

## Churches in the Shenandoah Valley

### Campbellite (or Salem) Church

11117 S. Middle Rd

Mt Jackson, VA



#### A brief History

The Church, originally known as Upper Hamburg, or Salem Church was dedicated May 27, 1877 by a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation and became known locally as the Campbellite Church. (Spelled Campbelite in the Lake Atlas 1885) after the name of the followers of Alexander Campbell who was an early leader in the Second Great Awakening of the religious movement that was referred to as the Restoration Movement or Stone-Campbell Movement. In 1832 the group of reformers in Washington County, Pennsylvania led by the Campbells (father and son) who were known as the Disciples of Christ merged with a similar group that began in Kentucky led by Barton Stone. Several American church groups trace their history back to the Campbells' leadership including the Churches of Christ, the Independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of

No longer used as a church – private building

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Christ). One of the prominent residents of Hamburg in 1880 was Joseph Fultz and together with Fenton T. Rinker, were prominent in the building of Salem Church.

John Wayland's home was near Salem and in his book "A History of Shenandoah County" on page 396, he states that his first years at Sunday School were spent at this church.

The membership declined and so the church building was sold to the Lutherans.

Dr J. Paul Stirewalt , a Lutheran minister from New Market, organized the congregation of Salem Church on August 21, 1898. In his letter to John Wayland, dated January 22, 1925 confirming the above fact, he states that the Pastor is now Rev W.L.Darr who also is the pastor of St David's Lutheran Church in Powell's Fort (now Fort Valley).

This Lutheran Church was closed and the building sold to the Bowman Family in 1945-6.

*Written by Philip Crown February 2012*

References: Wikipedia,  
"A History of Shenandoah County" by John Wayland  
information from Becky Bowman.

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