

the W. C. T. U. only thirteen are still living. The memory of those faithful women who held up the "White Ribbon" Banner is still fresh in the minds of we who are left. The first New Years Oyster dinner was held at the home of Mrs. Albert Kerr January 1st, 1908. W. C. T. U. stands for the Women's Christian Temperance Union.



## W. S. C. S.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service was started in 1940. Before this it was called the "Ladies Aid." This group meets once a month, the first Wednesday in every month with a dinner at noon, and W. S. C. S. meeting in the afternoon. It was started with about 12 or 15 members and now has a total of 26 members. This society contributes to such things as the Home and Foreign Missions, the Erie Conference, various Homes for the Aged, Children's Homes, and the Pastor's salary. It plays a big part in the maintenance of the Parish House, especially the kitchen. This group paid for the entire plastering and painting work done in the new parsonage. They raise their money from their tureen dinners, public suppers, rummage and bake sales.

During the last 25 years the women's organizations of Bethel church have made some changes. The "I Wonder Class" was discontinued and the W.S.C.S. was renamed the United Methodist Women. It meets the first Monday evening of each month at the parish hall with an average attendance of 12. The Bethel UMW has been designated a Five Star Unit by the Western Pennsylvania Conference for the past six years. To receive this honor the group has met its conference pledge, given a World Thank Offering, given gifts in memory, to mission, and recognition of service. In addition the group contributes to various mission groups and projects. Service projects include dinners for the Titusville Ministerium, funeral dinners, and quilts and lap robes for the Red Cross and nursing homes.



## Athletic Association

The Bethel Athletic Association was reorganized through the efforts of Rev. Henry Zimmerman in 1952. Its main purpose is to teach young boys the games that can be played and how to play them. At the present, basketball and baseball are the main sports. Volleyball, tennis and badminton can be played in the gym of the Parish House.

Membership can be obtained by any person. The fee of \$1.00 goes for needs of the teams. The Athletic Association has been made an official part of the Bethel Church with the purpose of advancing the recreation and recreations facilities of the community. This support of the church is greatly appreciated by the boys. At the January meeting the following officers were elected: President, Ron Kerr; Vice President, Ron Vosburgh; Secretary, Neal Hasbrouck; Treasurer, Henry Zimmerman.

## "I Wonder" Class

The "I Wonder" class is composed of all the women of the church. They meet the second Wednesday evening of each month. For the benefit of the husbands who "wonder" what goes on at these parties each meeting is composed of a worship service, business meeting, social hour and refreshments. This group always packs Christmas boxes for servicemen and shutins of the community, buy some utensils for the church kitchen, and such things as these. Secret pals are called "I wonder" friends.



## Methodist Youth Fellowship

The M. Y. F. meets every Sunday evening in the Parsonage. The Methodist Youth Fellowship takes the place of the Epworth League of a few years ago. It is for boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 22.



## Daily Vacation Bible School

Daily Vacation Bible School is held for two weeks each year in June. About seventy children between the ages of 4 and 14 attend from both the Bethel and Vrooman communities.



## Young Adults

*By Rev. Henry Zimmerman*

Thanks to the efforts of Rev. David Taylor and Mr. Ralph Hummer the Bethel Young Adults received their start on November 18, 1943. The Young Adults decided to meet monthly for education, recreation, social and religious fellowship, and service. Their first speaker was Rev. K. R. Lininger of the Pleasantville Methodist Church who spoke on "Making Christian Education Vital."

Through the years since 1943 this organization has fulfilled its purpose so magnanimously that it has become a vital part of the Bethel Church and community. The fourth Friday of every month is still a night of social fellowship with educational and recreational programs, and the services of this group are numerous. It is this group that has been responsible for keeping the church clean for Sunday services; that initiated the building of the outdoor fireplace; and that has donated over \$1,000 towards the Bethel parsonage.

At the first meeting, which numbered 45 young adults, the group started out 20¢ in debt, but from 1945 until 1951 they took in over \$1,800 which was spent for church and community improvements. Some feel that the Young Adults have become an organization of "money grabbers" due to their continual attempts to raise some cash. However, the educational and social values of the group have not decreased, rather they have just been unable to keep abreast with the increased earning capacity of the members. Through the years of this organization Ralph Hummer has served as our advisor. The following members have served this organization as Presidents: Harry Kerr, Basil Hummer, Walter Lake, Russell Vosburgh, Wayne Joslyn, Clarence Dressler, Dick Vosburgh, George Schwab, and Paul Kunz.



### *Junior Classes, 1952*

Reading from left to right in the back row are the teachers, Mrs. Elizabeth Hummer and Walter Lake.

Middle row: Sally Hummer, Johnnie Reynolds, Joyce Walters, Evan Hummer, Bill Schwab.

Front row: Frank Kerr, Bruce Bennett, Jim Schwab, Bennie Walters, Ione Kerr, and Janet Kerr.

Not in Picture: Wanda and Wilda Metzger, Jean Hartman, Vernon Knapp, and Bob Wolfe.



*Those who pray the most prey the least.*

*Music hath charms, if the choir isn't fighting.*

*When you spell WAR backwards, it is pretty RAW.*

## *Beginner and Primary Classes, April, 1952*

Back row reading from left to right: Teachers, Mrs. Hazel Kerr and Beverly Lake.

Middle row: Louise Armstrong, Nancy Kerr, Cinda Dressler, Loretta Lake, Susan Vosburgh, Donnie Kerr, David Hummer, Jerry Kerr, and Donnie Armstrong.

Front row: Ann Vosburgh, Jane Dressler, Carol Armstrong, Linda Kerr, Jody Hummer, Kathy Metzger, and Cheryl Hummer.

Not in Picture: Shirley Bimber, Ronnie Bennett, Charles Knapp, Bruce Stacy, Dickie Bimber, Kay Bennett, Tommy and Dickie Hasbrouck.



### *Mrs. Etta Brant*

Mrs. Etta Brant, the oldest person living in the Bethel Community, is 88 years old. She lives with her daughter, Mildred Vosburgh. Due to blindness, she is confined to her home. Otherwise, she has good health for her age. Her main enjoyment is listening to the radio.

Born, Oct. 3, 1863, in Forest County, she joined the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Stewart Run at the age of 14 years. Her father, James F. Connelly, was one of the founders of White Church at Stewart Run. He hauled timbers with oxen. This church is still in use.

Five of her family are deceased. She has one brother living -- Charles P. Connelly of Robinson, Ill. Age 86 years.

In March 1884 she married Alfred S. Brant who died in 1924. They moved here from Pleasantville in 1908 and lived on the South Penn Oil Company lease (now owned in 1952 by W. P. Dorrion). Children: Charles P. Brant, Mrs. Friend Kerr of Titusville, and Mrs. Clyde Vosburgh of Titusville, R.D. 1.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES 1997

### ADULT CLASS:

Elwin Kerr, teacher	Esther Hopkins	Janet Kerr	Mary Ohl
Dorothy Bimber	Leola Hummer	Rulin Kerr	Freda Reagle
Clarence Dressler	Barbara Kerr	Treva Kerr	Russell Vosburgh
Dorothy Dressler	Harry Kerr	Cub Knapp	

### YOUNG ADULT CLASS:

Rev. Everett Hammond, teacher	
Gwen Come	Evelyn Kerr
Pam Knapp	Joyce Smith
Joyce Womer	

### CHILDREN'S CLASS:

Kellie Benedict, teacher	
Brianne Come	Seth Come
Jacquelyn Kerr	Joel Kerr
Jennifer Klakamp	Yari Snyder

### CHOIR:

Patricia Hummer, director	
Kellie Benedict	Dorothy Bimber
Gwen Come	Barbara Kerr
Elwin Kerr	Janet Kerr
Jeff Kerr	

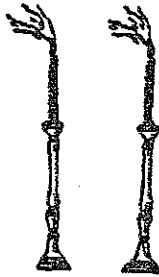
*The biggest knocker always has the most brass.*



*Some folks have life insurance but no life assurance.*

# SERMONS IN SYMBOLS

Rev. H. C. Zimmerman



## *The Candlesticks*

A candlestick always represents the words of our Lord, "I am the light of the world." When two candlesticks are used, one on each side of the altar, they represent His two-fold nature, human and divine.

## *The Chi Rho*

The Chi Rho is a monogram of the first two letters Chi (X) and Rho (P), of the Greek word for Christ.

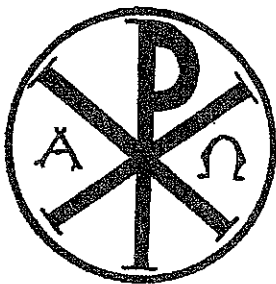
## *The Circle*

The circle stands for eternity, because it is without beginning and without end.

## *Alpha and Omega*

The alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. They signify that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things.

As it is found on the Bethel altar, the combination of these symbols is used to draw our minds and spirits to the eternal Christ, who is the beginning and the end of our existence.



## *IHS*

The IHS as it is called is wrongly named. It is actually the first three letters of the Greek word for Jesus, (Iota, Eta, Sigma).

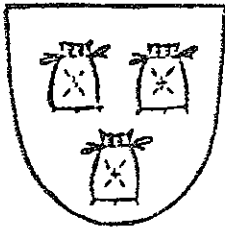
## *The Cross*

The Altar cross is a beautiful work of hand-carved inscriptions. These are a combination of Pilate's Latin and Greek which were inscribed on the original cross, meaning the King of the Jews. The cross is always empty to show that Christ the Crucified was resurrected from the dead.



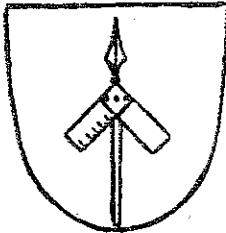
### *Matthew*

Matthew, as an apostle, is symbolized by three purses which refer to his profession as a tax collector, before being called by Christ.



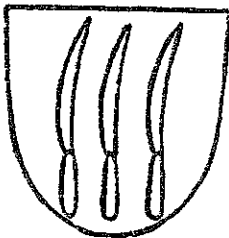
### *Thomas*

A carpenter's square, because this apostle is said to have built a church with his own hands in India. A spear, because, later, he was persecuted there and was killed with a spear by a pagan priest.



### *Bartholomew*

This apostle is said to have been flayed alive, hence he is usually represented by three flaying knives. A flaying knife is used to strip off the skin.



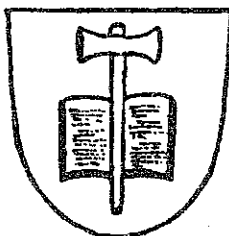
### *Simon the Zealot*

This symbol is a book upon which rests a fish. It was often said that thru the power of the Gospel, Simon became a great fisher of men.



### *Matthias*

Chosen to take the place of Judas, Matthias, a great missionary, is symbolized by an open Bible and a battle-axe. He is said to have been beheaded after his missionary work.



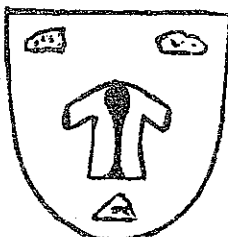
### *Paul*

"The Apostle to the Gentiles." but not one of the original twelve, Paul is shown by the words, "Spiritus Gladius," (Sword of the spirit), on an open Bible. Behind the Bible is the sword of the spirit itself.

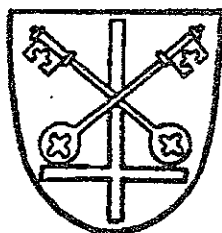


### *Stephen*

The first to die in the name of Christianity, Stephen was stoned to death. His Robe was held by Saul and was a major factor leading to Saul's conversion to Christianity.

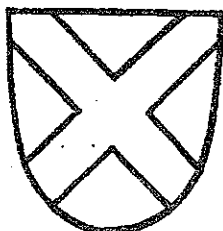


### *Peter*



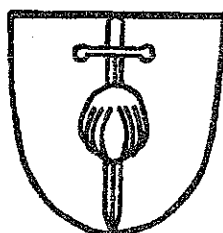
The crossed keys recall Peter's confession and our Lord's gift to him of the keys to the kingdom. The Latin cross signifies that Simon Peter was crucified upside down.

### *Andrew*



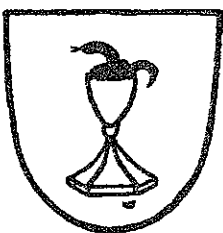
Tradition claims that, while preaching in Greece, Andrew died on this form of cross, requesting that he be crucified on a cross unlike that of his Lord, Jesus Christ.

### *James (the greater)*



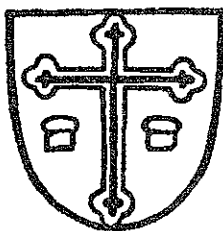
The scallop shell is the symbol of pilgrimage, and the sword represents the Holy Spirit. Together, they stand for this Apostle's zeal and Missionary spirit.

### *John*



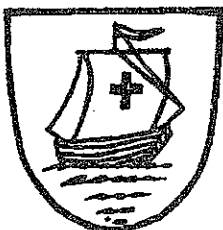
Early writers state that John once drank from a poisoned chalice and was unharmed because, with a marvelous faith, he had made the sign of the cross over the chalice.

### *Philip*



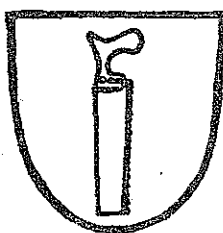
A cross and two loaves of bread, because of Philip's remark when Jesus fed the multitude on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. "Two Hundred denarii would not buy enough for each of them to get a little."

### *Jude*



This apostle traveled great distances on missionary journeys, hence the ship. This is not to be taken for a ship in stormy waters which represents the Church as it sails unharmed thru all perils.

### *James (the lesser)*



The apostle James is represented by a saw, since it is said that his body was sawn asunder after a horrible martyrdom.



THE PLAQUE READS, "THE ETERNAL GOD IS OUR REFUGE". THESE WORDS WERE LIFTED FROM DEUTERONOMY 33:27 WHICH READS, "THE ETERNAL GOD IS THY REFUGE, AND UNDERNEATH ARE THE EVERLASTING ARMS . . ."

THE STONE USED TO SUPPORT THIS QUOTATION FROM DEUTERONOMY IS IN ONE PIECE, EIGHT FEET LONG AND IS SUNK THREE FEET IN THE GROUND OF THE CORNER LOT OF THE BETHEL MEMORIAL PARK. THIS STONE WAS TAKEN FROM A LOCAL ROCK QUARRY AND HAD BEEN REJECTED BY BUILDERS.

IT WAS USED AT THIS LOCATION IN MEMORY OF CHRIST'S WORDS WHEN HE SAID, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THE SAME IS BECOME THE HEAD OF THE CORNER: . . ."

(MATT. 21:42)

---

*The original Bethel History was prepared by Dorothy Dressler and Margie Hummer. It was printed back in 1952.*

*Janet Kerr and Margie Hummer want to thank everyone who has given us their family information so we could bring our Bethel History up to 1997.*

---

*The Bethel United Methodist Church thanks Ron Joyce Photography for their contribution of the cover pictures.*