

Mt. Hermon

Statesville

Organized: 1896

County: Iredell

Affiliations: Tennessee Synod, NC Synod

Status: Active

On June 28, 1896, a public announcement was made that those interested in forming a new congregation should meet. On July 26, 1896 that meeting was held. Rev. William Darr, minister of St. Martin's and St. John's met with thirty-eight charter members who held in their hands either a certificate of membership or a letters of transfer from St. Martin's or Sharon. That same day a constitution was drawn up stating

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. The members of the church of Christ, sensible of spiritual needs and mindful of our Christian duties, have decided to form a Congregation under the style and title of Mt. Hermon Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iredell County, North Carolina, and to adopt the subjoined constitution.

It was signed by J.S. Morrison, C.A. Troutman, Q.A. Hoover, and G.L. Eller. The officers elected at that time were; Elders-Rufus P. Pope, G.L. Eller, and H.I. Morrison, Deacons Q.A. Hoover and J.S. Morrison, Treasurer- J.S. Morrison. This group of people wasted no time. Q. A. Hoover deeded the members an acre of land on which to build. A plea was made for lumber and willing hands to erect the church building with the understanding that they would meet to worship in the open as soon as the lumber was on the grounds. By October 25, 1896, the 35' x 40' building was completed and furnished with a pulpit, communion table, lectern, and flower pedestal made by Immanuel Frye of St. John's. The pews were made by the people who erected the building. Mt. Hermon celebrated its first Communion service on October 25, 1896 with music led by an organ and heat provided by stoves. On that same day, two young men were confirmed, bringing the total communing membership to forty.

In the early 1900's, the Henry Gilbert, Robert Hoke, and Miles Sigmon families moved from Catawba County to Iredell County. Also with some Fries and the Dolph Moose family coming and including children maturing and being confirmed, membership at Mt. Hermon was growing.

Mt. Hermon built its second church in 1941-1942 under the leadership of Rev. Wade Dutton and the building committee; James Gobble, Henry Gilbert, and Troy Shoemaker. Again with donations of materials and labor, the second church was completed, furnished and dedicated on August 23, 1942. The original church was moved back to become the Sunday School class rooms. It and the new nave were all brick veneered. The parsonage was built in 1953. The educational building was built during 1960-1962 while Rev. Billy Vanerford was minister. The educational building was dedicated on February 17, 1963 and Rev. Lawrence Yount was installed as our minister by Dr. George Whittecar, President of North Carolina Synod. Rev. and Mrs. Lawrence Yount are still with us, now in 33 years of

ministry at Mt. Hermon. Their four children have matured, married, and are active members.

The last thirty years have been spent improving buildings. No longer having the benefit of members knowledgeable to build as the former members did, things are much different now. The congregation has maintained and upgraded in many ways including air-conditioning, better heating, stained glass windows, better organs, steeple, paved parking lot, and enlarging the parsonage. Through the building of two churches, an educational building, a parsonage, and all improvements Mt. Hermon has never had a debt. As each project was completed, all accounts were paid in full. This is not the general way churches develop, but the forefathers taught their children: no debts!

As Mt. Hermon celebrated the first hundred years of ministry, its prayer was for God's continued blessings on the Mt. Hermon of today; and a fervent prayer for the church of Mt. Hermon in the future. With a strong faith in God and strong dedicated members willing to work for the advancement and increase of God's Kingdom, this can be accomplished. All things are possible with God.

Pastors:

1896-1906 William Leo Darr
1907-1910 Charles Jason Sox
1911-1917 William Darr Haltiwanger
1918-1921 Michael Jonas Senter
1921-1924 David Leander Miller
1925-1928 Quincy Oscar Lyerly
1930-1931 Robert Hugh Kepley
 J. L. Thornburg, supply
 Roscoe Brown Fisher, supply
1933-1935 Olin Gray Swicegood
1935-1938 Paul Edward Moose
1939-1943 Wade Hampton Dutton
1943-1950 Rubertus M. Carpenter
1950 Student Ernest W. Ridenhour
1951-1953 Ernest W, Ridenhour
1953-1958 Wade Hampton Dutton
1958-1959 William Jackson Kite Jr.
1960-1962 Billy Lee Vanderford
1962-2001 Lawrence Edwin Yount
2002- Gene W Bruce