

## APC History

On April 21, 1908, Washington D.C. Central Church was organized. There were 21 baptisms that day. The church was organized by the people of 1921 by the Rev. J. Rowan, pastor of the church. The church was organized by the people of 1908. The church was organized by the people of 1908.

In 2008, the church celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The festivities were planned throughout the year and were planned by Annette Benbow. She invited all for the living former pastors to return. There was a dinner and celebration for each of them.

### Timeline:

About 1885, Miles Munson began teaching a Sunday School Class in his home.

1906, The Ballston church made Munson's group a mission church.

1908, The Presbytery of Washington, D.C. established APC as an independent church.

June 17, 1909, Land was purchased for a church and manse.

1910, both buildings had been completed.

1919, the congregation added a new addition – 30x40feet.

December 20, 1924, the church building was destroyed by fire.

February 1925, a building committee was formed to build a new church.

1930, A.F. Thelander was engaged as the architect to plan a stone building.

October 12, 1930, groundbreaking ceremonies were held.

December 1, 1930, The Washington Star reported the laying of the cornerstone. The stone, engraved with the date 1930 holds the names of all contributors, pictures of the old church before it burned, plans for the new building, several 1930s coins and a history of the Church. The trowel was the same one used by George Washington in the laying of the cornerstone of the United States Capital.

1941, the first woman elder was elected.

June 26, 1949, groundbreaking for the addition of classrooms took place.

1957, a black woman, Mrs. Lucille Herron was hired as a church organist. There were protests.

1960, R~~h~~onda Gilliam became the churches first black member. Today, the R~~h~~onda Gilliam Clothing is named after him.

J. Rowan, the pastor, marched in Mississippi.

Neighbors of **Mary F. Young**  
by Wayne Frost, July, 2008

This is the story of APC Founder **Mary F Young**. We should know much more about the life of this fascinating woman, but so little has been written about her. Perhaps the only way to capture a glimpse of **Mary F Young** is to take a look at those around her as she grew up in our Arlington Presbyterian Church (APC) neighborhood. We know some of these people for their fame, others we recognize as APC founders and a few surprise us when we discover who “they” are.

In 1836, a wheelwright and carriage maker from Washington named John M Young bought a large farm along Columbia Pike on the south and Glebe Road on the east. He built his summer home here and hired a tenant manager to operate the farm. Today, we can walk from APC to the end of Lincoln Street (the original roadway to the farmhouse) where the house called Alcova still stands. Years later, this farm would come to mean much more to **Mary F Young**, and also to APC than can be told on a historical marker.

Lewis Bailey brought his family from New York in 1837 to settle on the 536 acres that had been purchased by his father, Hachaliah Bailey. We know the Bailey family from “The Greatest Show on Earth” and some of us have shopped at the Baileys Crossroads Safeway where the 100 room Bailey mansion once stood. This family was much more important to **Mary F. Young** than ponderous pachyderms or the bristling businesses established by enterprising Baileys at the crossroads.

William Jenks came from Massachusetts to our APC neighborhood in 1850 so he could facilitate getting a patent processed for the breach-loading gun he had invented. He bought 100 acres across Glebe Road from the Young farm. Three years later their daughter, Sarah married one of Lewis Bailey’s boys, Harvey.

William Jenks died in 1859 and when her mother passed away in 1863, Sarah Elizabeth Jenks Bailey inherited the Homestead. Sarah and Harvey Bailey moved into the Jenks-Bailey house located at 3217 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Sarah Bailey would become an influential member of the community and instrumental in the founding and survival of Arlington Methodist Church. On the corner of Columbia Pike and Glebe Road leans a historical marker telling of a woman named Hunter that donated the land for the Methodist chapel only to have it destroyed during the Civil War. Sarah Bailey’s efforts with Congress gained compensation for the church following the war and she mortgaged the farm to spearhead funding to build a new church. .

In 1875 John M Young gave his farm to his son, William N Young who over the years became quite wealthy. His daughter, Margaret (Elizabeth) married Charles G. Gaddis of an established Washington family.

William N. Young in his later years hired a farm administrator named **Thomas R. Gray**, a public servant and oft elected official. **Thomas** gained his farm experience in the township of

Spaldings, Prince Georges, Maryland as a means to support his widowed mother and young brother, Oden. At a “ripe old age” William N. Young married **Mamie Bailey**, daughter of Harvey Bailey and Sarah Elizabeth Jenks Bailey and granddaughter of Lewis Bailey of Baileys Crossroads.

William died in late 1900 and sometime thereafter **Mamie Bailey** married APC Founder **Thomas R Gray**. **Mary F. Gray** among Sarah’s other children were deeded parcels of the Jenks-Bailey homestead upon her death in 1909; the timeframe corresponds to the donation of the APC manse made by **Mary F. Gray** and Elizabeth Gaddis. One author attributes **Mamie Gray** as also being a patron of the “First Presbyterian Church”. **Thomas** and **Mary** did move to Clarendon, however, I believe that her contributions towards renovations of the church refers to the extensive construction and remodeling of Arlington Presbyterian Church in 1931.

**Mary Francis Gray**, A.K.A. **Mamie Bailey** A.K.A. **Mamie Gray** A.K.A. **Mary F. Young** died December 23, 1932. **Thomas R Gray** died August 6, 1942. They (the couple) are buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Confidently, the story of APC founder **Mary F. Young** does not end here; she has many more stories to tell us about herself and about our neighbors and neighborhood.

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