

Union

Salisbury

Union Church is located on the Bringle Ferry Road about five miles east of Salisbury. The date of the organization is not definitely known. Rev. Arends organized it while he was pastor of Organ Church. The date given in the Minutes of Synod is 1774. The warrant for a survey for a land grant was issued on June 6, 1778, for a tract of 118 acres for this church. The land was deeded to the "Dutch Pine Meeting House", later known as Union Church, on November 26, 1793. The deed is signed by Richard Dobbs Spaight, Governor of North Carolina with the Seal of the State affixed thereto. From this record it is certain that an organized church was in operation here as far back as 1778, and may have been much earlier.

The first house of worship was constructed of hewn pine logs hence it was called the Pine Church. It was weatherboarded on the outside and ceiled on the inside. This building was erected in 1779 and was used until 1879—a period of 100 years. It stood a little north of the present church. There was a gallery on three sides, a high pulpit on the north side, a door in the south end and one in the side next to the graveyard. Some of the timber in this old church was used to build the first parsonage, which still stands across from the church. Some of the old timber was used in the old school building, which has been renovated and made into a recreational unit for the church.

The present church is of brick and was constructed in 1879 while Rev. R. L. Brown was pastor. It was dedicated on the first Sunday in December 1879, with the President of the Synod, Rev. L. A. Bikle assisting in the service. The cost of the building was approximately \$2600. The building is 40 x 60 feet, with a gallery on one end. In 1910, a tower was built and a bell installed, while Rev. J. C. Dietz, a Sunday School annex was built, and a brick parsonage was completed in 1928. In 1951 and 1952, under the pastorate of Rev. Thurmond C. Plexico, the old church was completely renovated, two Sunday School annexes constructed, two transepts added, a beautiful chime system installed, and a new tower has been completed.

Union Church was at one time in a parish with Organ Church, then with St. John's Church (Salisbury). But when the Rev. Simeon Scherer was pastor, he organized Christiana Church in 1871 which was placed in a parish with Union and remained so until 1908, when, during the pastoral services of Rev. L. B. Spracher, Union congregation decided to operate on a full time pastoral basis. Preliminary services to the organization of Synod in 1803, including Holy Communion, were held in Union Church.

Pastors

1774-1785	J. G. Arends (Visitation Services)
1788-1810	C. A. G. Storch (Part time)
1820-1823	Vacant
1823	Daniel Jenkins
1826-1831	John Reck
1833-1835	Samuel Rothrock
1836	Daniel Jenkins
1837-1842	Samuel Rothrock

1843	William Artz
1844	Samuel Rothrock
1845-1846	J. B. Anthony
1847-1850	W. G. Harter
1851	L. C. Groseclose
1852-1854	Simeon Scherer
1855	Vacant
1856	B. C. Hall
1857-1865	L. C. Groseclose
1867	D. I. Dreher
1867-1868	W. H. Cone
1869-1872	Simeon Scherer
1873	Vacant
1874	W. H. Cone
1874-1884	R. L. Brown
1884	H. L. Yarger, Student
1885	J. M. Hedrick
1886-1889	J. W. Strickler
1890-1893	J. Q. Wertz
1894-1900	C. A. Brown
1900	J. L. Morgan, Student
1900-1903	J. P. Miller
1903-1907	N. D. Bodie
1908-1914	L. B. Spracher
1914-1915	R. L. Patterson
1916-1919	C. R. Pless
1919-1922	J. B. Haigler
1923-1925	J. C. Dietz
1926-1927	N. D. Bodie
1927-1932	J. C. Dietz
1932-1949	B. E. Petrea
1949-1951	W. B. Weant
1951-1953	T. C. Plexico
1954-1958	T J Shumate
1961-1971	VA Frick
1971-1985	LA Lippard
1986-1991	EW Cleckley Jr
1992-2005	LD Norris
2007-	RF Howard