

MONAGHAN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1745 - 1983

The Presbyterian Church in Dillsburg, ecclesiastically known as "Monaghan Church", derived its name from the township in which it was located, which was composed of what is now Franklin, Monaghan and Carroll, or was named after a county in Ireland from which some settlers came. The records are not clear on this point.

The exact year of the organization of Monaghan Church has not been determined, but services of some sort were held by the Scotch-Irish settlers as early as 1737, according to the York County History published in 1886. Though little is known about the events from 1737 to 1745, there was apparently some progress in the church development. This is evidenced by the application to Presbytery in 1745 to become a part of Lower Pennsborough congregation and for permission to build a meeting house convenient to the Monaghan people.

In the records of Old Donegal Presbytery, dated September 1, 1745, we find the following excerpt:

"Commissioners from a small settlement on Bermudian asked the Presbytery that, in order to have the ordinances dispensed among them, they desired to be admitted to and looked upon as a part of the lower congregation of Pennsborough, and that they might be allowed to build a meeting house convenient for them."

Unfortunately, the minutes of Presbytery from September 25, 1745 to 1747 were lost before being placed in the record books and the 1748 to 1749 minutes are very vague. The more serious loss of the records of Presbytery from 1750 to 1759, leaves us in great darkness as to what transpired in our churches during that period. However, the minutes of June 5, 1759, show that the people of Monaghan had selected a site on which to build their church.

In 1760, Presbytery set the line of division between Pennsborough and Monaghan at Yellow Breeches Creek and appointed a committee to approve the selected site for the church, and this was done.

A log building was erected in 1761 at the "Old Graveyard", about one half mile west of the present site. Tradition tells us that for some years after this, Indians continued to make forays into the region and ramparts were erected around the church for protection. It was also noted that some of the men brought firearms and took turns standing guard during the service.

From 1761 to 1769, Itinerant Ministers and Supplies were the only Pastoral leadership this small congregation had.

In 1769, the Rev. George Duffield, D. D., was appointed as Monaghan's first settled pastor and he was to give them one third of his time. His pastorate lasted until 1772 and the following ten years Monaghan was again without a pastor. It is interesting to note that Rev. Duffield was the Chaplain for the Continental Congress.

In 1782, The Rev. Samuel Waugh was installed as pastor of Lower Pennsborough and Monaghan and served until his death in 1807. It was during this period, 1782, that the congregation decided to move their church to the present site. The deed to this land is dated July 12, 1783, and Monaghan was given title to this property by the heirs of John Dill. A large portion of the land on which Dillsburg is built was a part of this property, owned by Monaghan Church. It was sold off in lots over the years.

This property was deeded to the church 18 years before the town of Dillsburg was laid out.

In 1783, a stone church was built on this site and was 50 x 40 feet with a 15 foot ceiling and featured a small elevated pulpit behind which was a sounding board. Adjoining the church on the north was a small room which served as session house, study, school, minister's room, fuel room, and later as the Union Sabbath School room.

The Rev. John I. Hayes came to Monaghan in 1809 and it was during his pastorate that a disastrous fire, in 1813, started in the small room and destroyed the roof and interior of the church. The congregation continued to use the repaired building until 1849 when it was declared unsafe and was torn down to make room for the present brick church, which has been remodeled and added to over the years.

For the period from 1815 to 1830, the congregation was again without a pastor and had only itinerant and supply ministers. In 1830, Rev. Anderson B. Quay came to Monaghan and lived in the house that stood on the site of Quay Park. He was the father of Senator Matthew Quay.

Under the Rev. Quay's leadership, the first Sabbath School was organized in 1834, in the old study of Monaghan. This was a union Sabbath School for the whole community. After two years, the meeting place was changed to the public school. Rev. Quay resigned in 1839.

Rev. Joseph A. Murray was installed as pastor in 1842 and was ordained in this church, and remained in this charge until ill health forced him into semi-retirement in

1858. It was during this period that the brick church was built, 1849.

From 1859 through 1872, the following ministers served this church for short periods of time: Rev. John Agnew, Rev. John Proctor, and Rev. A. W. Hubbard.

Monaghan decided to have its own Sabbath School in 1866 as the Methodist had built a church in 1843 and the Lutheran had built their church in 1856 and both were ready to start their own classes also.

The Rev. J. A. G. Fullerton was elected pastor in 1873 and served until 1879. During this time, in 1874, the Manse was built and partially furnished by the congregation, as was the custom of the time.

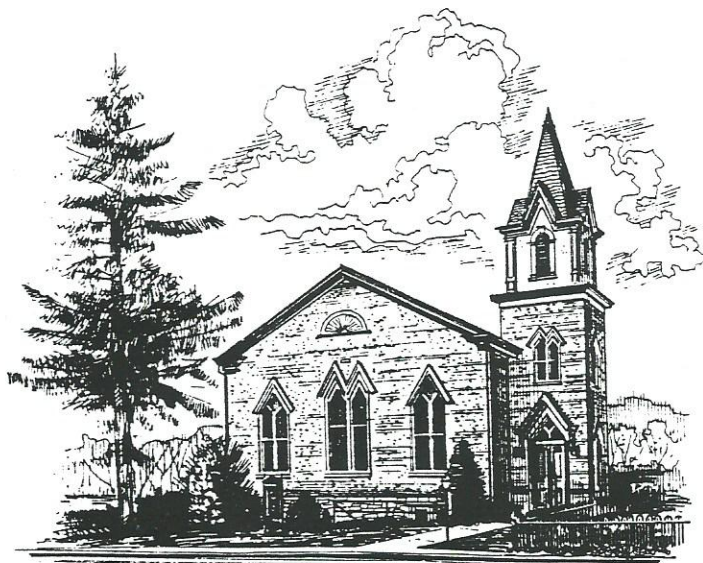
Rev. John P. Barbor was the next pastor, serving from 1879 to 1886.

This church was transferred from the Carlisle Presbytery to Westminster Presbytery in 1870 and was not returned to the Carlisle Presbytery until 1885.

Under the pastorate of Rev. John C. Barr, 1887-1894, the building was remodeled and the bell tower was added, the entrance changed and the stained glass windows installed. The Barr family donated the Bronze Memorial Ministers' Plaque to the church.

The Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor was organized in 1891 and was the forerunner of our youth groups today.

Rev. John A. Crawford served from 1895 to 1899, Rev. James Fraser from 1899 to 1901 and the Rev. C. Benjamin Segelken from 1901 to 1909. During this period the church experienced a period of growth and again became self-supporting.



The forerunner of our Women's Association, the Monaghan Round Table, was organized in 1901. The envelop system of giving was introduced in 1902.

Rev. J. Harold Wolf was elected pastor in 1910 and served until 1918, during which time the church continued to grow. The next minister was Rev. Henry C. Sperbeck, 1919-1922, who was followed by Rev. Samuel Moody, 1922-1938. His pastorate was one of the longest in the history of the church, sixteen years, sharing this distinction with Rev. Joseph A. Murray who also served sixteen years, 1842-1858.

It was also during this period that most of the land owned by the church was sold, except the present boundaries, which included what is now Church Street.

Rev. Lee N. Page came to Monaghan in 1939 and resigned in 1942 at which time the church was unable to pay a full time pastor. At this time the Presbytery of Carlisle appointed Rev. William T. Swaim, Jr., as stated supply and he remained for fourteen years, until 1956.

During this period, many changes were made. The Session made it permissible for men to remove their coats in church during the summer months, purchased hymn book racks and communion cup holders, remodeled the sanctuary and excavated the basement to build Sunday School rooms, a kitchen and rest room (1953).

The congregation grew and again became eligible for a full time pastor. Rev. Craig Koedel was elected in 1957, after serving as student pastor for several months, and signed in 1959.

In 1958, the land known as Church Street was deeded to the Borough of Dillsburg, to the width not to exceed thirty-four feet, with the proviso that the town keep the street in repair.

The Dillsburg Construction Co. paved the parking lot, 1 x 22 feet, in 1959, and the street light was installed on a pole across from the church. A bulletin board was erected in front of the building and wired for lighting, and the old altar rail was donated to the York County Historical Society in 1961. It was at this time that the Session passed a ruling that prohibited smoking in the church building.

Rev. Robert C. Henry was elected pastor in 1960 and served until 1969. The church continued to grow and in 1962 the sanctuary was remodeled, the ceiling lowered, new light fixtures installed and the choir loft changed. In 1964, the Conn organ was purchased and the Manse remodeled.

Evergreen trees were donated to the church and volunteers planted them in the area below the parking lot in 1965. An additional Ministerial Memorial Plaque was donated in that same year as the original one had been filled.

the following period from 1966 to 1969, the Church
er change approval was signed, the "Barn" was
ated into a youth center and Sunday School rooms,
new piano was purchased, the exterior of the church
as restored to the original brick and a Baptismal Font
as dedicated.

v. Jack D. Layendecker was ordained in this church in
70 and became its pastor, serving until 1975. The
5th Anniversary of Monaghan Church was celebrated
the unicameral system of government was adopted
ing this period.

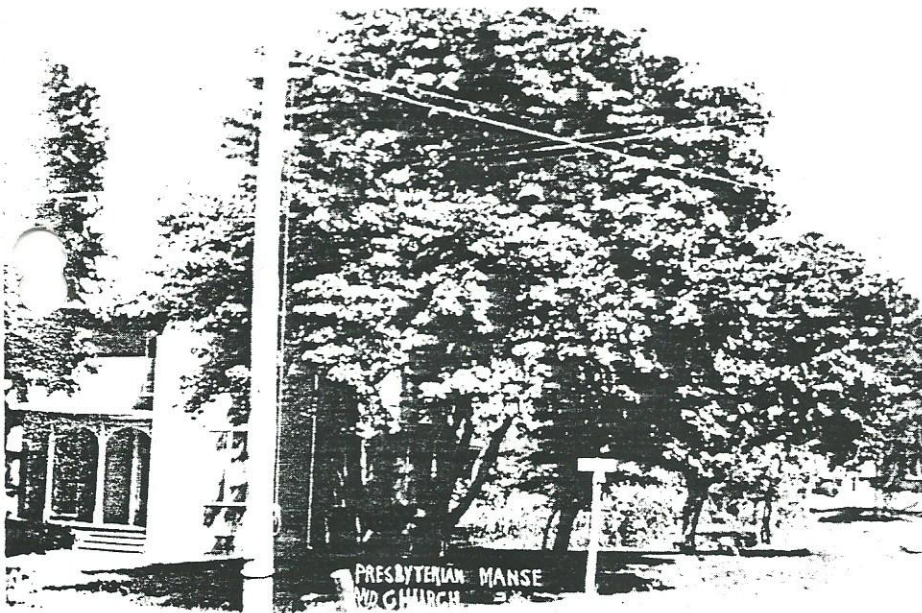
1975, Rev. Spencer Smith was appointed as interim
tor and served until 1976, when Rev. Charles W Best
s elected pastor.

e Presbyterian Church declared Monaghan an Historic

Site in 1977 and a plaque was placed on the building
beside the door. This is also recognized by the York Coun-
ty Historical Society.

In 1979, the Manse was remodeled into Sunday School
class rooms and plans for a new education building were
drawn up and a long range plan was presented to the
congregation. A building campaign was launched in 1981
and nine months later, March 29, 1982, the Manse was
demolished to make room for the new building, and the
ground breaking ceremony was held on April 4, 1982.

The first Sunday School classes were held in the new
Christian Education and Fellowship Building on Septem-
ber 12, 1982, and the dedication was held on October 31,
1982.



ing-house

Robert
missioners
all judge

1745, to
ed on the
ing what
committee
oss of the
s in very
y of the

records ex-
s: "The
Ranches,
il
imation of
s be given

resbytery,
deferred,"
people of
consent to
ing erected
sent in a
r 30, 1759,
Though
n, it is sup-
60. There
been main-
tch (1745),
gation.
church was
but a final
ccording to
ions was to

MONAGHAN CHURCH AND MANSE, DILLSBURG, PA.

