



*The Fellowship Hall of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield (established 1835) was the site for the ISHS Sesquicentennial House of Worship luncheon on March 10. More than 80 meals and 25 congregations were served.*

*Photos by William Furry*

## Foundations of faith

### ISHS hosts sesquicentennial house of worship luncheon

**O**n Saturday, March 10, the Illinois State Historical Society hosted a luncheon and celebration for twenty-eight Illinois houses of worship that were established in 1868 or earlier. The representatives of each of these congregations gathered at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield (established in 1835) to break bread and enjoy an organ concert before receiving an ISHS certificate honoring their 150th-year milestone. (For a list and brief history of each recognized house of worship this year, see the March-April, 2018 issue of *Illinois Heritage*.)



*Members of the congregation of Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bloomington accept a Sesquicentennial House of Worship award from ISHS president Leah Axelrod.*



*Congregants of Ashmore United Presbyterian Church receive an award from President Axelrod. The church was established in 1841.*



*Attendees at the Sesquicentennial House of Worship luncheon got to "have their cake and eat it too." The frosting included a portrait of Springfield's First Presbyterian Church as it looked in the 1880s.*



*Susan Harris (left) and Reverend Susan Phillips (right), pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Springfield (established 1828), accept a sesquicentennial church award from ISHS President Leah Axelrod.*



*Sixty-percent of the active congregation of Woodland Church, Fairmont Township, Pike County, came to Springfield to accept their Sesquicentennial Church award from the ISHS.*



*St. John's Episcopal Church, Decatur, accepts the ISHS Sesquicentennial Church award from President Axelrod.*



*Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, established on November 4, 1850 in Frankfort, Illinois, was a German-language congregation until 1919. Former pastor David Constien accepts the ISHS award for his church.*



*Congregation B'nai Sholom of Quincy, the second oldest synagogue west of the Allegheny, receives a Sesquicentennial House of Worship certificate for President Axelrod.*



*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Matanzas-Bath was organized in the 1840s, and the first church building was erected in 1861. Church members accept ISHS award from President Axelrod.*