

History of Presbyterian
Ch. - Indian Valley

ABINGDON PRESBYTERY
INDIAN VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INDIAN VALLEY, L.C.

History of the Church from 1914 to 1962.

On May 17th, 1914 Mr. S.K. Lindsey, Clerk of Session of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church of Ocala, Carroll County, Virginia wrote the following in his minutes of the meeting of Session held on that date, "This is to certify that the following named persons are in good and regular standing in the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, and that they are, at their own request, hereby dismissed to unite with a new church to be organized, if the way be clear, in Indian Valley, Floyd County, Virginia, and when so received their special relation with this church shall cease: Mr. S.B. Franklin, (elder), Mrs. B.B. Franklin, Mr. Jordan Talbert, Mr. James L. Turpin, Mrs. Lucy H. Turpin, Miss Essie Mae Turpin, Mrs. Sarah Young, Mrs. Feeder Moore, Mrs. D. M. Boyd, Miss Hallie May Young, Mr. J.L. Kenley, Mr. William F. Gallimore, Mrs. William F. Gallimore, Mrs. J.L. Kenley, Mrs. Nancy Jane Gallimore, and Mrs. May Hollandsworth Montgomery."

The Indian Valley Presbyterian Church was organized on Sunday, May 24th, 1914 by Reverend George H. Gilmer, Evangelist of Abingdon Presbytery. The church was located in Floyd County in the territory of Montgomery Presbytery, but said Presbytery authorized Abingdon Presbytery to effect its organization. The members above mentioned applied for admission, presented testimonials of their membership in the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, and entered into the covenant forming the new organization in accordance with the Book of Church Order, Chapter II, section V. Mr. S.B. Franklin and Mr. J.L. Kenley were elected Elders and J. Talbert and W. Gallimore were elected Deacons. These officers were duly ordained and installed in accordance with the Book of Church Order. The Union Church building was used for services once a month.

In 1915 the minutes recorded the following statistics: Added on examination 12, added by certificate 8; Resident members 20. Adult baptisms 11. Attendance very good; family worship 20% of families; observance of the Lord's Day very good; Sabbath School training very much neglected; no special manifestation of the Spirit; no material for the Christian ministry. The Church had a slow but steady growth under the ministry of Rev. Daniel J. Currien, 1914, Rev. J.A. Thompson 1915 and 1916 and Rev. Junius Horton from 1917 to 1919. Revival meetings were held each year, and accessions were had at most of these meetings.

Rev. J. T. Williams came as pastor in 1919 and stayed with us until 1927, The Church made progress at times and had reverses at times. There was the steady growth, however, that made for a good country church despite some dissention and trouble. In the next two years the Church had as Stated Supply Rev. Albert Wood, 1927-1929. Rev. S.M. Ghiselin came as pastor in 1929 and stayed until 1932. On March 6th of 1932 Me. C. Hollandsworth was elected Clerk of Session and B. O. Quesenberry, Clovis Boyd and Dean Gallimore were elected as Deacons. Rev. R. Childress was called as Stated Supply next and served the Church until 1939. In 1937 the Church reported members, 4 elders and 4 deacons. In 1940 Rev. Y.P. Scruggs came as pastor of the church. During his four years as pastor there were 22 additions to the Church on profession of faith, and 10 by certificate or reaffirmation, making the total membership 52. The Sunday School enrollment was 165, but this included all the denominations who came to the Union Church. After Rev. Scruggs left the pastorate, Rev. G. L. Whiteley supplied until the return of Rev. J.T. Williams for a second pastorate in 1944.

In June of 1944 the Session met at the school house to make plans for a new church building. Plans were talked of the size and material to be used, and ways of raising the money. Quoting from the minutes of Session, "A friend who had contributed to the building fund had said that he would double his contribution if all that were able to do so would double their gifts." This plan was adopted by all present.

Aunt,
Hallie

The new church building was to be a cinderblock construction and by long hours of hard work on the part of all members and many friends, it was finished in 1946. In that year the statistical report showed the church having 3 elders, 5 deacons, 75 members - 20 of these received on profession of faith. The church continued its steady growth and in the minutes of April 1947 the church membership was 74 and the Sunday School enrollment was 91. The total budget of the church was \$3,070.76. On January the 16th the membership was 89 - 10 added on profession and 1 by certificate. In 1949 Mr. T.A. Harris was elected, ordained and installed as elder. The next two years were sad ones for the Indian Valley Church. Rev. J.T. Williams had to retire because of ill health and Bill Childress came to supply the church. We were all so glad to have the Williams family to build a house and retire in our community. Rev. Thomas Hall came as pastor in July of 1955 and he served the church until 1958.

In June 1958 a congregational meeting was held to consider petitioning Montgomery Presbytery to transfer Indian Valley Church and property to Abington Presbytery. Trustees were elected to hold the title to the church property when the transfer was made. These were Harold Boyd, Orland Phillips, and Hayden Dickerson. It was unanously voted to transfer the property to Abington Presbytery. Rev. Kirk Hammond, Executive Secretary, was here to moderate the meeting.

Indian Valley was then linked with the Bethesda Church and there were two supply pastors - Vincent Stubbs III from 1959 to 1960. We were all saddened by the death of Rev. J.T.L. Williams in 1960. Funeral services were held in the church and burial in the Captain Quessenberry cemetery.

For the next year and a half William Bowers was our supply pastor. He left in Feb. of 1962. At that time a call was sent to Rev. Glenn A. Williams, temporarily retired because of ill health. He accepted the call and came to the two churches - Indian Valley and Bethesda - on August the 5th. The present membership of the Indian Valley Church is 56 with 3 elders and 3 deacons. The Bethesda church has 29 members with 2 elders and 4 deacons. Services are held each Sunday at both churches.

We pray God's richest blessings on the two congregations as they witness for the Master in these beautiful hills and valleys.

Present officers:

Elders:

Mr. Thurman Harris
Mr. C.E. Hollandsworth
Mr. O.C. Dickerson

Deacons:

Mr. Oscar Marshall
Dan Flinchum
Charlie Harris

Sunday School Superintendent; Hayden Dickerson
President of the Women of the Church; Mrs. Aubra Slusher

Mrs. Glenn A. Williams

Historian,