

Church

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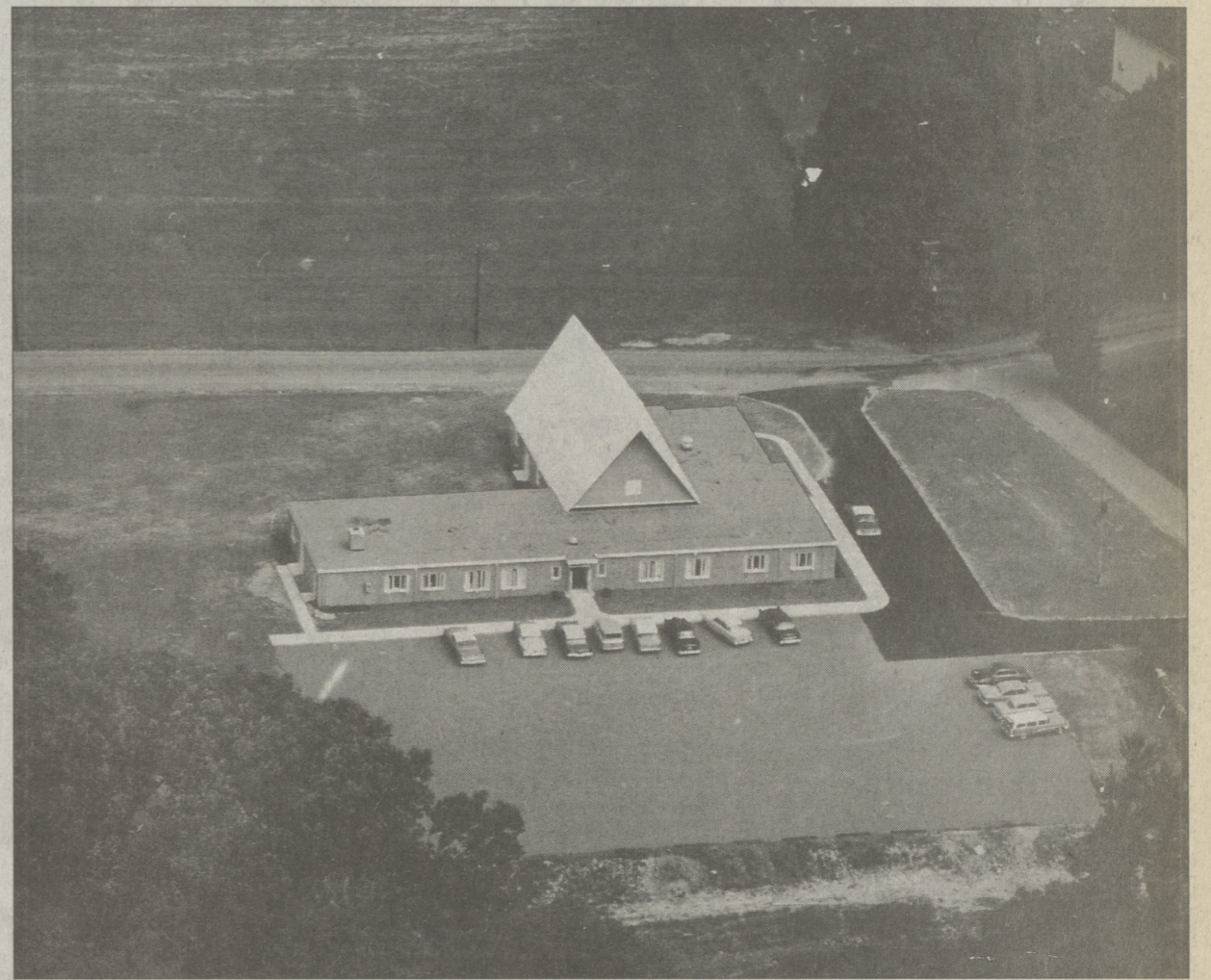
church. "The Back Mountain Food Bank is something we are all deeply committed to," said Pastor Naugle. "It was organized in 1977, and has been housed in the basement of the former Kingston Township Municipal Building. With the completion of the new addition to the educational center, the food bank will be moved to our expanded facility and occupy over 600 square feet. It will be accessible from ground level providing improved working conditions for our volunteers and added safety and accessibility for the more than 130 families we serve."

"On December 10, 2000, after much prayer and numerous meetings and information sessions, the members voted to embark on an expansion plan that would support the addition," said Debbie Jury, Sunday school superintendent. "Since January 2001 members of the church have worked hard to raise \$1.7 million to pay for the 14 room, two-story addition to the education wing of the Knob Hill building. It was constructed in 1960-61 on the Conyngham farm property known as the garden. Forty years later we need to expand again to provide much needed space to support our many church activities and community services."

"During a recent financial feasibility meeting, our fellow committee member, Chuck Gommer, reminded us of the wonderful vision and dream we have," said Bill Long, building fund campaign chairman. "He quoted a Robert Frost poem. We have promises to keep and miles to go before we sleep."

"The expansion and renovation will also include bringing the existing education center and the sanctuary, which is located across the street, up to code to meet the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act," said Long. "We want to be sure that no one's physical limitations will exclude them from church or community activities due to structural barriers that can be addressed in this new construction phase. We will be renovating our current 8,000 square foot education facility and adding 16,264 square feet with the new addition which will be located on the West end of the existing structure."

"We have come a long way in a short time," said Pastor Naugle, "and have raised more than \$1.2 million in pledges over the next five years. But we still need \$500,000 to complete the dream. We plan to ask everyone we know to help us. We have 300 families who are members. To many of them, this pledge will be real sacrificial giving. Their optimism, support and response have been tremendous. One man pledged \$600,000, and the other \$600,000 has come from other members and friends. The experts told us we might not be able to do it, but we have already surpassed their estimates of giving for a congregation and community this size." Because the building is used



Aerial view of the Trucksville United Methodist Church education center (1960-61). The new two-story addition will be built on the West end of this existing structure.



POST PHOTO/SANDY PEOPLES

Church members and Pastor Naugle stand on the lawn at the West end of the existing education center. This is the site where the new two-story addition will be built.

From left: Debbie Jury - superintendent of the Sunday School Louise Hazeltine - church historian Bill Long - building fund campaign chairman Pastor Chuck Naugle Joan Meehan - treasurer and business manager.

by so many different groups of people, the church has sent out letters to all of them asking for donations. "The scouts, nursery school parents, and others who are committed to the food bank as much as we are, have already responded with pledges and donations," said Long. "We are also

asking businesses, vendors and the community at large to consider helping with this community project, and we will be honored to accept memorial gifts."

"We're asking people to invest in the education and future of our children," said Joan Meehan, church treasurer and busi-

ness manager.

"We plan to break ground in July 2002, and are anticipating that we will have our dedication Sunday 12 to 18 months later," said Long. "We can't wait. Our members should be very proud of what we have accomplished, and the best is yet to come."

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