

## Churches in the Shenandoah Valley

### The Palmyra Church of the Brethren Fellowship

Palmyra Church Rd,  
Edinburg, VA 22824



#### A brief History

The Palmyra Church was organized in the Palmyra School House on June 20, 1885 with 14 charter members with Rev, D.A. Barry as the preacher. The membership grew rapidly, many of whom were from the Edinburg Christian Church which had existed from 1849 to 1896 and also the Narrow Passage Church which existed from 1866 to 1886.

On July 11, 1885 John Clem and John Carper were elected the first Deacons.

The Palmyra School House was used as a place of worship until 1907, when the Woodland Church near Weyers Cave, Augusta Co., Virginia was torn down and moved and rebuilt. Rev

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A.W. Andes was the pastor at that time.

The day that the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, the church was destroyed by fire. Due to the quick action by those arriving for the morning service, the Organ, Pews, Pulpit and other furnishings were saved. Rev G.A. Veazly was to have held his first service in the church that night.

It was determined to rebuild the church and until that was completed, regular worship services were held in various homes in the community during the winter months and under shade trees during the summer months. By September 20, 1942, the first service was held in the incompleted Church.

In 1980 and 1981, due to dissatisfaction among the members, the Church was dissolved except for 6 members who stayed on and held a Sunday School there for a few months. Then for 18 months the doors were closed, but the 6 members took care of the upkeep of the building and the area around it.

In the summer of 1983 Rev John R Estep was asked to reopen the Church by five members and seven other members of the surrounding community. The first Sunday service was held the second Sunday after Labor Day weekend in 1983 with nine people attending the morning service. He remained pastor until his death in 2007.

In 1989, the Church became part of the Church of the Brethren, Shenandoah District and was renamed by the members "The Palmyra Church of the Brethren Fellowship" with 44 members on the Roll.

*Written from information supplied by Helen Huffman, Clerk, December 2011*

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