

90th Anniversary of the Dedication Service of The Highland Community United Presbyterian Church

The Faith Journey to
Northmont United Presbyterian Church

Genesis – Phase I

- In early 1925,
37 residents
approached the
Board of
American Missions
of the United
Presbyterian
Church of North
America with a
vision to form a
congregation.

The following is a copy of the names
signed on a paper to Allegheny Presbytery
Petitioning for the organization of the Community
United Presbyterian Church of Highland
Earl J. Jourdan ✓ Walter Heller ✓
Grace M. Jourdan ✓ Emma Wallen ✓
Wallace G. Turner ✓ Isa V. Peters ✓
Emma Henry ✓ Emma E. Espe ✓
Alfred G. Turner ✓ Mary W. Silverman ✓
Ora M. Turner ✓ Kenneth M. Peters ✓
Elmer B. Ressler ✓ Vernon L. Colvin ✓
Florence E. Ressler ✓ Paul D. B. Peters ✓
James Porter ✓ Edward Koerbel ✓
Cephas W. Sacy ✓ Elizabeth T. Koerbel ✓
Edna F. Jourdan ✓ Pauline Nixon ✓
Dorothy N. Hutchison ✓ Marie O. Nixon ✓
Mabel J. Stokley ✓ Kathleen N. Saxon ✓
Jaques D. Orr ✓ Elizabeth McPherson ✓
Lola P. McCormick ✓ Mrs. Caroline Nixon ✓
E. E. McCormick ✓ Josephine Huston ✓
Marg't Porter ✓ Nelle Robbins ✓
Florence E. Hutchison ✓ Mrs. M. Ellwood ✓
J. P. Jourdan ✓ Helen M. Orr ✓
Caroline E. Porter ✓ Herschell L. Stokley Jr. ✓
H. L. Jourdan ✓ Elizabeth J. Neil ✓
Mrs. Sarah M. Orr ✓ Jessie Neil Foley ✓
Hugh L. Porter ✓ Jim B. Foley ✓
Marvin G. Peters ✓ Chas. Neil Sr. ✓
D. M. McLean ✓

Building a Sanctuary

- The Board of American Missions and the Presbytery of Allegheny funded the erection of a modest sanctuary on the east side of Perry Highway above the Harmony Car Line's Highland Station - the eighteenth stop on the street car route from Pittsburgh to Butler.

October 25, 1925

- Reformation Sunday, 1925, the new \$12,000 sanctuary was dedicated by the Moderator of the 68th General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, the Rev. W.I. Wishart.



The original 1925 sanctuary's value in 2015 dollars is \$162,875.37.

Roderic Lee Smith



- The congregation's first supply minister was funded by the Board of American Missions and Allegheny Presbytery.
- He was a senior at Pittsburgh Xenia Theological Seminary.

Congregation Covenant

● Each of the 37 original members agreed to a covenant that united them in their vision for a new congregation.

What The Church May Expect of You—

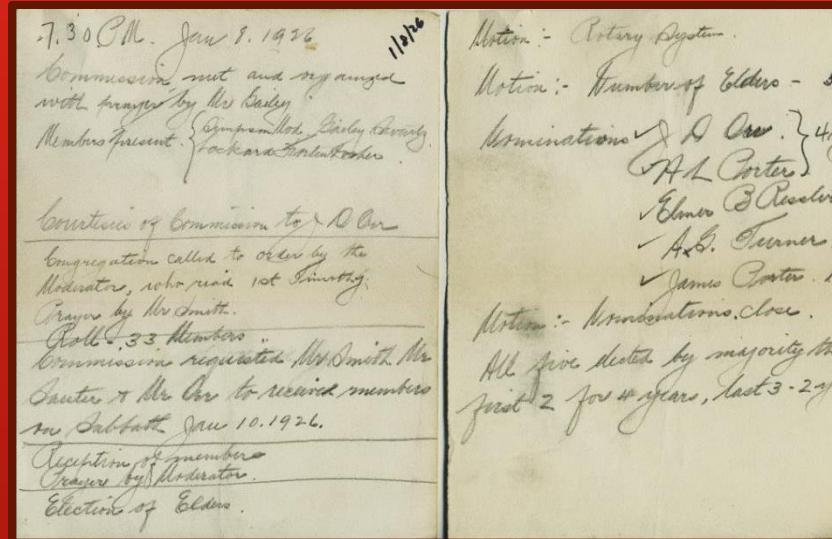
WHEN you first united with the church you took the following covenant:

1. You confessed your sin and your need of a Savior.
2. You accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and promised with His help to lead a Christian life.
3. You promised to be faithful in your attendance on Divine worship and to use the appointed means for the building of your soul in Christ.

In view of this profession the church expects:

1. That you will be faithful in attendance. Your absence will grieve your Pastor, your fellow Christians, and your Lord.
2. That you will be generous in your giving and assume your share of the support of the church which is maintained by the free will offerings of the people. We recommend the giving of one-tenth of the net income as the easiest and most blessed way to fulfill our stewardship to God.
3. That you will be willing in your service, which includes the taking of your part in the work of the church and the upholding of it by your interest and your prayers.
4. That you will daily remember the church, the Pastor, the program before God in prayer. Begin the day with a prayer for guidance and close it with thanksgiving.
5. That you will take Christ as your example in your Christian living and strive to be more like Him each day.

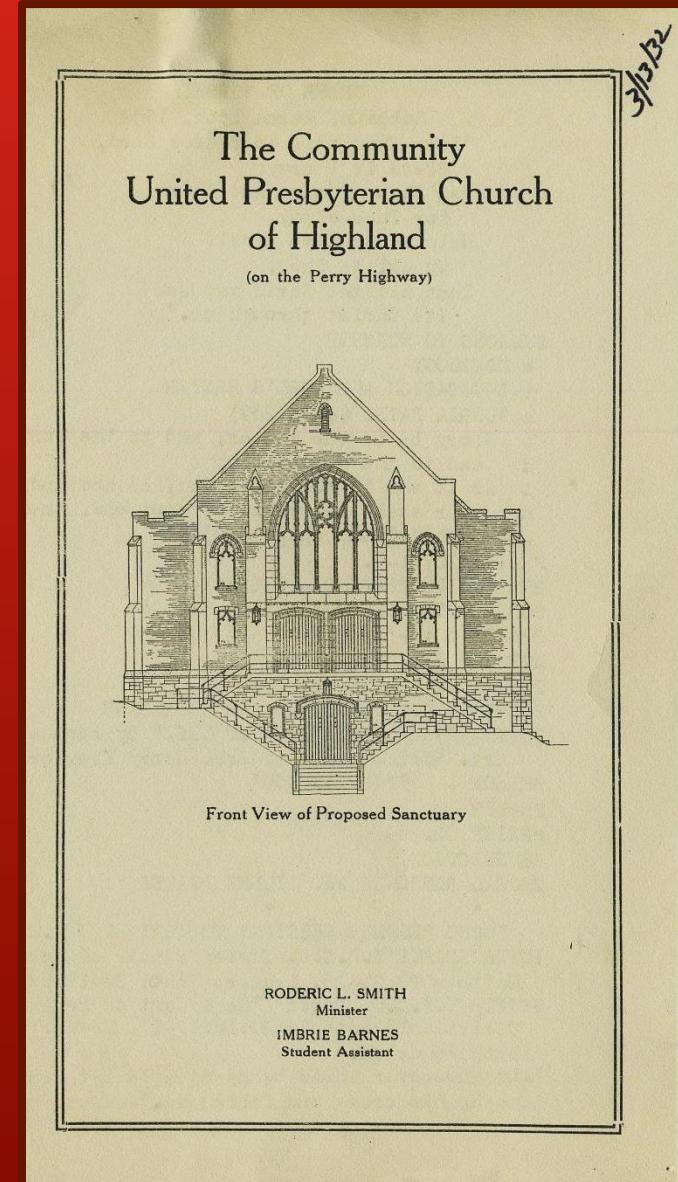
January 8, 1926



- The Community United Presbyterian Church of Highland was officially organized as a United Presbyterian church.
- In Charter Book #59, page 509, the Church's charter (#74064) was recorded on December 18, 1925 with 24 members recorded as "subscribers."

Vision for a New Sanctuary

- During the Great Depression, a new sanctuary was envisioned across Perry Highway at its intersection with Rolshouse Road.

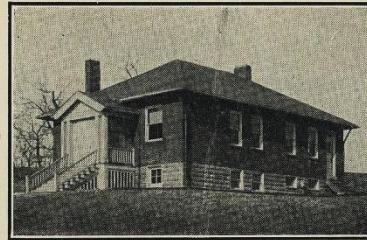


Overcoming Obstacles

- Roderic Smith left the congregation in 1932 when the congregation had difficulty contributing to his salary.

William Hendricks served as supply for five years, followed by Harry A. Armitage. In 1933, the Trustees lamented having only a balance of \$340 in the Church's savings account.

Nevertheless, the congregation continued to press on with its plans for a new sanctuary. The church bought the lot from Mr. Wilson at the corner of Rolshouse and Perry Highway for \$5,000. Behind the church was Nixon Dairy.



*The Community
United Presbyterian Church
of Highland*

(On the Perry Highway)

R. No. 7, Bellevue - Pittsburgh, Penna.

2

RODERIC L. SMITH, Minister

Pressing the Wider Church for a New Sanctuary

- On Reformation Day October 28, 1934, The Session adopted a resolution to Allegheny Presbytery and the Board of American Missions of the United Presbyterian Church in North America requesting support for building a new sanctuary.
- "Today, in view of the Raitt Memorial Program and the Congregational Program, with a definite objective set before us to attract the people of the community with church affiliations to our church services and to win the unsaved . . . to the Living Christ, and in view . . . that we firmly believe this is the moment to take prompt action toward the erecting of a new and larger edifice in Highland so that His people may have a proper Church home, we pray that a committee be delegated to make a thorough survey of the conditions under which we are now laboring and append hereto their recommendations as to erecting a church building appropriate to the present needs and future demands."

Laying the Cornerstone



Rev. H.A. Armitage leads the 1939 cornerstone dedication service.



1940 Wands Ads Only GRANT 5400 PITTSBURGH SUN-TELEGRAPH

Dedication Exercises to Open OPENING Services in New U. P. Church *New Churc Completed*

Mission Secretary, First Pastor on Speaking List

Dedictory exercises tomorrow will open a week of special services in connection with the dedication of the new Community United Presbyterian Church at Perryopolis on the Perry Highway.

Following the regular services at 11 a.m. dedicated services will begin at 2:30 p.m. with Dr. W. Bruce Wilson, general secretary of the Presbyterian American Missions, the principal speaker.

The pastor, the Rev. H. A. Armitage, announced other participants in the services will be the Believer Church, Dr. H. J. Ross of New Wilmington, Synodical Seminary, Dr. W. H. Miller, Dr. R. W. Gibson of the Third Church, Pittsburgh, Dr. Lewis R. Hinsdale, First Presbyterian, and Dr. J. M. Findlay Brown, of the North Church.

PERRYOPOLIS—The new Community United Presbyterian Church which will be dedicated with special services beginning tomorrow.

Following all week. Following regular morning services, the dedicatory exercises will begin in

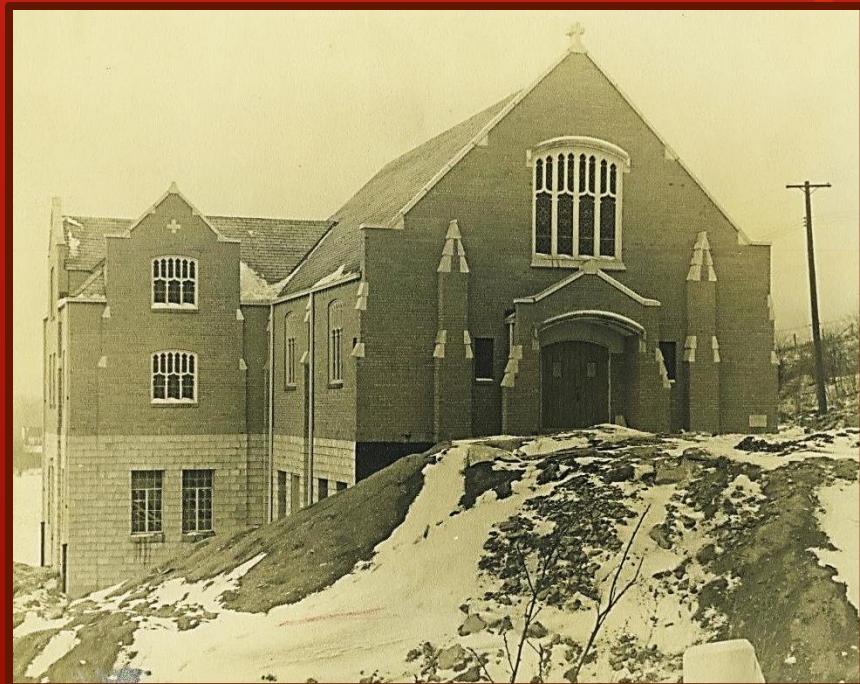
- The first phase of Northmont's current sanctuary was built despite AFL Building Trades Council opposition to the congregation's 167 members contributing their labor and skills toward its completion. The day before laying the cornerstone, a union worker badly damaged the left side of the cornerstone. The damaged cornerstone was used for the dedication service. - Helen Miller June 25, 2000 interview with Dr. Dave Antonson

Fulfilling the Vision-Phase II



February 11, 1940

- The new \$50,000 sanctuary was dedicated at the inception of the Second World War by 174 members, 14 years after the congregation was chartered.



The 1940 sanctuary's value in 2015 dollars is \$838,614.

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!



Rev. H. A. Armitage

● During Harry Armitage's pastorate, 76 new members believed in the covenant and vision of the original church founders, joining the congregation between July 9, 1939 and June 30, 1940 as the Second World War began.

THE COMMUNITY U. P. CHURCH OF HIGHLAND
H. A. Armitage, Pastor

The following is the list of seventy six members received from July 9th, 1939 to June 30th, 1940, in the order in which their names appear on the Chronological Roll of the congregation, as submitted by the Session at a reception held in their honor, July 19th, 1940.

Mr. Walter H. Dunlap	Mrs. Wm. Stultz
Mrs. Walter H. Dunlap	Mr. Charles V. Vollmer
Mr. Willard Dunlap	Mrs. Charles V. Vollmer
Miss Meryl McCutcheon	Mrs. Ann Ziegler
Mr. Alan McCutcheon	Mr. John L. Roy
Mr. Donald W. McDowell	Mrs. John L. Roy
Mr. Howard H. Brunko, Jr.	Mr. Donald R. Roy
Miss Leona Johnston	Mrs. Belle Ruoff
Miss Betty Nebel	Mr. David H. Miller
Mr. David A. Griffith	Mrs. George M. Folliart
Mrs. David A. Griffith	Mrs. J.H. Brown
Mr. Elmer S. Sanders	Mr. E.M. Hoke
Mrs. Elmer S. Sanders	Mrs. E.M. Hoke
Mrs. Harry J. Nebel	Mrs. H.A. Bierline
Mr. Edward H. Koerbel	Mr. Edwin C.J. Lloyd
Mrs. Edward H. Koerbel	Mrs. Edwin C.J. Lloyd
Miss Marjorie Koerbel	Miss Patricia Lloyd
Mr. H.H. Brunko	Mr. R.C. Morrison
Mrs. H.H. Brunko	Mrs. R.C. Morrison
Mrs. John Davis	Mr. Paul Morrison
Mr. John Henry*	Mr. William Morrison
Mr. K. Earl Baun	Mr. Frank Morrison
Mrs. K. Earl Baun	Mr. H.A. Bierline
Mr. R. Wayne Fox	Mr. G.E. Branning
Mrs. R. Wayne Fox	Mrs. G.E. Branning
Mrs. Charles S. Heffner	Miss Rosalind Branning
Miss Martha Heffner	Miss Grace Branning
Mr. Edwin H. Hodsdon!	Miss Eileen Ella Sanders
Mrs. Edwin H. Hodsdon!	Miss Doris Eileen Roberts
Mr. Zachariah D. Cruickshank	Miss Deanne Frances Dietrich
Mrs. Zachariah D. Cruickshank	Miss Thelma Agnes Heffner
Mrs. Jean Ressler	Mr. John Leonard Roy, Jr.
Mr. Barney B. Rogan	Mr. George Stewart Brown
Mrs. Barney B. Rogan	Mr. Robert Allen Brown
Mrs. Harry V. Smith	Miss Edith Jane Brown
Mr. J. G. Schmitt	Mr. Donald Bruce Cornish
Mrs. Myra Schmitt Laurick, Jr.	Mr. Earl Kenneth Lees
Mr. Wm. Stultz	Mr. George Llycyd Worling

*Deceased
!Removed from the community

THE CHURCH OF MY DREAMS

This is the church of my dreams:	The church of the Master
A Church adequate for the task.	The church of the people
The church of the warm heart,	A working church.
Of the open mind,	A worshipping church,
Of the adventurous spirit:	A winsome church,
The church that cares,	A church that interprets the truth
That heals hurt lives,	in terms of truth;

Self-Supporting by 1942

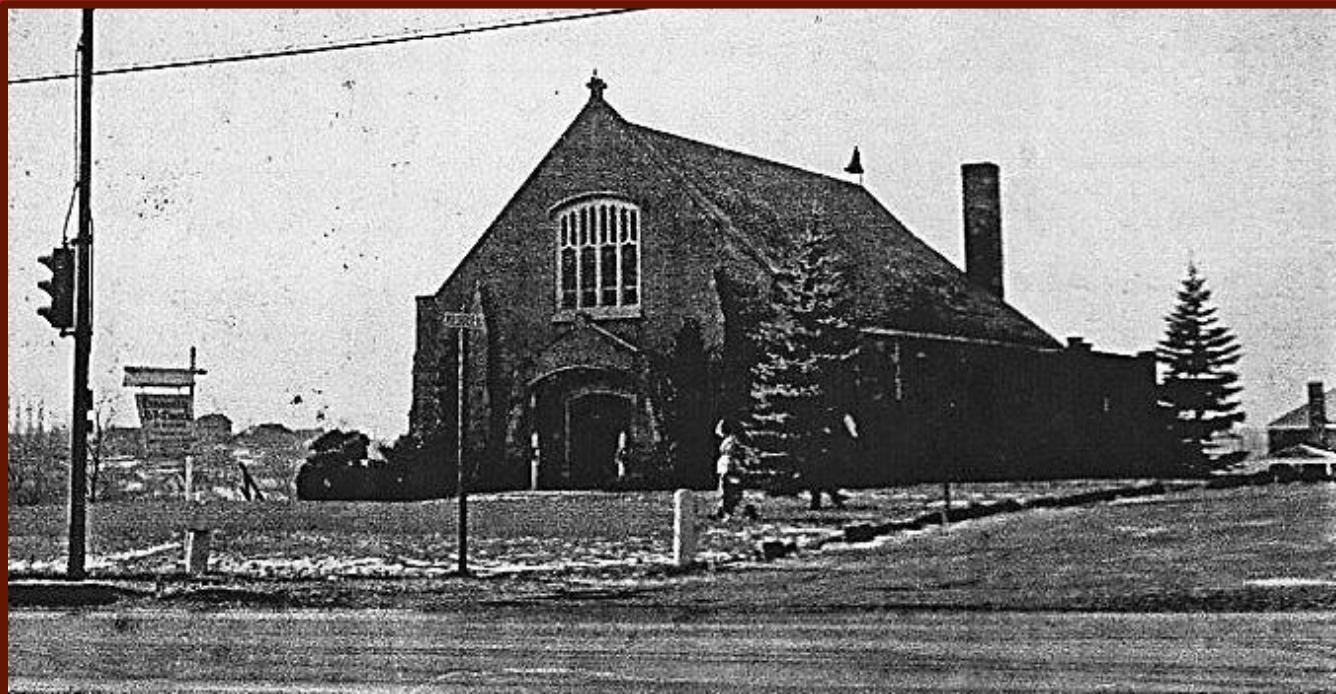
- The Community United Presbyterian Church of Highland received its first regularly installed minister upon becoming financially self-supporting.
- The minister's name was M. Vance Yarnelle.
- Rev. Yarnelle served throughout World War II: 1942-1945.
- He was followed by Rev. John M. Bald

Rev. John M. Bald 1945-1956

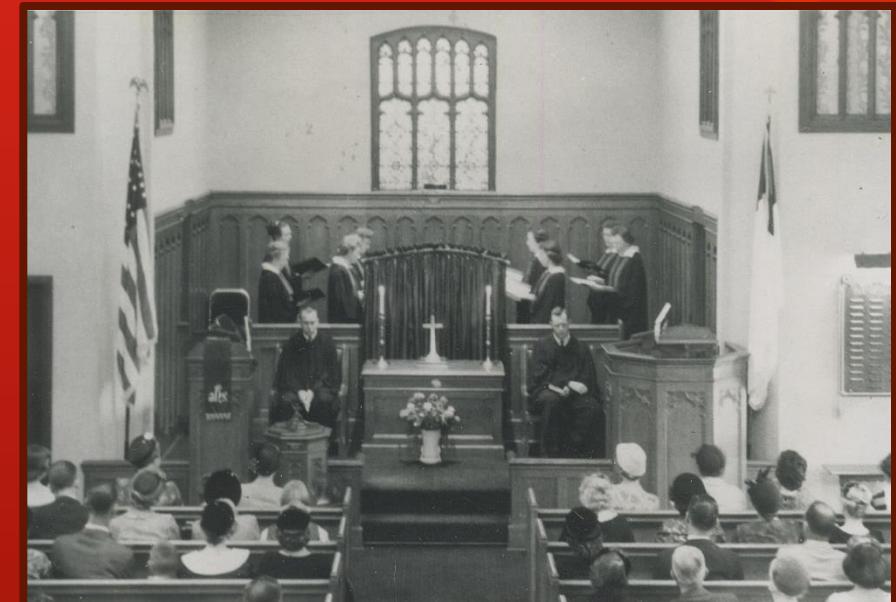


Sunday School teachers gather with
Rev. Bald before the sanctuary – circa 1948.

25th Anniversary



On January 8, 1951, 25 years after its founding, the 465 member congregation burned its first mortgage.



The damaged cornerstone was eventually replaced.



Replacing the Cornerstone

25th Anniversary: 1951

- The congregation was already conceiving of a major building expansion that would increase the sanctuary seating from 204 to 328 worshippers.
- The expanded vision included a new Christian Education wing to the south of the sanctuary.

April 22, 1956



- Rev. John Bald identifies items placed in a time capsule in the 1956 cornerstone, along with Clerk of Session Ely Fenton, along with Elders John Brinda, Orville Meister, and Ray Earline.

Phase III Complete

On December 9, 1956, the \$236,000 project was dedicated by the church's 711 members; 341 children were attending Sunday school. It's value in 2015 dollars is \$2,067,747.46.





Rev.
Stephen L.
Polley
1957-
1984

Growth Continues

Rev. Bald was called to be Professor of Theology and Ethics at Pittsburgh Xenia Seminary. In November of 1957, Stephen Polley was called as minister. The congregation was growing with young families. Wayde Zeitler and Jane Grumken were married May 5, 1962.



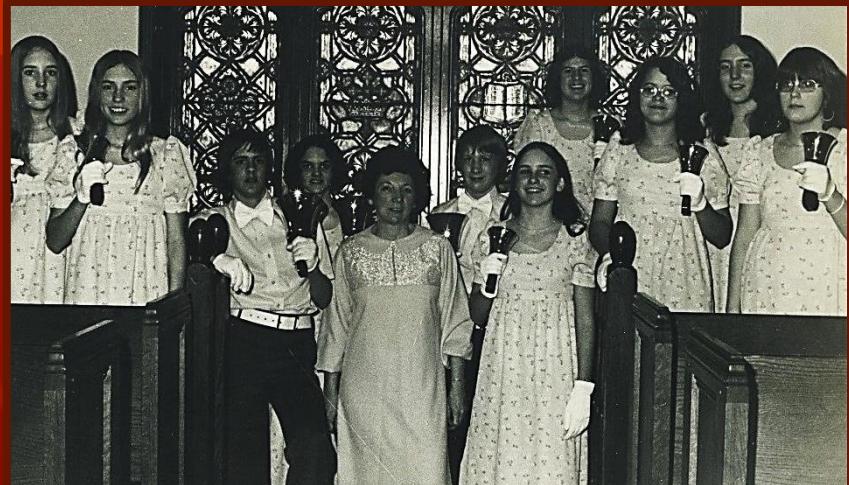
May 13, 1962

- The congregation's name was changed from "The Community United Presbyterian Church of Highland" to the "Northmont United Presbyterian Church."
- The 1958 merger of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. with the United Presbyterian Church of North America brought several churches into Pittsburgh Presbytery with similar names that confused congregation identities.

New Life



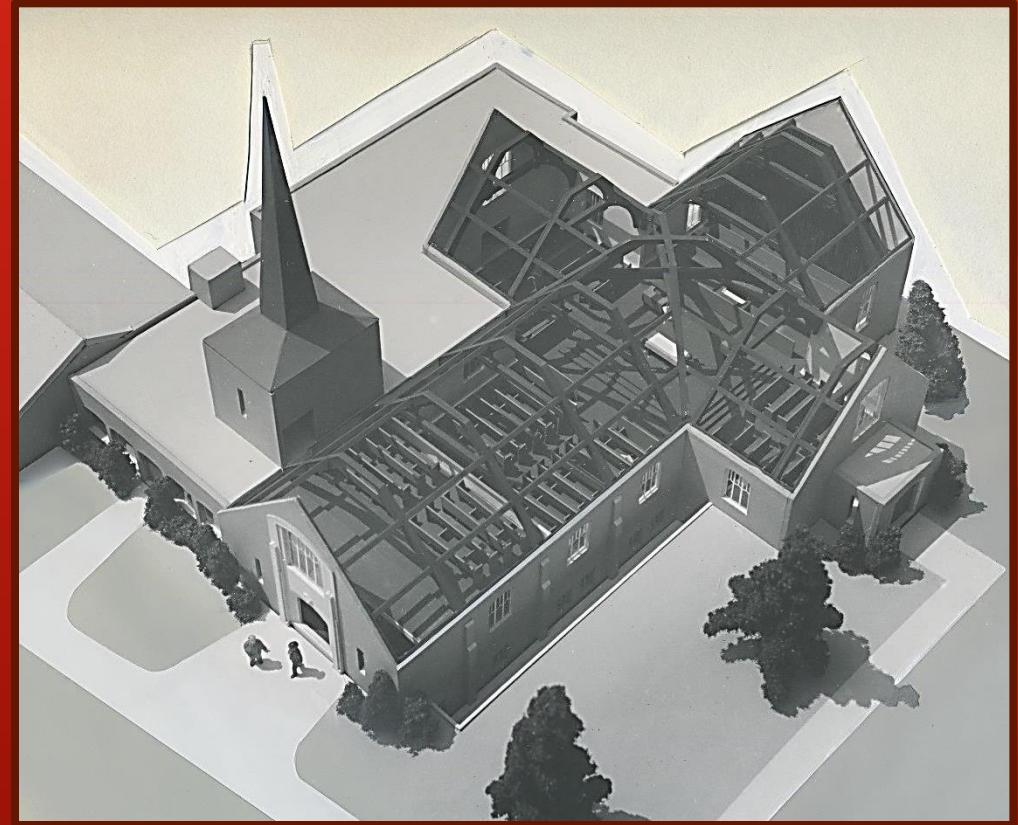
Jane Grumken Zeitler throws her bouquet in the fellowship hall wedding reception she enjoyed with her husband, Wayde.



Carol Robinson leads the advanced youth bell choir (lower left).

Mrs. Florence Ressler was elected the first woman elder, January 31, 1964.

Phase IV



- An expansion of the sanctuary and the addition of church offices was envisioned in 1966 by the congregation's 1,237 members.

Ground Broken September 18, 1966

- Ten needs led to the \$340,000 expansion of the church facility.
 - Increase sanctuary seating by 30%
 - Renovate Fellowship Hall into three classrooms
 - Develop a new church parlor for classes
 - New Offices for staff
 - A new pipe organ
 - Expanded kitchen
 - Choir rehearsal and robing space
 - Additional coat hanging areas
 - More storage space
 - Better traffic flow in building



Reaching Heaven-ward



The Office wing rises from the ground (above) while the steel frame of the Rolshouse transept (right) rises above an expanded entrance.



The 1966 addition's value in 2015 dollars is \$2,510,568.25.

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!



C. William Goff was hired as Director of Music in 1976. He led youth and adult bells, as well as the Chancel Choir. The new \$38,000 Moeller organ greeted him upon his arrival.

Burning the Last Mortgage



Northmont's mortgage had been reduced to \$65,755 by January of 1980. The Congregation adopted a unicameral Session and Board of Trustees in November. Northmont Brotherhood Club began meeting weekly that year. By January 30, 1983, the mortgage was burned, leaving Northmont debt-free for the second time in its history.

Dr. David Antonson



Dr. Polley accepted the call to become Executive Presbyter of Beaver Butler Presbytery on January 15, 1984. He had served Northmont for 27 years. Rev. David Antonson was called September 15, 1985. He served Northmont until January 27, 2007 – a pastorate of 21 years.

Every Valley shall be Filled . . .



- Despite paving the parking lot in 1981, an expanded parking lot was needed to accommodate worshippers by 1993. A significant amount of fill was brought to the church's property to create a base for the lot in the valley behind the sanctuary. Curbing, drainage, and a guard rail were installed to assure the lot's longevity, and to prevent water from spilling from the parking lot into the neighbor's property below.

Phase VI- Elevator and Kitchen Renovation



- As the congregation matured, it became evident an elevator was needed to assist worshippers to reach the sanctuary from the parking lot. The kitchen also needed improvements. In 1998, the projects were completed at a cost of \$5 million.

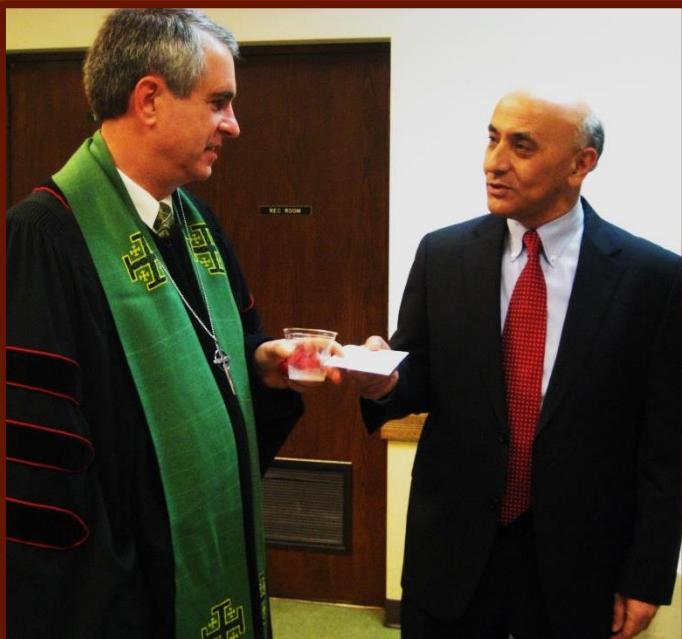
Mission beyond Northmont

- Northmont never forgot it was the child of a denomination committed to mission.
 - In 1976, a Laotian family of four was re-settled.
 - In 1979, 18.7% of giving was for mission.
 - In 1981, the Northmont Day Care Center was formed.
 - In 1994, a partnership was developed with the Mangochi, CCAP Church in Malawi.



Dr. John Lolla

2009-
Present



Worshipping Together



Being Called to Serve



Whether we serve with North Side Community Outreach, or Second U.P. in Wilkinsburg, or with PRISM in Oakland, we are Christ's missionaries



Supporting Mission around the Globe



The Ludwigs (above) are in Niger. The Wellers (right) are in Sudan.



The Logans (left) we support in Turkey.

We Build on the Faith we have Received



Teaching the Gospel



Reaching our Children and Youth



Reaching our Community



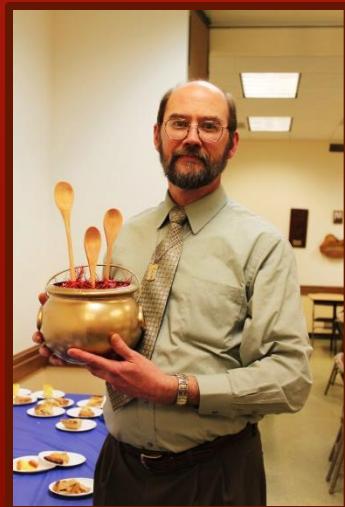
In 2011 and 2013, the Chancel and Children's Choirs hosted a Christmas Madrigal.

Serving One Another



Leslie Scheuer (above left) leads children in music during Sunday school. (Above) A Princess Tea was held to help one of our family's medical expenses.

Enjoying our Fellowship



Going into the World In Christ's Name



Remembering our Faith Inheritance



- We are descendants of the Scottish Reformation, whose covenant with God blesses us!

