

Churches in the Shenandoah Valley

Antioch Church of the Brethren
23502 Senedo Rd
Woodstock VA 22664



A brief History

The congregation began four years after the Civil War in 1868 as a part of the old Woodstock Congregation. On October 24, 1868 John Rickard purchased from Jacob Haun and his wife, Elizabeth Haun, $7 \frac{3}{4}$ acres of land for \$308.12 and from this lot surveyed and laid off $1 \frac{1}{2}$ acres of land for church purposes. The next year (1869) the construction was

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begun, supervised by William Peters. A frame church with four corners was built large enough to seat comfortably 200 people. Soon after the church was completed it was dedicated and regular services were being held for about 50 years.

In 1921 the church was closed due to the lack of interest and no services were held for about 10 years. In July 1931, interest revived by a few faithful members and work was started to restore the building and get it in condition for services. Two chimneys were built, a new ceiling of wood was installed, interior walls were papered, electric lights installed, pulpit built, window lights replaced and wood work was refinished. Approximate cost was \$300. The dedication services for the remodeled church were held on Sunday, November 15, 1931 with Elder J. Carson Miller preaching the sermon.

Sunday School was organized the same year which has been a continuous and growing program of the church. The first Love Feast in the remodeled church was held on August 5, 1933 conducted by L. M. Helsley, Russell Showalter, and S. I. Bowman. In 1957, the members erected an addition onto the back of the church for bathrooms and Sunday School rooms and dug out a basement which was used as a kitchen and fellowship hall. In 1958, the vestibule was added. On September 26, 1960, Homecoming and dedication of the new Sunday School rooms was held. Also, the first Vacation Bible School was organized in 1960. .

In 2004, a major addition was completed including a new fellowship hall, new kitchen and bathrooms. We also purchased nearly four additional acres of land to provide for future expansion. The loan on these items was paid off several years early in 2010.

In 2007, the Antioch Little Duckling Preschool began with a halfday program but has enlarged to 3 different classes. In that same year, a

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second worship service was added at 8:30am to accommodate continued growth.

Some of the pastors over the years have included: Elder H.R. (Ramsey) Mowery, J.K. Leedy, Walter Burner, Lawrence Helsley, Clyde Hilton, Harry Lau, Olen Landes, and Fred Mauck and currently George Bowers as Pastor and Stephanie Heishman-Litten as Associate Pastor.

The Mission Statement of the Church is: The Antioch Church of the Brethren is a Bible Based Family of God, led by the Holy Spirit, helping others to know Jesus and learning to be living examples of Christ in our community.

Antioch is one of 102 congregations of the Shenandoah District Church of the Brethren (www.shencob.org) which has its headquarters in Weyer's Cave, Va which is part of the Church of the Brethren denomination headquartered in Elgin, Illinois (www.brethren.org).

Submitted by Becky Leyland, August, 2012