$54.00
Pastor's Travel	<u>216.00</u>	<u>18.00</u>
(Total Salary Plus Travel)	864.00	72.00
Episcopal Fund	12.96	1.08
Conference Claimants	131.98	10.97
Minimum Salary	16.20	1.35
Educational Fund	67.50	5.62
World Service	90.00	7.50
Church Extension	27.00	2.25
World Special	.90	.08
National Special	.90	.08
MOOR	.90	.08
District Superintendent's Fund	25.74	2.15
District Work	21.24	1.77
District Personage Fund	<u>6.84</u>	<u>.57</u>
	\$1265.76	\$105.48
Local Personage Fund	<u>27.00</u>	
GRAND TOTAL	\$1292.76	

NOTE: Please remember that the minister's retirement will be affected if the four following items are not paid in full:

Episcopal Fund
 Conference Claimants
 Minimum Salary Fund
 District Superintendent's Fund

May God bless you in your work this year.

Norm S. Comer
 Page United Methodist Charge Treasurer

*Oak Hill
Methodist
Church*

Oak Hill Church

The information about the building of the church was compiled by Joy Carter.

The Oak Hill Church was built around 1887, on land owned by George William Sedwick, but there never was a clear deed until W.O. Conley bought the Sedwick farm and deeded the land to the church in the early 1900's.

George William Sedwick or "Billy" was a preacher, himself, often riding by horse and buggy to fill the pulpits of churches throughout the area. The lumber for the church building was given by Robert Milton Cullen and was sawed at the Jim Webster sawmill. Mr. Dan Kemp of this neighborhood did the carpentry work.

We don't know exactly how many members there were in the beginning, but we do know that in the early 1900's there were an average of 60 people in the Sunday School. Buck Lyne remembers that for years Sunday School was held on Sunday afternoons - only in the summer time - with regular church services one Sunday night a month. My mother said to be sure to mention the fact that services were so crowded people stood outside and peered through the windows, this was after many of them had walked miles to get there.



Mr. Frank Jenkins was Sunday School Supt. for some years - and then William Milton Cullen, my grand father, was the Sunday School supt. for over 25 years. After his death in the late 1940's Aunt Clara took over this office.

When our churches united the building was sold at public auction to Mr. John Haupt. Then later it was purchased by Dr. Betty, who still owns it and has rented it throughout the years for others to have services there.

When our churches united there were 62 members on the roll, but in actuality there were few active members - for so many people had moved away from the area.

Best of all we have our memories - my mom playing the organ there when she was a child, the great youth fellowship program - the sleigh-riding parties - the scenic services - the revivals - the weddings and the funerals - the Christmas plays and the picnics.

I'm sure that my mother, Aunt Clara, Uncle August, Bonnie, Vera and her children, Oscar and his family, Emma Mauch, and all the others here today who attended Oak Hill will always treasure the fellowship they shared there.

I know that I will.

(Report given by Janette Sabersich)



View across to the
Mascoutah from the
Oak Hill Methodist
Church ~

Oak Hill
Methodist
Church



Picture of Oak Hill Church
taken by Jon Marque
Slubaugh

OAK HILL METHODIST
CHURCH

*The History
of the
Page United
Methodist
Church*

*Rileyville
Methodist
Church*

HISTORY OF THE RILEYVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

Situated in the Northern part of Virginia, and nestled between the Blue Ridge Mountain on the East and the Massanutten Mountain on the West, is a small village known as Rileyville. In this village can be found the present day Rileyville Methodist Church which is one of five churches on the Page Methodist Charge in Winchester District and the Virginia Conference. The four other churches on the Charge are Oak Hill, Springfield, Compton and Fletcher's Chapel. The Rileyville Church has a total membership at present of 78 members.

The little church stands today with dignity and pride as if silently saying to those who gaze upon it, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life". It was founded upon faith and trust in our Lord, Jesus Christ, and remains dear in the hearts of its members.

Actually, the first Methodist Church in Rileyville was organized in 1839 with Nathan S. Buckingham as pastor. Evidently, the congregation worshiped in homes because there is no record of the erection of a church until the year 1843. It was during this year that a building was constructed with logs donated by Peter Keyser, Sr. and was known as the Church Meeting House and was also used for a school house. This Church Meeting House was erected on the present day site of the Rileyville Methodist Church. The corner stone of the old building was worked into the foundation of the new one.

On March 8, 1870, Col. Edward W. Wood deeded the land that the Rileyville Methodist Church is located on to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South who were James Newman, Isaac Cullers and James E. Wood. Col. Edward W. Wood was born in Page County, Virginia, June 21, 1826. He was a wealthy and prominent citizen and owned a great deal of land in Page County. In 1859 he sold the most of his land in Virginia and during the following year, 1860, he moved to Missouri. However, Page County and the little village of Rileyville must have remained dear to his heart because he returned in March of 1870 and gave approximately one-half acre of his land to the building of God's Kingdom. It was not until 1897 that the Rileyville Methodist Church was erected.

It is the firm conclusion of the writer, after checking all available information, that between 1870 and 1897, the Methodist people of Rileyville worshiped with three other denominations in what was known as the Union Church. On September 27, 1863, William D. Jett and his wife, Susan, deeded a certain tract of land on which the present day Baptist Church is located, to the trustees of the Old School Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist Episcopal Church South and the New School Baptist Churches; thus forming the Union Church.

However, the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church sold their one-fourth interest in the year 1898, one year after the construction of what is now known as the Rileyville Methodist Church. The Old School Baptist also sold their one-fourth interest in the same way; thus leaving the Union Church to the New School Baptist and Lutheran. These two denominations still own the Baptist Church, and it is still thought of as the Union Church.

One might state here that the first minister listed in our records was a Rev. J. H. Rheubush who served from 1883 until 1884. It was during his appointment that the Methodist people of the Rileyville began worshipping in the Union Church, having the second Sunday of each month to be in charge of the worship service. This arrangement continued until the present day Methodist Church was built. It should be noted here that the ministers that served the Rileyville Methodist also served six other churches on what was called the Page Mission. These churches were Springfield, Oak Hill, Dry Run, Cross Roads, Caroline Furnace and Fletcher's Chapel. Ministers, other than Rev. Rheubush, that served the Rileyville Methodist people while worshipping in the Union Church were:

S. Townsend-----1885 - 1886	H. L. Hout-----1891 - 1894
M. M. Long-----1886 - 1890	O. A. Wheat-----1894 - 1895
W. S. Holland-----1890 - 1891	T. J. Miller-----1895 - 1899

Rev. T. J. Miller was minister during the time the Rileyville Methodist Church was constructed. After Rev. Miller's appointment and up until Stanley Methodist Church was included on the Page Circuit, as it was known then, the following ministers were appointed:

J. H. Wolff-----1899 - 1901	Howard Mullineau--1916 - 1917
J. C. Sedwick-----1901 - 1902	E. G. Helmstoller--1917 - 1921
H. A. Wilson-----1902 - 1906	F. B. Cook-----1921 - 1925
W. D. Eye-----1906 - 1908	H. W. Fowler-----1925 - 1925
H. M. Strickler-----1908 - 1912	G. D. Keracode--1925 - 1926
H. B. Alexander ---1912 - 1913	G. H. Keydrick--1926 - 1927
H. Lawson-----1913 - 1914	H. H. Tyler-----1927 - 1928

Some of our members of long and faithful standing clearly recall that in 1928, the Baltimore Conference combined Stanley with the Page Circuit, and thus formed the Page-Stanley Circuit. This arrangement continued for 24 years or until 1952. During this time, the Circuit was served by 12 different ministers who were:

M. G. Lilly-----1928 - 1931	D. M. Spencer---1945 - 1946
A. W. Hinton-----1931 - 1933	Harold M. Fuss--1946 - 1947
W. J. Whitesell----1933 - 1937	Claude B. Larrick-1947 - 1948
J. E. Hodges-----1937 - 1939	W. M. DeRuiter-1948 - 1949
J. F. Fulcher-----1939 - 1943	J. A. Andrew ---1949 - 1951
E. C. Day-----1943 - 1945	Ray McDorman--1951 - 1952

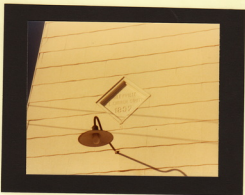
The Rileyville Church was a member of the Baltimore Conference until the year 1939 at which time the area was transferred from the jurisdiction of the Baltimore Conference to that of the Virginia Conference.

Since 1952, the Rileyville Methodist Church has been one of five churches, as previously mentioned, on the Page Methodist Charge. We have a church school and an active W. S. C. S. group. Since 1952, these churches have been served by the following ministers:

William Springer--- 1952 - 1953	Joseph L. Lets-- 1960 - 1961
D. E. Bayer ----- 1953 - 1955	Wade Sirk----- 1961 - 1964
H. C. Smith ----- 1955 - 1958	J. Blane Blubaugh-1964 - present
Roy E. Neff ----- 1958 - 1960	

In order to do our best at the present time and to plan for the future, it is highly important to understand the past. It is the writer's hope that, in some small way, this glimpse of yesterday will help each member appreciate the dear ones of the past, and may we in turn, have a desire to meet the challenge of tomorrow with Christ-like love and understanding.

Mrs. Durwood Comer
Writer





Rileyville
Methodist
Church



RILEYVILLE METHODIST CHURCH



Pictures above taken by
Jon Marque Blawsugh

*Springfield
Methodist
Church*

The Springfield Methodist Church is located less than a mile East of Rt. 340 on Rt. 658. The frame structure was dedicated in Aug. 1903 during the ministry of H. A. Wilson who served the Page Circuit from 1902-1906. The Residing Elder at that time was David Cusk of the Winchester Dist of which Page Circuit then belonged. This was in the Baltimore Conference whose Bishop was H. Coke Smith.

The plot of land on which the church stands was deeded to the trustees of the church on Apr. 30, 1855 by William F. + wife, Catharine L. Jones. The trustees were as follows; William Kibler, Albert Pezgraves, Edmund F. Rider, Henry Oden, Garland Jenkins, George Patten and Jeremia Kibler.

William Kibler was my great-grandfather + Jeremia his younger brother. The church standing at the present is not the first Methodist church

located on that site.

Although there is no record of it, my mother remembered well & attended a smaller church which stood at almost a right angle with the present one. This church had a balcony ~~with~~ the slaves and later the freed Blacks. At times it was also used for a school.

The first record available listed 131 members in 1895. As the number of members grew a new church was needed.

Just after the new church was dedicated in 1903 a revival meeting was held. Eva Montgomery, along with Ernest Kibler and my mother were the first members received into the church. Eva Montgomery, who married a Rev. Mahaffey was the only Springfield member to go into full time Christian Service. The Mahaffey's were missionaries

to India for 40 years. They reared two Indian children who continued with their work in the Church The Mahaffey built, after they retired and returned to Page County.

It was in 1960 that Bethel Meth. Church closed and its membership transferred to Springfield. Springfield at that time had 80 members.

Since the merger of the three churches in 1970 to form Page a service is held annually at Springfield by Page's minister. Also the Springfield Cub Scouts use it for their meetings.







The Springfield
Methodist Church - now
scant



Picture taken by Jon Marke
Blubaugh

Springfield Sunday School 1945 or 1946



Front Row – Elaine Seal, Evelyn Montgomery Wright, Shirley Viands Comer, Donna Keyser Hylton, Thomas M. Strickler, Roland S. Foley, Carroll Strickler.

Back Row – Joseph V. Foley, Sr., Supt., Gertrude Mauck, Becky Viands, Alice Viands Housden, Jane Montgomery Alexander, Ruby Kibler Keyser, Cleva Mauck.

Far Back – Nellie Strickler, Oneida Kibler Strickler, Billy Foley, Lorene Mauck Strickler.



Women Society for Christian Service (WSCS)
at Mrs. Rob Mauck's – about 1953

Helen Fox, Virginia Howard, Mrs. Mauck (on her front
porch), Edna Thomas, Minerva Foley, Blanche Rickard.

Mr. Frank Jenkins was Sunday School Supt. for some years - and then William Milton Cullen, my grand father, was the Sunday School supt. for over 25 years. After his death in the late 1940's Aunt Clara took over this office.

When our churches united the building was sold at public auction to Mr. John Hunt. Then later it was purchased by Dr. Gilly, who still owns it and has rented it throughout the years for others to have services there.

When our churches united there were 62 members on the roll, but in actuality there were few active members - for so many people had moved away from the area.

Best of all we have our memories - my mom playing the organ there when she was a child, the great youth fellowship program - the sleigh-riding parties - the scenic services - the Revivals - the weddings and the funerals - the Christmas plays and the picnics.

I'm sure that my mother, Aunt Clara, Uncle August, Bonnie, Vera and her children, Oscar and his family, Emma Mauch, and all the others here today who attended Oak Hill will always treasure the fellowship they shared there.

I know that I will.

(Report given by Janette Sabersich)



Women Society for Christian Service (WSCS)
at Mrs. Rob Mauck's – about 1953

Helen Fox, Virginia Howard, Mrs. Mauck (on her front
porch), Edna Thomas, Minerva Foley, Blanche Rickard.



Picture taken by Jon Marke
Blubaugh

The Springfield
Methodist Church - now
scant





