

Historical notes from the original Shiloh Cookbook 1

Shiloh ARP Church

The early records of Shiloh Church have been lost, but there are some sources available that tell us that at first Shiloh was a part of Old Waxhaw Church prior to 1800. In 1802, a rival meeting was held at Waxhaw and after that meeting, some dissatisfaction arose among the officers and members. As a result, three elders withdrew. This seems to be the beginning of Shiloh. Prior to the withdrawal, several preaching posts were set up and supplied occasionally. One of these posts was called Black Jack. This is where Shiloh now stands.

In 1821, John Craig deeded five acres of land to the Waxhaw Associate Church, known by the name Shiloh Church. There is no record of the original building, but in all probability, it was built of logs.

From 1811 to 1940, Shiloh was united with different churches. These included Neely's Creek, Tirzah, Edgemoor, and First Lancaster. In 1892, it was decided to remodel the building. The Women's Society raised several hundred dollars to help carry on the work. At this time, the arched ceiling replaced the flat overhead ceiling and the pulpit was moved from the north to the south end.

Since 1941, Shiloh has had a full time pastor. Shiloh launched a building program to build a new sanctuary and additional Sabbath School classrooms to relieve the overcrowded conditions. This beautiful and stately sanctuary was consecrated on June 4, 1967, and dedicated on August 13, 1978.

The most recent plans include adding a Family Life Center to begin construction in the near future. *(Has been completed and put to good use.)*

Old Church

Shiloh, the oldest Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Lancaster County, had its beginning in the late 1700's as a preaching post known as Black Jack. Shiloh was organized about 1802. The original building was probably a log cabin. *(The cookbook has a sketch by Mr. Bryan Ghent depicting the old church.)* The above is a sketch of the building which was erected before the Civil War. It was remodeled in 1872 and again in 1892. In 1916, it was refloored, new windows were installed and a front porch was added. The building was torn down in 1965 to make room for the current building.

Shiloh's Cemetery

The oldest marker in the cemetery is a hand chiseled slate marker dated 1801 for a little eight year old girl who died January 14, 1801. The tall monument in the rear of the cemetery was erected to Rev. Thomas Ketchens who is the only minister who has served the Shiloh Church to be buried in this cemetery. He was first buried at Knob Creek. At the request of Shiloh members, his body was later brought to Shiloh. His wife and daughter are also buried here.

In the spring of 1893, the Women's Society undertook to place an iron fence around the cemetery. They put their heads, hands and hearts to work and raised \$425.00 selling butter, eggs, vegetables, etc. In 1901, the fence was erected.

Gateway

A stone gateway marks the entrance to the grounds of Shiloh. This was erected by Joseph Emanuel Ghent and his brother, Harvey Lytle Ghent in memory of Shiloh's veterans of World Wars I and II. This gateway was dedicated at the meeting of Catawba Presbytery at Shiloh on April 8, 1947.

Ranson Hall

In the spring of 1953, the men of Shiloh built a fellowship hall. This was named Ranson Hall in honor of the pastor, Dr. A. J. Ranson. The hall has (*had*) a kitchen, two Sunday School classrooms, restrooms and the church library. The hall is used for various group meetings and the many covered dish meals enjoyed by the members. (*Ranson Hall has since been incorporated into the new Family Life Center.*)

Shiloh's Rose Window

The rose window over the pulpit area was designed by the Willet Stained Glass Studio in Philadelphia. The glass used by the company comes from various countries of the world. This company is known for its blues, having eighty shades of blue in their designs. It is the quality of glass, not the quantity that adds beauty. Certainly this window has quality. It depicts a ministry of colors.

The rose window was given in memory of Samuel David Robinson, a life long member of Shiloh, by his twenty-five grandchildren. Mr. Robinson was born in 1851 and died in 1919. Some of his grandchildren are current members of Shiloh.

Official Seal of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

The seal of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church expresses through the symbols the basic conviction of the denomination. The SHIELD signifies faith and trust in God. The CROSS represents the Person and the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ. The CIRCLE is emblematic of eternity. The descending DOVE represents the presence of the Holy Spirit. The CIRCLE, the CROSS, and the DOVE represent the living presence of the Trinity – the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit – in the Church. The BOOK represents the Bible, the written word of God. The BURNING BUSH suggests the indestructibility of God's Word.

Miss Eloise Craig did a beautiful needlepoint tapestry of this seal. This tapestry was presented to the Patrick Bible Class in memory of Miss Virginia Cousar. It now hangs in that classroom.

Barbeque Shelter and Playground

For a number of years, the Shiloh men have prepared an annual barbeque for the enjoyment of the members and the community. For awhile, they had to prepare and cook the meat under the stars and cold. They built the shelter to make their job easier and more comfortable. So successful was their project that they soon enjoyed a fine reputation for the excellent barbeque throughout the county. The men use the revenue from this project to finance various activities of the church.

The fenced playground with the swings and the treehouse enable the children to have a place to play. It is used at Easter for the children's egg hunt, during Bible School, and the youth group activities.

Family Life Center

The congregation has just approved (*circa 1991*) a Family Life Center to be built in the near future (*in use*). This building will connect the present Ranson Hall. It will have a large room which will provide a half basketball court or a place for the various meal functions held for the members. It will also have several classrooms for the Sunday School Classes. This not only will provide more and better space for the Sunday School Classes, but also provide a facility for the enjoyment of the young people.

Footnote:

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