

# Claim the Promised Land!

## **HISTORY OF CHANNAHON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Even before Jesus walked the hills of Galilee, Native Americans were walking the hills and travelling the rivers of the place they called Channahon, "Where the waters meet." Numerous burial mounds in our area still witness to the Indians' ancient presence.

Our congregation's story began in 1852, when the Rev. Isaac Pool arrived as the first recorded Methodist Episcopal clergyman in Channahon. The I & M Canal was newly completed and bustling with traffic, and Channahon was expecting a bright and prosperous future. And so a wooden church was erected a few years later on land donated to the trustees by the Jessup family on August 8, 1854. That first church building was continually improved, remodeled, and added to until it was destroyed by a thunderstorm in 1926. A new brick sanctuary was dedicated in 1927.

When the 1950's saw renewed growth in Channon, the church responded by building a parsonage in 1954 and a large educational addition in 1959. As has been the case throughout our history, many members worked on these projects with their own hands and made personal sacrifices to ensure that all the church's debts were finally paid in full.

The accelerated pace of growth in this area in the 1990's encouraged the congregation to purchase a new 9.9 acre site in 1993. And so we expect this to be the last church directory published from our historic location at Sage and Eames, for we anticipate moving to and worshipping and serving Christ on our new site before this decade is over. We are seeking to answer the summons we have heard so many times before, in the 1850's, the 1920's and the 1950's: to roll up our sleeves, ask God's help, and then faithfully meet the challenge of the present by building for the future.