



*These are front and rear views of the present sanctuary which was built in 1921.*

church musician for numerous years, at age 90 reminisces, "When Reverend Nash was here everybody was happy, worked hard — real hard — wanted to get ahead."

Pastor Nash was born in Broad Neck, Maryland, in 1846. He joined church early in life, and was admitted to the Washington Annual Conference in 1887. He was a member of the conference for 39 years. The *Washington Conference Journal* of 1927 paid him this homage: "Reverend Nash died on May 14, 1926, and was 80 at the time of his death. He was serving the Laurel Charge when he died. He was a pastor beloved by his people; they followed his advice gladly, and wonders attended his preaching in the ingathering of many precious souls. He was old in age, but young in heart so that he was able to sympathize with the aged and at the same time hold his young people."

All of the previously mentioned pastors served St. Mark's Church when the camp, revival, class, and prayer meetings, the mourners bench, preaching, shouting, singing, and praising God were all alive in the church. In addition, bands composed of small groups within the societies of the various Methodist churches rendered prayer and praise services at their neighboring churches. During these services, the band members and the church leaders endeavored to lift the spiritual fervor of the gathering higher and higher. The leaders prayed over those kneeling at the mourner's bench and strived to persuade the mourners to surrender their lives to Christ.

In 1926 Reverend Benjamin Gross was appointed to the Laurel Charge. Pastor Gross served the charge for two years. Very little information is available about his tenure.

In 1928 Reverend Franklin E. Nicholas was appointed to the Laurel Charge. He served the charge for six years. He recorded a number of significant events in the Charge Record. In 1929 new pews were installed in the church. Furthermore, Pastor Nicholas recorded, "The parsonage was painted, and water and bathroom fixtures were installed in September and December 1929, respectively." Besides, the Congregation paid on an old debt, and made some improvements that cost \$340. Contributions