



*Christ United Methodist  
Church  
20th Anniversary Celebration  
1975-1995*

*Dear friends, let us  
love one another,  
for love comes from God.  
Everyone who loves  
has been born of God and  
knows God  
1 John 4:7*

## History of Tullytown UMC

*(reprinted from a Centennial Booklet)*

The first movement toward Methodism in Tullytown was set on foot by George W. Cullen, a resident of the borough, who organized a Methodist Sabbath School which boasted as many as two hundred members in 1871 and was a source of great spiritual power in the community.

In 1872 O.R. Cook was appointed to Tullytown and commissioned to build up a congregation there. Late in 1872 and early in 1873 he was assisted in a revival lasting over several months by three students from the Drew Theological Seminary - Haller, Townsend and Brooks. Over eighty persons confessed conversion at this time and a church was established. Plans were laid immediately for a church building, which was completed in 1874 at a cost of \$4,733. Services in the meantime were held in a hall over the general store operated by Harry L. Moon.

Bishop Simpson was present at the dedication of the church in 1874 and at that time the whole amount of the existing indebtedness was covered by subscriptions.

In 1904 the foundation of the building was condemned and through the generous and invaluable services of Rev. John E. Reber,

pastor at Morrisville, the walls were rebuilt. In 1914 John Manning paid the balance of the mortgage and the Trustees changed the name of the church to The Manning Memorial Episcopal Church. In the years to follow the name reverted to Tullytown Methodist Episcopal Church, which following mergers in the general church became Tullytown United Methodist. In 1915, under Rev. R.C. Welker's leadership, the interior of the church was renovated and electric lights installed which, with other improvements amounted to \$2,200.

On June 11th 1919, ground was broken for the erection of a parsonage on the church lot, and on January 25, 1920, a completely furnished home for the minister was formally opened. The total cost of the Parsonage including furnishings was \$7,300. The lot directly across Main Street was later purchased to provide parking space for the congregation. In May of 1972 the congregation voted to renovate the kitchen and replace the heating system and rest rooms.

In 1975, following a year of negotiations, the Tullytown UMC Church merged with St. Paul's UMC of Fairless Hills to become Christ UMC. The Tullytown church building was sold and for a time was a studio. It is now the home of another church community.

## History of St. Paul's UMC

From the mid 1800's to mid 1900's St. Paul's Evangelical United Brethren served the city of Philadelphia in the Germantown Ave. area for a period of 94 years. Following the closing of the Church, funds were giving for the start of a new church. Rev. Carl Schneider, the Superintendent of the Atlantic District of the Northeastern Conference of the EUB Church placed a phone call to Stanley and Lorraine Guogas asking if they would host a meeting of others who would be interested in establishing a EUB church in the Fairless Hills-Levittown area. Ground had been set aside and donated by the Danhust Development Organization (developers of the Fairless Hills area). The Guogas family agreed, and in their living room, the seeds for a new church were planted. Also in attendance were the Seacrists, the Warricks, the Pennells, the Schlossers, the Hoffmans and the Haas famliy. After outgrowing the homes of members, the church began meeting at the William Penn Jr. High School with services at 11:00 am and a midweek service at the Parsonage. In October 23 of 1960 St. Paul's building on Wistar Rd. was dedicated. The corner stone was laid in April of that year. In the cornerstone of the building the following items were placed: Bible, Discipline, Membership Manual, Yearbook, membership List, History of St. Paul's Church of Philadelphia, The Telescope-Messenger, The

World Evangel, various Sunday School curriculum, a copy of the Levittown Times, a Conference newspaper and Journal and a Cornerstone Laying Program.

The church described themselves as "average American Christians, gathered from every corner of the nation into a fellowship where our similar likes and beliefs finds sympathetic expression; sincerely happy when others experience with us the fellowship that firmly unites us ins Christian living; founded and backed by a strong progressive denomination". The church "sought to establish worshipful services with simple and forthright worship, timely and dynamic preaching with a helpful ministry of music in a setting of beauty and warmth."

Gloria Seacrist was the first president of what was then called the Women's Society of World Service ( now UMW).

A men's Bowling league was established in 1957, along with a youth fellowship. In 1963 a library was established in the church basement. Rally Days were held in the fall of each year with a special offering given toward the church budget. Bible Studies were held regularly at the home of the Kramer family. In 1967 the WSCS held the first Spaghetti Supper to raise funds their work. In 1968 new pew bibles were presented by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lash and the first Strawberry Festival was held. Also in that

year, the EUB church merged with the Methodist Church, hence St. Paul's EUB became St. Paul's UMC. In 1970 an advent wreath was constructed and presented by Robert and Regina Starr. In 1971 a kneeling bench for the Altar area was constructed by Ross Hawn and John Nay. Mrs. Ada DeLong made the kneeling cushion. 1972 a monthly newsletter, "St. Paul's Epistle" made it's debut edition. In 1973 the first Church Bazaar was held with handmade crafts, flea market items and food for sale. Also in 1973, the youth raised funds for the church hand railings and they were installed by Jim Zimmerman, John Nay, Al Iliff and Bill Edwards. In 1974 a Kindall Organ was delivered and dedicated.

In 1975 St. Paul's UMC merged with Tullytown UMC to become Christ UMC of Fairless Hills.

## History of Christ UMC

In the summer of 1974, the District Superintendent Harold S. Peiffer approached the Rev. Richard Kunz of St. Paul's UMC and the Rev. Alan J. Honingman of Tullytown UMC on the possibility of a union between the congregations represented in the St. Paul's and Tullytown Churches. In On September 16th of that year the Charge Conference of the Tullytown UMC voted unanimously in favor of opening discussions with the congregation at St.



Paul's looking forward to a possible union of the two congregations. On Sept. 29th a similar action was taken by the St. Paul's Charge Conference. A joint committee was selected by each Administrative Board with 10 persons from each congregation. The Joint chair persons were Earl Nickerson and George Sheaffer. Other leaders were Doris Eshbaugh, Art Horner, Betty Helble, Charlie Wright and Kay Zimmerman. In May of 1975 both congregations voted at the same time to unite. The first service of the new Congregation was on June 8, 1975 with both Rev. Kunz and Rev. Honingman participating in the 11am worship service at the Tullytown Church. A joint choir sang and a meaningful service was shared as a new family of God. After the service, Rev. Kunz lit a candle from the Altar Candles and carried the light back to St. Paul's, where it burned for the afternoon. That evening when the new congregation gathered for the culmination of the union, the Altar candles were lit with the light taken from the candle symbolizing that the light had not gone out, but moved to a new home. A covered dish dinner was shared in celebration of the union. The first pastor assigned to the new church was The Rev. Richard Johnson. After much prayer and debate the Congregation voted and the church was given the name Christ United Methodist.

Along with Pastors appointed by the Conference, Student Pastors have also served

Christ UMC. These included Jeff Hatch, Truman Brooks and Jessica McCargo.

Christ United Methodist Church has always enjoyed worshipping God in song. Both congregation singing and the ministry of our Choir have been greatly appreciated. The organists and ministers of Music for Christ UMC have been Kay King 1975 - 1978, Sarah Lee Pinder 1978 - 1983, Lynn Pennell 1983-present.

In 1977 the communion rail memorial was purchased at a cost of \$6,500. It was dedicated October 2nd of that year. In Nov. of that year, the first Ham and Oyster Dinner was held. This had been a tradition of the Tullytown congregation. In 1979 plans for a church cookbook were formulated and was available in June of 1980. In 1981 a singing group, "The Gosp-belles" was organized and continued in ministry for a number of years. In 1983 a new stove was purchased for the church kitchen. To mark the 10th anniversary of the church, a commemorative plate was designed and sold. In 1986 the church boiler exploded. The walls, furniture and carpets were blackened from the smoke. a major clean up took place and restored the church interior to it's original appearance. The next major improvement to the church was the purchase and installation of a new Allen Organ in Oct. of 1990. New Pew

Bibles were purchased in 1991 and new Hymnals in 1993.

Over the years there have been many effective ministries carried out by the church. Dedicated Sunday School teachers have taught both children and Adults from the Word of God. Our United Methodist Women's unit has been strong and faithful in service. Our men have enjoyed a monthly "Men's Fellowship Dinner". We have been involved ecumenically with the Levittown-Fairless Hills ministerium. In 1988 two annual traditions began. Every other year, a seder meal has been held during Holy Week. On the first Sunday of Advent, the congregation has held a love feast in the Moravian tradition. Hot cider and warm sweet rolls are served by the choir to the congregation during the singing of Christmas carols. In 1994 a Pioneer Club was established for Preschool through 5th grade. Each year a grade level has been added. Also in 1994 a "Second Saturday Fellowship" group began.

In 1994 a new mission statement and five year Strategic plan was developed. Chair of the committee was Lynn Pennell. The plan envisions a new wing for the church in the next century. The mission statement reads:

## Our Mission

Christ United Methodist Church, a Bible-Centered, evangelical faith community wants people in the Levittown-Fairless Hills area to know that they are loved by God and others  
(1 John 4:7-9)

Our ministry is to help people share in the love of God by: communicating our faith story,  
helping people understand their relationship with God through Christ and encouraging them to grow in faithful living.

Our aim is to provide a caring intergenerational, creative environment with a focus on families in which this love of God can be experienced.

## Pastors of Tullytown UMC

Oscar Cook,	Mar 1873-Apr 1874
D.F. Unangst,	Apr1876-Mar 1877
Joseph H. Slack,	Mar1877-Mar 1878
George Alcorn,	Mar1878- Mar 1880
Olin Mintzer,	Mar1880-Nov.1881
S.T. Horner,	Dec.1881-Mar 1882
B.T. Callen,	Mar 1882-Mar 1884
E.P. Anderson,	Mar1884-Mar 1885
Edward P. Phieaner	Mar 1885-Mar 1886
N.T. Ledden	Mar 1886-Aug 1886
Jos. S. Cook	Sept.1886-Mar1887
S.H.Webber-	Mar 1887-Mar 1888
A.C. Harte	Mar 1888-Sep 1888
James Douglas	Sep 1888-Dec 1888
William Q. Bennett	Dec 1888-Jun 1889
G.M.Foster	Jun 1889-Aug 1889
W.H. Luther	Aug 1889- Mar1891
W.R. Riddington	Mar 1891-Oct 1891
Allen Judd	Oct 1891-Mar 1895
David Lord	Mar 1895-Mar 1896
W. Gray Jones	Mar 1896-Mar 1898
Francis Hawke	Mar 1898-Jan 1900
T.J. Elliot	Jan 1900-Mar 1902
George Shaw	Mar 1902-Mar 1903
Ralph E. Pearce	Mar 1903-Mar 1905
O.J.Randall	Mar 1905 -Mar1911
E.B. Harshberger	Mar 1911-Sep 1914
Roy A. Welker	Sep 1914-Oct 1916
Charles D. Brodhead	Oct1916- Mar 1919
Warren A. Smith	Mar 1919-Mar 1921
L. A. Dyer	Mar 1921-Apr 1924

F.J.S. Morrow	Apr 1924-Mar 1928
Clyde Levergoodmar	Mar 1928-Mar 1930
W.A. Lewis	Mar 1930-Mar 1931
H.W. Sanders	Mar 1931-Mar 1935
W. H. A. Williams	Mar 1935-Mar 1936
A. Maconaghy	Mar 1936-Mar 1939
Sameul Gaskell	Mar 1939-Jun 1962
D.O. Kniffen	Jun 1962-Jun 1966
Fred A. Miles	Jun 1962-Jun 1966
David R. Cramp	Jun 1968-Jun 1970
Allan J., Honigman	Jun 1970- Jun 1975

## Pastors of St. Paul UMC (Formerly EUB)

Virigil Megill	Mar 1959-Mar 1962
Wilmert Wolfe	Sep 1962-Dec 1965
Fredrick Seyfert	Dec 1965-Jan 1968
Richard Kunz	Jan 1968-Jun 1975

## Pastors of Christ United Methodist Church

Richard A. Johnson	Jun1975-Apr 1978
Richard Glenn	May1978 -Jun 1982
John T. Wirght	July 1982-Jun 1985
Mark R. King	July 1985-Jun 1988
David T. Ryan	July 1988 - present