

Organ

Salisbury

The year 1745 is thought to be the date of organization of Organ congregation by German emigrants migrating from New York and Pennsylvania. Although they could gather for worship no regular Pastor had come south with them. Two men Christopher Rentleman and Christopher Lyerle made the journey to England and Germany to secure not only a Pastor but also a school teacher. Two men were selected, Adolphus Nussman and John G. Arends. They arrived in 1773 and immediately began to work. Until 1788 when the Rev. C. A. Storch arrived from Germany no regular records were kept. The record book that Pastor Storch began is existent and in good condition. Prior to 1786 Johannes Stigerwalt built a pipe organ into the log church that preceded the stone church, the very first such instrument in the south. Having an organ caused Zion Church to be commonly called "The Organ Church", and was so labeled on a deed dated 1786. When the stone church was completed in 1794 the organ was moved into the gallery facing the high wine stem pulpit, and was used for about 100 years. When it was dismantled, keys, pipes, and other parts which had been made into yardsticks were sold. Around 1835 a Sunday School was established during the pastorate of Rev. Henry Graeber. Both he and Pastor Storch are buried in Organ cemetery.

During the tenure of Rev. W. R. Brown (1886-1894) the stone church was repaired and painted, the roof raised and made steeper, the flagstone floor taken up and replaced by wood, overlaid with carpet. The high pulpit was removed. During this time the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized and became one of the most active. Mrs. Brown was its first President.

By 1954 when the Rev. William E. Hall came to serve Organ, the attendance at service had outgrown the seating capacity of the church. Thoughts turned to building a larger, better equipped worship and educational facility. Ground breaking for the new church and educational building which cost approximately \$235,000.00 took place on March 9, 1958. All of the gray granite stone used in the church came from the nearby Earnhardt quarry, and was laid by Noel Stirewalt, a member of the congregation. The congregation moved into their new church building on August 7, 1960, and the building was consecrated on June 25, 1961. The parking lot and driveways were paved in 1965. During the tenure of Rev. E. W. Ridenhour a new pipe organ built by Cassavant Freres of Quebec, Canada was installed in April 1972. The organ which cost \$54,000.00 contains 1,814 pipes ranging in size from one inch to eight feet in length. The organ was used for the first time for a worship service on June 4, 1972.

The year 1973 marked the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Adolphus Nussman and John Gottfried Arends in North Carolina, and of the spread of Lutheranism in this part of the country. On August 12, 1973, a monument which celebrated the arrival of Nussman and Arends was unveiled in an area between the old and new churches. Under the leadership of Rev. G. David Swygert in August 1984 the congregation voted to air condition the church sanctuary and educational building at a cost of \$103,000.00. The air conditioning was first used for a worship service on June 16, 1985.

Pastors

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|-----------|--------------------|
| 1773-1774 | Adolphus Nussmann |
| 1775-1785 | J. G. Arends |
| 1785-1787 | Adolphus Nussmann |
| 1788-1823 | C. A. G. Storch |
| 1823-1829 | Daniel Scherer |
| 1829-1832 | Jacob Kempfer |
| 1832-1843 | Henry Graeber |
| 1844-1866 | Samuel Rothrock |
| 1866- | W. H. Cone |
| 1866-1867 | William Artz |
| 1867-1869 | Samuel Rothrock |
| 1869-1870 | Simeon Scherer |
| 1870-1873 | W. H. Cone |
| 1873-1874 | W. R. Ketchie |
| 1874-1875 | P.A. Strobel |
| 1876-1886 | Samuel Rothrock |
| 1886-1894 | W. R. Brown |
| 1894-1904 | G. H. Cox |
| 1904-1907 | C. A. Brown |
| 1908-1913 | H. A. Trexler |
| 1914-1918 | R. R. Sowers |
| 1918-1919 | L. L. Lohr |
| 1919-1922 | M. L. Ridenhour |
| 1922-1936 | P. L. Miller |
| 1936-1954 | O. W. Aderholdt |
| 1954-1963 | William E. Hall |
| 1964-1974 | E.W. Ridenhour |
| 1975-1981 | Lawrence Bollinger |
| 1981-1992 | G. David Swygert |
| 1992-2005 | John E. Pless |
| 2006- | Terrell G Long Jr |