(Continued from Page B19)

attendance records, meetings, baptismal records and annual reports to find the most interesting tidbits.

Isaac Richardson Atlee, the founder of New Windsor, sold the site to the first trustees of the newly formed church for \$100 in 1841. The congregation had previously met in Greenwood Church, just out of town. James Clemson Atlee, son of Isaac Atlee. advanced the funds to erect the brick building. The total cost was \$3,543.

As the church grew, it became closely associated with Blue Ridge College which is now the site of the Brethren Service Center. It was reported that as many as forty ministerial students worshipped at the "ivy-covered church" during their college days.

The church was in its heyday during the centennial celebration in 1939. In his annual report to the presbytery, John Ross Hays, supply pastor to the New Windsor Church, noted a downward trend. "I would approximate the average age of the membership of the church to be 50 years," he reported. "In time the church membership will drop off rapidly, for there seems to be so few young people to make up the church of the future. I believe the church can go on for ten or fifteen years."

Sadly, the minister's prophetic observations came true. The church indeed did go to sleep for a while until she was resurrected in the 1970's by Reverend C. Biddle Foster who took the ailing church into his tri-parish assignment. With his loving and insightful guidance and inspiring messages, the church began to come alive. Though Reverend Foster was called away to concentrate his efforts on behalf of his church in Manchester, Maryland, the daffodils that were planted in memory of his late wife, Jean, also serve as a remembrance of a beloved pastor. The kind and gentle Rev. John Hoeprich ministered to the spiritual needs of the flock in the interim.

As a friend of the church once said, 'God doesn't close one door that He doesn't open another'. That certainly was true, for into the sanctuary came Reverend Forsyth, with his heavy Scottish accent and contagious love of God. He has seen the church continue to grow and has instilled a new found reverence for this house of the Lord. It is not unusual to hear the humming of hand tools on a Saturday, members working fervently to refinish the beautiful pews. And mid-week potluck suppers and hymn sings add to the fellowship.

To round out the weekend celebration this year, the congregation will assemble at the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. Ron Williams will summon the crowd with the tolling of the bells, just as he does every Sunday at this regular hour of worship. At 9:30, those in attendance will make a pilgrimage to Greenwood, just as they did fifty years ago, to recall the humble beginnings of the church. The sermon will be delivered from the pulpit of this circa 1737 church that stands as it did then, with no electricity or plumbing.

The celebration will conclude back at the church on the corner of Church and High streets in New Windsor, with a slice of cake for everyone.

As a special remembrance of the centennial anniversary, a book on the history of the first hundred years of the church was published. For the 150th, Helen Williams suggested that a commemorative plate be designed and issued. The committee members agreed upon



the elements to be included on the

eight-inch, gold-rimmed, ivory

plate - a sketch of the church taken

program; the name, New Windsor

Associate Reformed Presbyterian

Church; dates, 1839-1989; and a

ring of ivy.

from the front of the centennial \

Reverend William Forsyth, pastor of the New Windsor ARP Church, and his wife, isabel.

September Is Honey Month

ANNAPOLIS, MD — September has been declared National Honey Month by the National Honey Board, honoring the contributions of the nation's honey bee.

In Maryland, honey production is a growing business. There are 1,802 registered beekeepers and 13,828 honey bee colonies in the state. In 1987, fewer than 100 new honey-related products were introduced in major supermarkets; last year, nearly 160 new products containing honey made it to the grocery shelves.

The honey bee also contributes to the health of Maryland agriculture. Crops pollinated by honey bees include apples, zucchini, cucumbers, melons, berries and lima beans. Moreover, honey bees pollinate much of Maryland's woodlands and flower gardens.

There are approximately 211,600 beekeepers nationally, who tend more than four million beehives. Each spring, commercial beekeepers transport colonies to major agricultural areas where honeybees pollinate fruit, seed, nut and vegetable crops, providing increased yields and higher quality products. In the process, honey bees are responsible for pollinating approximately 80 percent of all insect-pollinated crops.

September is set aside as the month to honor the honey bee because it marks the beginning of the honey harvest and is the sweeterner's most popular time of the year.

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