

Shiloh

Hickory

Shiloh began one hundred years ago in a community then known as Mt. Bethel. An accurate account of Shiloh's beginnings is not available; however, records show that a warranty deed was made February 20, 1886 and is recorded in the official government records of the Clerk of Superior Court signifying that E. M. Bolick and wife, Rebecca Bolick, deeded one acre of land to A. L. Bowman, E. L. Bolick and others as contracting committee of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Tennessee Synod. This is the land which is now known as the Shiloh cemetery.

The 150th Anniversary Book published by Friendship Lutheran Church in 1983 states that the Rev. Daniel J. Settlemyre who was pastor of Friendship and Philadelphia in 1886 organized Shiloh in this year.

Although separate from the Ohio Lutheran Congregation of Pisgah Lutheran Church this newly formed congregation also called themselves Pisgah Lutheran Church. The oldest record on hand states on the inside front cover; "CHURCH BOOK, PISGAH, ALEXANDER COUNTY, NC, RECORD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AT PISGAH, ALEXANDER COUNTY NC, BEGINNING THIS RECORD ORCTOBER 18, 1884, THIS CHURCH WAS ORGANIZED BETWEEN THE YEAR EIGHTEEN FORTY FIVE AND FIFTY BY THE REV. ADAM MILLER." However on the first page preserved in the book, we find these words, "The congregation of Pisgah Church met on the above date (date not given) to elect a new church council. Rev. D. J. Settlemyre, Pastor, was elected chairman." It was suggested by the pastor to let A. J. Hollar and A. A. Bolick remain as elders. This was agreed upon by the congregation and W. P. Bowman was elected as elder and installed by the pastor. T. J. Yount, W. H. Richey and E. H. Eckard were elected deacons by a unanimous vote of the congregation. They were also installed by the pastor. Elbert J. Bowman was elected secretary and N. W. Eckard, treasurer. It is reported that the division in Pisgah Church was related to a disagreement over "Open" or "Closed" Communion. Notice that this record starts that the above was done in the name of Pisgah Church although the present Mt. Pisgah Church never lists Settlemyre as one of their pastors.

The first church was built in 1886-1887 on the land mentioned above and then dedicated in 1888 by Pastor C. H. Bernheim and Dr. R. A. Yoder. It is assumed that the congregation changed its name to Shiloh in 1888 when they occupied their first church building.

The same page in the original records states that Rev. D. J. Settlemyre resigned and C. H. Bernheim was called to take charge of the congregation. On this same page we find the notation "On the first Sunday of March, 1887, Secretary E. J. Bowman resigned and T. J. Yount was unanimously elected secretary of Pisgah congregation." This also gives credence to the fact that the newly formed congregation was called Pisgah for some time. The first mention of the name Shiloh is made in the following words: "On the first Sunday in March, 1889, Rev. C. H. Bernheim resigned his relation as pastor of Shiloh congregation."

The first listing of communicants is dated November 14, 1886 with 20 males and 21 females. The first baptism listed was Henry Daniel, son of Waightsel and Catherine Starnes, born January 25, 1887, baptized May 1, 1887. The first listing of "Names of

Church Members” goes to #61 in the original ink and continues to #97 but this includes persons confirmed as late as 1892. It is interesting to note the #63, Abram Bostian, is listed as colored. In the May 6, 1888 names of communicants under Rev. C. H. Bernheim, #58, Abram Bostian, is listed separately and is designated colored. This means that Shiloh had at least one colored member and communicant in its early years. After Pastor Bernheim resigned in 1889, communicants are listed under the name of Rev. R. A. Yoder, June 9, 1889, meaning that he must have supplied. The record shows that “On the first Sunday of July, 1889 at a congregational meeting Rev. J. P. Miller was called to serve Shiloh congregation to the end of the present year.” However, the record shows that on the first Sunday of December, 1892 Rev. J. P. Miller presided as a constitution was adopted which was approved by the NC Conference of the E. L. Tennessee Synod.

The record shows that on the first Sunday of April, 1893, Rev. J. P. Miller was unanimously called by Shiloh congregation as its pastor. The record further shows that on September 2, 1894, Rev. J. P. Miller presided at a congregational meeting that designated H. A. Herman of St. Timothy as delegate to a meeting of the Synod of South Carolina, but that if the other churches of the charge selected some other as delegate, Shiloh would endorse their action. Pastor Miller resigned in March, 1895 at a meeting conducted by Rev. R. A. Yoder.

(The above information was taken from Shiloh’s records. According to NC Synod’s records, A. L. Crouse served Shiloh from 1894-1896; however Shiloh has no record of this.)

In May of 1895, Rev. J. L. Cromer was elected Pastor. The first Sunday of January, 1896, Rev. J. L. Cromer tendered his resignation. Rev. R. L. Fritz was then called on the first Sunday of February, 1896. Rev. Fritz in turn resigned on the first Sunday of June 1897 and Rev. E. J. Sox was called. In most of the early years Shiloh was served by the men who were pastors of Friendship Church except for a period of time after the organization of Lenoir College in Hickory when various ordained professors at Lenoir College (now Lenoir Rhyne) preached at Shiloh. R. A. Yoder, J. L. Cromer, R. L. Fritz, and E. J. Sox were among this college group.

Baptisms are listed under the name of E. J. Sox until 1905, and under the name of Prof. Fritz in 1906. Rev. J. P. Price’s name appears in the records in 1907. He served until 1908. Shiloh was served by A. L. Bolick from 1909-1913; by J. A. Yount three times between 1913 and 1921; by M. L. Pence from 1924-1926; by C. E. Lutz from 1927-1931; and L. P. Boland from 1932-1939.

Deputy Clerk of Superior Court records show that on February 20, 1914, A. H. Bolick and wife, Sallie Bolick, deeded a tract supposed to contain one-half acre to M. P. Johnson and H. W. Richey and others as contracting committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Tennessee Synod. We assume that this property adjoined the original one acre listed above and that it is also part of the land known as the Shiloh cemetery.

In 1932 the Women’s Missionary Society of Shiloh was formed with twenty active members. Mrs. David Eckard was president. Mrs. Ivey Bowman was the first delegate to the Synodical meeting. Membership was reported as only nine in 1933 when Mrs. David Eckard was the delegate.

In this history of Pisgah we find the statement that the building used by the Pisgah Lutheran congregation was destroyed by fire in 1933. Shiloh offered their sanctuary for services to the Pisgah congregation until they could rebuild. They accepted.

Rev. C. W. Harbinson was pastor of Shiloh (with Friendship and St. John) the first time from 1940-1943. H. Belk Leonard served Shiloh (with Friendship and St. John) from 1944-1946. During this time Rev. Leonard also began services in Taylorsville which later led to the organization of Reformation, Taylorsville.

In 1947, Shiloh formed a parish with St. Luke, Conover, under the leadership of Rev. C. W. Harbinson. Under the inspiring and capable leadership of Pastor Harbinson, Shiloh began in 1949 to look to greater things. Mr. Gus H. Starnes deeded Shiloh a tract of land (where the present building stands) at the intersection of then Highway 127 and the Liledoun-Granite Falls Road for the purpose of building a new church. The deed was revised from this 1948 (May 29) reading on January 19, 1951, again on September 26, 1951, and finally on April 18, 1959 when all restrictions were removed.

Plans for a new church building were begun in 1950 and completed in 1951 at a cost of \$20,208.09. The new church building was used for the first time on December 23, 1951. The old church building was sold and removed from the location of what is now known as the Shiloh cemetery. The new church building with a full basement contained five Sunday school rooms, an assembly room, kitchen and rest rooms.

On February 19, 1956 the congregation voted to sever all ties with other congregations and to become self-supporting. Plans were drawn for a new parsonage. The parsonage was constructed on a beautiful lot overlooking Lake Hickory given the church by Duke Power Company. The parsonage, as was the church, was built at minimal cost because of the contribution on much labor and materials. The cost of the parsonage was \$12,500.00. At the time of the parsonage construction a loan of \$6,000.00 was secured. A new wing for the church was added in 1959. The new wing consisted of nine additional rooms, and a large additional assembly that opened into the east side of the church nave. The new addition was approved on July 29, 1959 and was completed several months later. At the time of the addition \$15000.00 was borrowed.

Pastor Harbinson's years at Shiloh were fruitful and productive since people readily responded with love to his ministry. Pastor Harbinson resigned on April 9, 1964. Dr. W. T. Nau from Lenoir Rhyne College served as vice-pastor thru July of 1964. The congregation issued a call to Glenn A. Yount on June 21, 1964. He began his work at Shiloh on August 1st.

With a beautiful church and Sunday school facilities and a wonderful nine room parsonage, Shiloh had only one way to go, forward. In the remaining months of 1964 alone a weekday school was started and continued through the pastorate of Don Safrit. This school met each Wednesday that public school was in session and included kindergarten through ninth grade. Pupil enrollment grew in future years to 75 children including three year instruction in Catheticism. A Lutheran men's group was organized with Lewis White as the first president. A new constitution was adopted. New lectern and pulpit Bibles were donated. For the first time a membership file was formed.

Other additions and improvements in properties and programs during the Yount pastorate include: 1965-honoring of senior members at Homecoming; in 1966-children's choir was formed, water cooler installed, a piano for the church was bought, the cemetery was plotted and marked, the youth of the church constructed a brick lawn sign. In 1967

the church paid the synodical apportioned benevolence in full for the first time in the history of the church, a youth banquet was started. Chrismons were made and the first Chrismon tree was used at Christmas. In 1968 the Chrismon tree was made into a Lenten cross which later blossomed for the Easter Service. The church interior was redecorated. The children's sermon was started.

After struggling for ten years to repay the indebtedness, a note-burning was held on June 22, 1969. A nursery was started during the worship service in 1969. The young people drew a crowd of 275 to their rendition of the "Winds of God", a Folk Mass sung by the Pastor and Shiloh youth. In 1970 the church was re-roofed in March and a church office was equipped for the first time. The church was air-conditioned in 1971. This year also brought the use of "Celebrate", early communion of youth and new Baldwin piano. In 1972 a tract of land of about one and one-third acres at the east side of the church property was purchased. In 1973 monthly communion was started as was an annual Mother-Daughter Banquet. The church parking lot was paved in 1974 at a cost of \$8,722. On August 18, 1974 Pastor Yount resigned and ended his ten year ministry at Shiloh on October 6th.

Pastor Don Safrit responded to a call extended to him on June 16, 1975. He continued as pastor of Shiloh until 1980. Some of the accomplishments and activities of the church during his pastorate include the following. A pictorial directory was compiled in 1976. The use of the first part-time secretary and the special 5th Sunday Love Offering in 1978. The church bought a bus and built a ramp extending along the side of the church for those who had difficulty with steps. The church parsonage was sold and a housing allowance was established for Shiloh's pastors. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service began and continues through the date.

This time also brought about some changes that weren't readily accepted by everyone, this being the use of Lay readers, communion helpers, and girl acolytes. We also adopted the use of the New Lutheran Book of Worship. The ministry of taking a recorded tape of Sunday morning worship service to the shut-ins was started. A new Sunday school office was set up and a basketball court was poured. Dr. Joe Glass served as vice-pastor from the time of the resignation of Safrit until the call to Dr. Charles Dickson.

Dr. Charles Dickson began his pastorate at Shiloh on June 1, 1981. The use of processional cross was included in the worship service. The church bus was sold and a van was purchased in 1984. A parcel of land adjoining the church property was secured from Bethlehem Realty in 1985.

In 1985 came the long awaited reality of a parish hall for Shiloh. Construction began in 1985 and was completed in May, 1986.

Dr. Dickson resigned as pastor of Shiloh effective October 31, 1985. Rev. Glenn A Yount agreed to serve as vice-pastor for Shiloh for as long as needed.

A congregational meeting was held on May 18, 1986 to extend a call to Seminarian Greg Williams to serve as pastor for Shiloh. Pastor Williams was called to begin his pastoral duties on June 9, 1986 following his ordination.

And now Shiloh, with its new pastorate family, looks to the future with great expectations-to grow in faith, increase its membership, to set higher goals and strive to achieve them. We give thanks to all those before us who labored so faithfully in God's

work. It is our hope that Shiloh will continue in these footsteps and its willingness to reach out to all those in need and minister to them.

Pastors

1886	Daniel J. Settlemyre (Organized Shiloh)
1886-1889	Charles H. Bernheim
1889-1895	Jefferson P. Miller
1894-1896	A. L. Crouse
1895-1896	J. L. Cromer
1896-1897	R. L. Fritz
1897-1905	E. J. Sox
1907-1909	J. P. Price
1909-1913	Abner Lafayette Bolick
1913-1921	Joshua Alonzo Yount
1924-1926	M. L. Pence
1927-1931	Cy Emmet Lutz
1932-1939	Lawson Pettus Boland
1940-1943	Cline W. Harbinson
1944-1946	Henry Belk Leonard
1947-1964	Cline W. Harbinson
1964-1974	Glenn A. Yount
1975-1980	Donald L. Safrit
1981-1985	Dr. Charles Dickson
1985-1986	Glenn A. Yount (Supplied)
1986-1990	Greg Williams
1996-2002	Jeffrey L Hoffner
2004-	Rosa C Erickson