

Churches in the Shenandoah Valley

Zion Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
1772 Zion Church Rd
Maurertown, VA 22644



A brief History

The following is a copy of our first organizational meeting held at Zion Schoolhouse (also known as Bauserman's Schoolhouse) located southeast of Crossroads at Fishers Road and Riverview Road. There is a memorial marker at that site.

"Shenandoah County, Virginia - June 15, 1833

The undersigned brethren and sisters, having met at Zion Schoolhouse, to be organized as a Christian Church. Unanimously agreed.

That this church shall be called a Christian Church, and never by their consent be known

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by any other name.

And, That we take the scriptures as our only rule of faith and practice.

The members must be received into fellowship by the unanimous consent of all the members present at any Church meeting. But in all other matters, a majority shall decide and govern.

And, That we will keep a book in which the names of members present at every Church meeting shall be entered, and all other matters which this Church may think proper to record.

That we will hold our Church meetings at Zion Schoolhouse on the Saturday before the third Lord's day in every month.

That we will take a collection at every Church meeting in order to have a fund in the hands of the deacons for necessary uses.

That we choose Jacob Huddle and Henry Bauserman Deacons, and James Bauserman, a Clerk to keep our Church book.

Jacob Huddle, Henry Bauserman, James Bauserman, Jacob Crabill, John Pommons, William Romaine, Isaac Beydler, William Crabill, James Priest, George Tharp, Mary Bader, Elizabeth Bauserman, Barbara Huddle, Catharine Bauserman, Catharine Sonenstein, Sarah Kingery and Barbara Beydler.

At the same time Mary Miler and Frances Leary, were received into fellowship.

And adjourned til next Church meeting.

James Bauserman, Clerk

Henry Bauserman, Mod. "

The meeting house was located about one mile northeast of the present church site. Holy Communion was taken at each monthly service, and, within several months, it was decided to discuss a chapter of the Bible at each meeting and record it in the minutes which read like this: "At a meeting of the Christian Church in Zion's Schoolhouse on 15th day of March, 1834 A.D. met according to appointment, sang, prayed, read and expounded the 11th chapter of St. Mathew by our Lord". The well-being of each church member was the concern of the entire church and they kept close check on each member.

Elder Robert F. Furgason served the Church as the first evangelist with many Elders to follow him. Elder Daniel H. Rhodes served for 41 years.

Zion Christian Church became Disciples of Christ on June 20, 1842, hence the name Zion Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

In October 1846, it was mutually and peaceably agreed to form two congregations, one to worship at Bauserman's Schoolhouse (Zion) and the other at Borden's Schoolhouse (Saumsville) as sister churches. They divided equally the funds on hand and the garments used in baptism. In December, 1859, plans were made to build a new house of

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worship for the Disciples of Christ congregation at Zion to be located on the present site on Zion Church Road. The first mention of Sunday School was recorded in the minutes in August 1886.

In 1943, a house in the Village of Maurertown was given to Zion Church to be used as a parsonage and it was in use until 1999 when the property was sold.

Over the years, Zion went from a one-church charge to a four -church charge, which included Saumsville, Cedar Creek and Walnut Springs. In May 1976, the congregation voted to form a two-church charge with Cedar Creek. Zion became a one-church charge in April 1986.

Preaching went from one service a month in 1833 to preaching every Sunday. Sessions of Bible Study are held throughout the year to study God's Word.

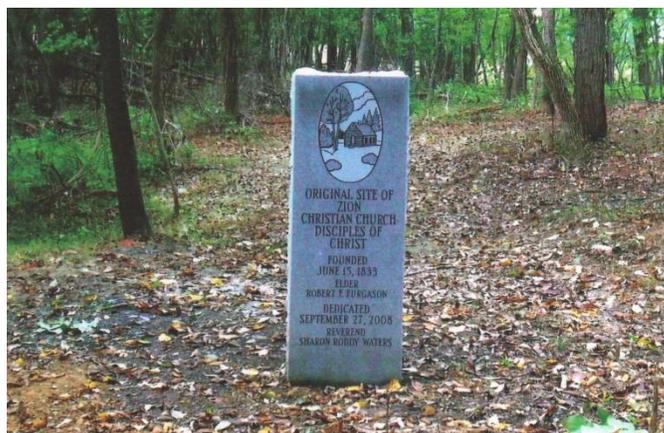
Many renovations and additions have been made to the original structure to accommodate the growing congregation, including classrooms, Fellowship hall and kitchen, Vestibule, Baptistry, Siding, Sound System, Handicap ramps, Picnic Shelter, Air-Conditioning, new Septic System and additional parking area. A beautifully kept cemetery adjoins the Church site.

The Women of the Church were organized on June 6, 1898 as The Ladies Aid and Missionary Society. In 1951, the name was changed to Christian Women's Fellowship and in 2010 to Zion Disciples Women.

On February 21, 1989, The Young Women's Circle was organized. This group provides many spiritual and entertaining activities and programs.

Youth of the Church and community have been active for many years, such as the Zion Mission Band in 1926, Triangle Missionary Club 1929-1936, Young People Circle 1943, which became the Christian Youth Fellowship in 1950.

Submitted by Mrs June Hockman, June, 2013

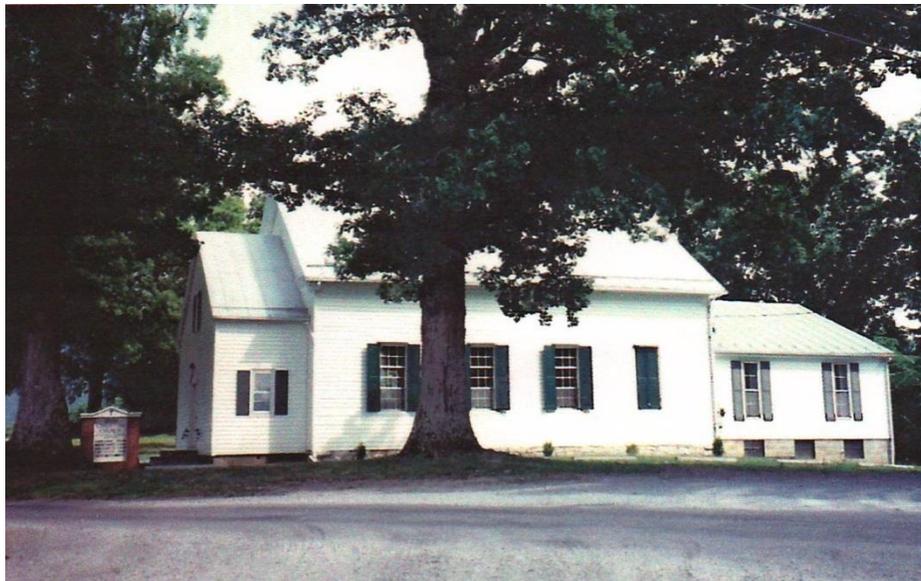
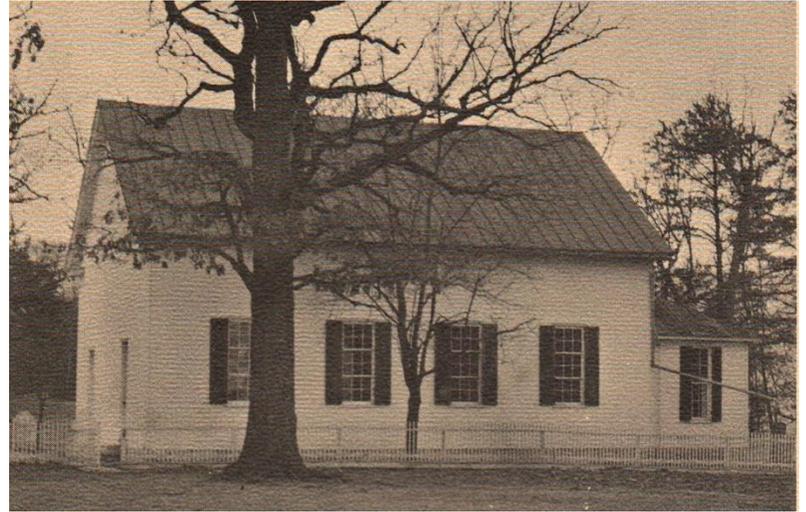


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Early pictures of church



Church as it is today

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