

Churches in the Shenandoah Valley

Edinburg Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

210 Center Street

Edinburg, VA 22824-0117



A brief History

1836 is the earliest recorded date in the records of the Edinburg Christian Church. In that year Ellen Saum was baptized by Rev. Robert Ferguson, Minister of the Zion Church at Maurertown, from its beginning in 1833. He was part of the O'Kelly movement until approximately 1836 when he discovered the larger and more widespread movement of Thomas and Alexander Campbell. (known as the Cambellite Movement from which sprang the Disciples of Christ).

There was an "Old Christian Church" at Narrow Passage that served the dual role of schoolhouse and church (the Union Church at Narrow Passage) As Edinburg grew, the Campbell group moved into town and initially early meetings were held in private homes

Church website: www.edinburgchristianchurch.blogspot.com

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and then in an “Old pottery shop”. The pottery shop was next to the old firehouse (now Theatre Shenandoah), across from the old EUB Church on Center Street.

In 1856 the Edinburg church was organized and construction began by John Saum of Maurertown and his sons, Israel and David, on land donated by Joseph Hoffman.. The number 1856 can be read on the church cornerstone.

Services were discontinued during the Civil War.

In 1868 Rev. R. C. Cave began his ministry at the church and the building was finally completed in 1869. It had two doors at the front, one for women and one for men. In 1870 the church had 77 members.

The tin ceiling in the sanctuary was very common in the valley churches at that time, largely because it was inexpensive to install. A painting of the Roman garden scene at the center of the ceiling in the original blue and gold was made by Louise Evans and now hangs in the “museum room” of the church.

The center chandelier and six light fixtures originally burned oil and were purchased for a total cost of \$18.25. Two wood stoves provided heat, one on the men’s side and one on the women’s side of the sanctuary. Holes in the ceiling where the stove pipes exited are still evident.

In its history the Church has known periods of decline and new growth. In one of the revival periods about 1898, when the church had 177 members, a bell tower, a center door, and two large windows were added at the front of the building to replace the separate doors for men and women. At about the same time a coal furnace was installed under the church and the “old” chancel furniture (now in the museum room) was acquired.

In 1924 the congregation began sharing minister with its sister church in Woodstock and continued this practice until 2003 when each church hired their individual ministers.

In 1949 the house and lot next door was purchased for the parsonage.

In 1952 the church installed a hot air furnace and dug out the dirt area underneath the building to make room for four classrooms. An addition on the back of the building provided room for a full kitchen, an assembly room and five large classrooms. At about the same time, over a period of years, Jake Sheetz built of walnut the rails around the choir and organ area, the baptistery arch and doors beside the chancel and the chancel furniture which is now in use.

During the 1990’s the sanctuary was air-conditioned and a ramp added at the side door to provide access for the handicapped persons. Between 2000 and 2001 a public address system and pew cushions were added in the sanctuary and the parking lot was paved.

Written from information provided by Connie Mantz

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EDINBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

1836 - 1984

1869



1898



1952