1952

The year opened with encouraging signs.

The first day of the year found the pastor - as usual - calling all afternoon in and around Robbins Corner. Twelve homes were visited, and one-half of the people seen then have become active members of this Church. (Report in the fall of 1954.)

Mr. Emurian presented Goals for the New Year at the Church and Sunday School Council meeting on January 2:

To have: 50 Church members
75 Sunday School scholars
2 Choirs
20 Men in the Men's Christian Fellowship
20 Women in the Women's Circle
Vestibule to be built in front of the Sanctuary

On January 13, for the first time, Mr. Emurian gave an invitation to the congregation during the Morning Worship Service. To this invitation to join the Church eight responded with deep conviction.

In February Mr. Emurian sent a report to the Home Mission Committee as requested of all Missions and Chapels under its care, in which he stated the urgent need for a new Educational Building and better equipment. The financial report for the year 1951 (May 1 - December 31) was given as follows:

Pastor's Salary	$400.00		
Benevolences	100.00		
Miscellaneous	300.00	Total:	$800.00

In answer to the question "What progress has been made toward self-support?", the answer was "Thirty-percent increase".

On February 17, three persons requested the transfer of their Church letters to the new Church.

Tuesday, February 19: Rev. Donald E. Neel came to the Chapel and met with Mr. Emurian and five men of the Council to talk over "our need for a new building with more Sunday School class rooms". He made this report to the Home Mission Committee.

March 19: The Council decided to enlarge the two back class rooms, by installing folding doors in the dividing wall. The Church property committee was given authority to proceed with this and the men of the Church planned to do the work. Later these rooms were redecorated and other improvements made in the Sanctuary and Sunday School rooms.

John M. Crow, U.S.N., a member of the Church, became Pianist and Choir Director. He served faithfully for about a year and a half, until he was transferred.

Sunday, March 30: Church envelopes were distributed for the first time. Those who had joined the Church and the members of the congregation took these envelopes, desiring to share in the responsibilities of supporting this growing work.

April 2: At the Sunday School Council Meeting, Secretary-Treasurer Ney suggested that the birthday offerings in the Sunday School for the quarter be sent to Korean Orphans. The amount was $10.00. This was the first such offering.

Sunday, April 2: Seven children were baptized, and on April 13 eleven members were received into the Church.

Monday, May 5: The Budget Committee met and prepared a budget for the Church Year 1952-1953. The first budget prepared is as follows:

Pastor's Salary	$900.00	
Church Supplies	200.00	
Sunday School Supplies	300.00	
Benevolences	250.00	
Utilities	50.00	
Fuel	75.00	
Janitor	360.00	
Building Upkeep	300.00	
Grounds	150.00	
Building Fund	1,000.00	
Pastor's Car Allowance	300.00	TOTAL: $3,885.00

Per Sunday: $74.64

This budget is met by the free will offerings of those who worship in this Church and Sunday School.

During January and February of 1952 new members were received into the Church regularly. One Sunday, 4 by profession of faith and 9 by transfer; another Sunday, 2 by profession and 2 by transfer. During these months, there was a continual ingathering of "spiritually transformed men and women". The Word of God had lost none of its ancient power!

The children of the community soon learned that they had a Pastor who cared for them. Other children in the Public School became interested and talked to their parents about Mr. Emurian's visits; many who came once or twice became regular attendants and some became good active members.

1952

For several months Mr. Emurian and the men of the Church talked over the urgent need for a Vestibule to be built in front of the Sanctuary. On January 23, Mr. A. H. Young told Mr. Emurian of his desire to build this Vestibule. He began the work soon after, donating cinder blocks, concrete and labor. The Church bought necessary lumber. A number of the men also gave many hours of labor to complete this addition. By the first week in September the Vestibule was completed. The Church bulletin for September contained this item: "The beautiful Vestibule was built by the loving sacrifice of our friend, Mr. A. H. Young, and the devoted men of the Church. May our Lord richly bless them for making His Church more attractive and worshipful".

Easter Sunday, April 13: Church bulletins were used for the first time on Easter Sunday, 1952. Mr. Emurian prepared the Order of Service and Mr. Crow printed the bulletins for the congregation. Thereafter bulletins were prepared for distribution on the first Sunday of each month.

Following Mr. Crow's transfer, Mr. William Graham, Jr., accepted this added responsibility. Ever since, Church bulletins are regularly prepared each month and for special occasions. (Reported in 1954.)

Plans for the Vacation Bible School were presented by Mrs. Ernest D. Ney, Superintendent of the Children's Division, the dates being June 9 - 13, for age groups 4 - 14 years. Mrs. S.K. Emurian was appointed Director; nine teachers and helpers assisted. In June the Council voted unanimously that $500.00 from the Church treasury be set apart for the beginning of the new Sunday School building fund. Pledges and cash gifts were added to this amount during the months that followed.

July 1: A Church Family Night and Pot-Luck Supper was held. The Women's Circle arranged the supper and the program that followed. Due to the success of this type of program, similar gatherings were scheduled once a quarter thereafter.

Sunday, August 3: The Choir appeared in new robes for the first time. The robes were given by Choir members and the women of the Church.

September: The Sunday School building fund began to grow. As the news spread, more people wanted to give. Cash gifts and new pledges continued to come in. A group of men from The Christian Fellowship pledged $50.00 each.

The Pastor, the Rev. Mr. Emurian, was in Norfolk General Hospital from September 27 to November 1. Ministers and Elders supplied the pulpit each Sunday during the Pastor's absence. The officers and members of this young congregation were faithful in carrying on all the activities of the Church. The congregation -- members and friends -- continued to comfort their Minister all those weeks by thoughtful and loving deeds.

Sunday, November 16, from Mr. Emurian's diary: "Happiest day -- Heavenly Father restored me to health and strength and gave me the high privilege of going to my dear Church and worshipping together with my people".

Sunday, November 30: Sunday School attendance, 66; Offering, $19.52. Church attendance, 80; Offering, $52.51. Five members were received by profession and nine by re-affirmation and transfer, a total of fourteen.

In December the Church sent the first annual offering of $10.00 to the Virginia Council of Churches.

Many Navy families became active workers in the Church. When transferred, they were missed. Through the fellowship and training received here, they became active in other Churches in distant places. Civilian residents from the city were moving to the Bayside area, having bought or built homes of their own. They worshipped in our Church; many united on profession of faith; while others became active workers for the first time. The Spirit of God was at work in many hearts.