

St. Martin's

Maiden

On November 26, 1893, a few scattered Lutherans met in the "Old Schrum School House" near the D. A. Finger home. Under the leadership of the late W. P. Cline, DD, the motion was made by the late J. F. Rabb and seconded by the late M. R. Bost to organize a Lutheran congregation in Maiden. The outcome of this meeting was St. Martins Evangelical Lutheran Congregation.

Thirty-two charter members composed the original congregation. Eighteen of this number came from Salem Lutheran Church, Lincoln County. Twelve came from St. James Lutheran Church near Newton. The other two came from "Old" St. Pauls in Catawba County. Of the original thirty-two one is still very active in the congregation, namely Mr. R. A. Rudisill. He and the Mr. and Mrs. Ed. L. Propst of Charlotte, NC are the only survivors of the original number.

For some time services were conducted in the school house. Then the Reformed and Methodist Congregations, in a very fine spirit, gave the Lutherans the use of their churches when they themselves had no services. The Lutherans are still grateful for this kindness which they enjoyed until they were able to erect a place of worship. Led by the pastor, Dr. W. P. Cline, a movement for the erection of a Lutheran Church was begun. At a congregational meeting Dr. Cline, Mr. M. R. Bost, and Mr. J. F. Rabb were authorized to begin their work as a building committee. In October 1894 work was started on the original Church building. Mr. Bost agreed to make the brick and place them on the church lot which was purchased from Mr. Solomon Shurm. Dr. Cline furnished the lumber for all framing and sub-flooring. Mr. Henry Killian directed the carpenter work; Mr. Salathael Bolick was in charge of the brick work. The church was completed in 1895 at a cost of \$7,000.00 and dedicated in 1896 by Dr. Cline and Dr. R. A. Yoder. At that time the church was well suited to the needs of the congregation. The membership was small, yet it was progressive and grew in both, ideals and numbers. St. Martins was a part of the St. James Pastorate for many years. On March 26, 1905, St. Martins withdrew from St. James Pastorate and united with the "Hickory and Newton" pastorate. A few years later St. Martin's and Salem were united into the Maiden Pastorate. Later, Lutheran Chapel also became a unit in this parish. On March 24, 1912, a parsonage was purchased from Vance Whitener for the sum of \$1,000.00. It was seven years later that a lot, adjoining the church lot was purchased from Dr. Bandy for the amount of \$600.00. The size of the lot was 60 x 210 ft. Our present parsonage was erected here at an approximate cost of \$5,000.00.

It was during the year of 1916 that electric lights were installed in the church; the cost of installation was \$18.00. At the beginning of World War I the pastor's salary was only \$600.00 in the Maiden parish.

Later another lot was added to the property of St. Martins. The lot behind the Church adjoining "Second Street" was co-owned by Mr. Wm. Bolick and Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Rudisill. The congregation paid Mr. Bolick \$200.00 for his share of the property and received as a donation the share belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Rudisill.

The Rev. C. R. Patterson became the pastor of the congregation in 1922. Soon thereafter, plans were made for the erection of a Sunday School Building. Work was begun on the Sunday School Building in November, 1925 and, was completed in March

1926 at a cost of \$750.00. The congregation acknowledges a generous gift of \$3650.00 from the late D. E. Rhyne for this project. There were also many other smaller donations from members and friends of the congregation.

A fund was started for the purpose of remodeling the original church building during the pastorate of Rev. J. L. Norris. This fund grew throughout the pastorate of Rev. Norris and had reached the amount of \$764.68 in 1937 when he resigned. G. E. Mauney, W. F. Smith, and R.R. Coulter were appointed as building committee. By June 1940 sufficient money had been raised under the leadership of the Rev. A. W. Lippard to begin the remodeling. With Mr. R. L. Clemmer of Hickory as architect the contract was let July 29, 1940 to Herman Sipe and Co., Conover, NC for the sum of \$3000.00 the congregation furnishing the brick and sand. The original church was brick veneered, a beautiful and tall tower was erected and a modern steam heating system was installed. An expenditure of \$6,000.00 was required to complete this work. During the pastorate of the Rev. James E. Walker who came to Maiden in 1943, a hard wood floor was laid in the church, new pews, and chancel furniture were installed, and other improvements (including parsonage renovation) required and expenditure of approximately \$5850.00

At a congregational meeting December 29, 1946, it was unanimously voted that St. Martins become a self-supporting congregation and that this congregation withdraw from Salem and Lutheran Chapel. The Maiden congregation paid Salem \$2,000.00 for their interest in the parsonage. Rev. Walker became full time pastor of St. Martins. On August 15, 1947, Pastor Walker called a council meeting for the purpose of purchasing a house and lot, this was on the corner adjoining the West side of the church lot. (This lot extends from West Main St. to Second St.) The congregation was fortunate in the fact that this property was owned by four of its devout members. Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Rudsill owned two-thirds of the lot, Mr. G. E. Mauney owned one third. They, having the future welfare of the congregation in mind, refused to sell the property to any party other than the church even though they were offered a thousand dollars more. This property was purchased at a cost of three thousand dollars. The house on the property is used for meetings of auxiliaries and boy scouts. It also makes a fine recreational building. Now the congregation owns at least three-fourth of one of the most valuable blocks in the town of Maiden. During the last year of Pastor Walker's service in Maiden an organ was installed at a cost of \$3,150.00. Members of the congregation contributed generously for this project in money, material and very skilled labor in the installation of it. Recently the congregation re-decorated the parsonage and landscaped the parsonage lot. We are now completing the renovation of our beautiful church and Sunday School Building. Many new church furnishings are being donated by our members. The cost for the latest improvements is estimated at \$1,000.00.

The roll of members of St. Martins reached the number of 331 baptized members, and 223 confirmed members during the year of 1950, however our roll of members is now undergoing a revision which will diminish our number.

Much sacrifice of time, labor, and money has gone into the history of St. Martin's to make possible the excellent plant we now have. While our membership is not large considering the age of our congregation, the Savior has touched many lives through this group. Many have moved from St. Martins and continue to serve in the Master's name. The majority of our members is most loyal and faithful. Our charter member, Mr.

Rudisill, has served as a councilman continuously since the organization of the congregation and as secretary for fifty-seven years. We congratulate him for a life of continued service.

Six sons of this congregation have entered or are entering the holy ministry.

Pastors

1893-1898	Dr. W. P. Cline
1898-1900	Dr. R. A. Yoder
1900-1901	J. L. Cromer
1901-1905	Dr. R. A. Yoder
1905-1913	Dr. J. L. Cromer
1914-1917	F. M. Speagle
1918-1921	W. D. Wise
1922-1926	C. R. Patterson
1927-1937	J. L. Norris
1938-1942	A. W. Lippard
1942-1951	James E. Walker
1951-1954	Corley Lineberger
1955-1958	Frank Lyerly
1958-1964	Edgar Lindler
1965-1970	Bill Trull
1971-1983	Luther Sloop
1984-1988	G. Reginald Cruse
1989-1997	Lester O Roof Jr
1999-	John P Lingle

Supply Pastors

J. L. Deaton
Dr. F. G. Morgan
G. W. Nelson
Dr. E. C. Cooper
Dr. Albert Kiser

According to our records there was never a long vacancy in this parish, and we do not have an accurate record of the exact time in which these men supplied. There were also others who supplied this congregation not listed above.