

## **The Timeline Review for Trinity United Church of Christ Manchester, Maryland (as of 5.30.13, Rev. 1)**

### **Introduction**

Trinity United Church of Christ has a long and rich history. The strengths and values which shape a church's present and guide its future can be found in its past. On May 19, 2013, our church undertook a review process using a timeline designed by Belva LaMotte, church member and local history buff. At the May 19 event, Belva reviewed the history of the church from the 1760's through the 1940's followed by other members who shared their memories of the decades after 1940 up to the present.

We learned through this review that God and the people of Trinity UCC have been faithful in spite of a variety of challenges throughout the years. It is our prayer that we will honor our God's faithfulness to us and those upon whose shoulders we stand in these present days and into the future.

### **1860's-1940's (Belva LaMotte)**

To quote my favorite source of history on the subject of Manchester and Trinity Church, "Two Centuries of Grace and Growth In Manchester, 1760-1960," by Pastor Harvey G. Schlichter, "A mighty oak tree does not spring up over night, and a church does not just happen."

Many of our ancestors were early German Settlers, (They were the PA Germans, commonly called PA Dutch and were refugees from the Palatinate area of Germany.)

A hundred years before, Governor William Penn of Pennsylvania, had established a colony where the poor, and oppressed from other nations would be welcomed and they could worship as they chose. The Germans came off the boats, with their German bibles, Heidelberg Catechisms, and Reformed hymnbooks. They were ready to settle in this new land. As the immigration continued, they pushed westward and southward, spilling into Maryland. A great number of these immigrants were Lutheran or Reformed with a real desire to build a church so that they might worship the Almighty God. However, they were lacking ordained ministers.

On October 23, 1758, His Lordship's Land Office (Lord Baltimore's Land Office) issued the German Church in Baltimore County, a grant for 25 acres of land.

The building of the first church must have begun shortly after the land was granted. The dedication service for the new church was held on February 12, 1760. This church was a **Union** church, which meant the same building would be used for two congregations.

There were 5 reasons why they would build a union church.

1. The two churches existed side by side in Germany, and were close in doctrine.

2. There were only a small group of worshipers living in the area. The original Covenant, or agreement was signed by 36 men and 2 ministers.
3. There were intermarriages between the two churches.
4. Money was scarce, and thrifty Germans would not spend \$2.00, if \$1.00 would provide.
5. By having 2 church bodies under the same roof, ministers of both denominations would visit and enable services to be held more often.

The first church was built before the town of Manchester was founded. The beginning of this town was first established on a plat of land, 25 acres, patented, "German Church" and which had been laid out by the Elders of the old Union Church. The area had a small population and was known as "Germantown." Worshipers came long distances from the farms in the surrounding countryside.

When Richard Richards, an Englishman, laid out plats of land patented "New Market and starting selling these lots in 1797. By some, this now is considered the founding date for the town of Manchester.

The first pastor of this reformed congregation was Jacob Lischy. He was born in Switzerland and came into PA in 1742. He being converted to the Lord at age 14. Jacob was a itinerant preacher, traveling on horse back, preaching in houses and barns. His journal entries, appear on records of the St. Jacob's Stone Church at Jefferson, Pa., Sherman's Church, at the PA line, Christ Church, Conewago, (Littlestown) and North Codorus outside of York, PA. In all of these churches, he is listed as the first minister. Some of these records are on file at the Historical Society of Carroll County. It is thought by many, that he was the driving force to build a church here in this area.

The people of the Old German Church were the power behind the establishment of the first school in this community. From the official record of the church written Sept. 17, 1762: A list of Christians who recognize and see a great necessity for a school-house in connections with this church. That early schoolhouse stood on a site across from the present nursing home.

The old Union Church served this community for 38 years. In 1798, a new church was constructed. This church, now formally called, "Zion's Church" was a brick church, which was financed largely from the profits of a lottery, which was a practice in those days. Zion's Church was incorporated in an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, Dec. 19, 1800.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 1808, Peter Martin assigned to the Elders of Presbyterian Zion's Church, David's Church, Jerusalem Church and Algiers Church the two lots of ground as laid out in the town of Manchester on a plat by Richard Richards of Baltimore County, these being lots 74 and 102. (for the sum of three hundred dollars). This was the site of the first German Reformed Parsonage.

The first Union Sunday School was held in Zion's church in 1828, which report said, "never omit a service because of hot or cold weather. By the year 1836, Zion's church was in need of repairs; The steeple was repaired and a fine bell installed in the tower. This bell called people to worship and announced the death of someone in the community.

The Manchester charge was without a minister for more than a year, and by the time Pastor John William Hoffmeiser came to the charge, conflicts were brewing and we were in the midst of a civil war. The most outstanding event in the 11 years of Pastor Hoffmeiser's leadership was the division of the Zion's church in Manchester and the building of Trinity church.. By the late 1850's it was determined to end the union and in 1862, the old church was torn down. The relations between the two congregations were most cordial.

The cornerstone for the new Reformed church, to be called Trinity Reformed Church was held on Saturday May 16, 1863, exactly 150 years ago. The Declaration reads, in part; We lay the cornerstone of this church in Manchester, Carroll County in the State of Maryland and 87 years of the independence of the United States and now under the administration of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States. This service was held in the lecture room of the new Lutheran Church, where both groups worshiped until the churches were completed.

When the first floor of the church was completed, the work was dedicated on Feb. 28, 1864. On May 31, a new bell was placed in the steeple of the church, weighing 700 lbs, at a cost of \$.55 per pound. (\$385.)

Finally, the church was completed and dedicated June 5, 1864. The amount of money for the building of the church was about \$8,000. A large amount of labor was given by men of the congregation and community. Pastor Hoffmeiser died in 1873.

Dr. William Rupp came to the Manchester Charge in 1877. We see from his diary notes, that he was very disappointed with the church. The Manchester congregation still had a debt of \$4,000. Many of the members were in bankrupt, attendance was poor. People did not receive him well. By the end of 1878, he had adopted a system of weekly contributions. Another entry states that the last dollar of debt was paid off about Easter of 1882.

Another possible reason that the debt was not paid off sooner was the fact that the church building was damaged sometime in 1880 by a storm. It damaged the steeple so, that it had to be removed. The cost to repair the damage was \$1200. After much work, it was as substantial as when first erected and even more beautiful. The Lord had lifted up the hearts and strengthened the hands of the pastor and it's people, and due to systematic and persistent efforts, under God's blessings, the last dollar of debt was paid in 1882.

Somewhere along the way, the land for the parsonage that had been purchased around 1808 was now in complete ownership of Trinity. In the joint consistory minutes dated Aug. 17, 1889, Trinity is collecting rental from the other churches in the charge. This arrangement continued until the new parsonage was built between 1915-1916. Financial problems

continue and we see from the secretary's minutes of 1891, a total offering for Wednesday night services was \$6.24 for a 6 month time period. Time and time again the church was unable to pay its bills.

In 1896, the church underwent considerable repairs and renovation. Those repairs consisted in dividing the large Sunday school room into three apartments, putting stained glass into the windows, new carpet and furniture. All together the church presents a new and beautiful appearance. It was during this time that a new furnace was installed in the main Sunday School room. At some point between 1896 and 1902, the Colored Glass windows were installed. Each one sponsored by a member.

In 1907, Dr. Thomas S. Land came to the charge. He was to stay with us for 9 years. Trinity purchased a new organ and all the members of the church were canvassed to pay for this. By Jan. 1910, it was reported that all bills connected to the organ were paid. This was a reed organ and required someone to pump it. That person would receive \$1.00 a year. This organ continued to be used until 1950.

The first meeting of the Willing Workers Aid Society in Trinity was held Oct. 19, 1910 with Mrs. Thomas Land as president. The Willing Workers are still holding meeting in Trinity in 2013.

During this time, it was necessary to built a new parsonage. In 1915 plans were made, and bids excepted. The agreed price was \$2908 for the building and pavement. An additional \$500. To have water, bath and heating plant installed., plus \$50. to add an engine to pump water.

At some point between 1916-1923, the Sunday School room of Trinity was rear-ranged. The furnace was removed and taken to the basement. Until this time, all classes had faced Church Street. Now in the alterations, classes were changed and the lectern was placed in its present location.

In November of 1924, Rev. John A. Hollenbach came to the charge. He served nearly 2 decades. By 1929, the depression was felt by many in this area. Many lost everything and many were out of work.

Of course, this affected the churches financial structure as well. Quite often Dr. Hollenbach would be owed his salary for months. By 1937, we were plunged into war and large numbers of our young men and later young women volunteered for the services. The service roll in the Sunday School room names those who served in WW II.

Rev. Alton Leister, answered the call to join us in Feb. 1944. In so doing, he became our first local minister, being born near Leister's Church in the Manchester district. One of his first improvements, was to bring in new record keeping books for each of the churches in the charge. In 1944, he started the publication of a newsletter. To finance it, a Promotion Fund Treasury was set up and an annual appeal made.

Pastor Leister resigned his position in Nov. 1949. After he left, Mrs. Kenneth Krug assumed clerical duties of the charge, maintaining the records of the congregations, and editing the newsletter. She continued this work until Rev. Schlichter settled in.

Compiled by Belva R. LaMotte,  
Member DAR (William Winchester ), Member Carroll County Genealogical Society  
Member of Historical Society of Carroll County , Member of Trinity UCC

### **Bibliography**

*"Ye Olde Oak Tree" Manchester Bicentennial 1765-1976* by Harvey G. Schlichter, 1961

*Two Centuries of Grace and Growth In Manchester 1760-1960*, third edition updated to 1984 by Harvey G. Schlichter

Maryland State Archives, Land records

1877 Map of Manchester showing plats as set by Richard Richards in 1765

Two Hundredth Anniversary of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Manchester, MD 1760-1960

History of Manchester as located at the Historical Society of Carroll County

Consistory notes from meetings of Trinity United Church of Christ, various years

1862 Map of Manchester showing homeowners

*Carroll's Heritage* by Joe Getty, 1987

### **1940's (Ron Zumbrun)**

#### **1950's (Robert Miller)**

The church building was in a deplorable condition. The congregation was experiencing indifference, dissension, and lack of vision. Even the consistory was divided. Attendance averaged in the 20's and the only \$15.00 was collected as offering some Sundays. Members doubted if congregation could continue. People knew a change was needed and they gave the new pastor and the church leaders the support that was necessary to grow. Some highlights from that time:

1950 – Voted for new organ \$2400 to replace the old one from 1907

1951- Restrooms were constructed over furnace room. Up to that point, there were no indoor bathrooms in the church. The kitchen was painted and an addition was added to back of kitchen. The church had no money so they borrowed \$3200 to do the improvements and spent \$5834.

1952-Purchased a new oil burner for \$639 – previous was a coal furnace

1955-Repaired the steeple and roof

1956-Refurbished the sanctuary refurbished, windows \$175 each at which time the 10 commandments were added. Robert Welsman did the sanctuary, new carpeting, erection of choir loft, and new radiators. Rededication of the sanctuary was this year.

1957-Refurbished 1<sup>st</sup> floor and added partitions

By 1960 average attendance 140

### **1960's (Elwin Wagner)**

#### **Church Memories**

Our Pastor was Rev. Harvey Schlichter who had 3 churches, St. Marks in Snydersburg, Lazarus in Lineboro and Trinity in Manchester. Rev Schlichter had to jockey his time carefully between church services on Sunday. Sometimes his robe would be sticking out of the car door as he was driving off from one church to another and he didn't know it. It was kind of comical.

We had about 300 members during this time. The pews on Sunday were full especially Communion Sundays. At that time we only conducted communion once each quarter. During holiday services it was standing room only. We even had people seated up in our balcony.

One of the main programs I remember was the Mother/Daughter banquet in Lineboro. This was a big ordeal for the church. The men of all three churches would come together in Lineboro firehall to prepare the meal and serve the ladies.

Rev Schlichter could be very theatrical to say the least when he gave his sermons. I can see him now clenching his fist up in the air and pounding on the pulpit and speaking in a very loud voice, almost shouting, as if he was the actual person he was talking about in his sermon. I was always a believer that he looked for people sleeping in the pews and if he spotted someone he would go into his theatrics to wake them up. (I say this kiddingly)

When I was in confirmation class, we had a big test and at the very same time, there was a fire going on at the Sewing Factory. I wanted to go to that fire in the worst way. I thought I could take the test later so I waited until the class started and rode my bike past the church as fast as possible but there was no getting away with it. Rev. Schlichter caught me riding past the church and made me come in to take the test. I got to the fire when it was almost over!

#### **Manchester Memories**

Route 27 was finished. There were 2 bars in town, Squirrely's and What's His Names Place. Miller's Market was on Main Street and the Gulf Station was next to Miller's Market. The parsonage, which we just sold, was on Main Street. Ourslers soda fountain was on the other side of York Street where the La Jarochita store is today.

Leon Miller had his service station on York Street. Brownies service station on south end of town was only thing open on Sundays. We used to ride our bikes there to get ice cream on Sundays.

Dr. Foard was town doctor and Dr. Glaeser was town pharmacist. Ron Zumbrun and his father Champ were in law enforcement with the State Police. My dad, Herschel Wagner, was Chief of Police and only police in town for a period of time during this decade

The bank and the Manchester Fire Company are still in the same locations today. The Sinclair Station which Doug Rhoten's dad owned is the same station that Doug owns currently which is now known as Manchester Auto Parts.

## **1970's (Doug Rhoten)**

### **Church Memories**

My parents, grandparents, and great grandparents all had a connection with Trinity. I too have a long history with Trinity UCC. It was here at Trinity that I was baptized, confirmed, and married. My two daughters were baptized and confirmed here. One of my daughters was married in this church. My parents were put to rest at this church. My 3 grandchildren were baptized in this church. I was honored to be pall bearer at Pastor Harvey's funeral. Rev. Harvey Schlichter who served as pastor of our church for 40 years was the minister during this decade. He was our choir director and sang in the choir. He was also the sexton of the church so he would come in early and turn the heat on for church/Sunday School. Rev. Schlichter was the chaplain at the Manchester Fire Department but he found time to author his book called *Two Centuries of Grace and Growth in Manchester*. It should be mandatory to read this book before becoming a citizen of Manchester.

Pastor Harvey was very dedicated to the church, it was his life and he was always there when you needed him. When he retired, it was very hard for him to leave the church. He is an unsung hero. Also to be remembered is Tate Frankfurter who left his estate to the church which was put into BB&T stock. The stock split and the church made a lot of money. Pastor Harvey loved the stock market and would oversee the stocks.

Henrietta Waugh was our organist during this time. I sang in junior choir and Rev. Schlichter would stop his sermon and look over at us to quiet us down.

Sunday School was held in the now secretary/pastor's offices. There was no wall between them at that time. I remember singing Jesus Loves Me and when you had a birthday we had a wooden cake and everyone would sing to you. At Christmas time, Santa would always visit and give us a box of hard candy and an orange. I tried trading my orange for candy but with no success. Bible school was during the day and after class we would go outside between the church and Odd Fellows Hall to play. Odd Fellows Hall was tore down to make way for parking lot.

In church, my family would always sit in the back row where my brother and I would pick on one another until my mom would separate us. They say times have changed but my wife, Char and I have to separate our children and grandchildren.

80 to 120 people present at worship. On Easter and Christmas there was standing room only so we had to put extra chairs in back and the balcony was used. Over 200 people most were members.

During this decade, the church steeple was struck by lightning and the church parsonage attic fan caught on fire

### **Manchester Memories**

It was during this decade that the drinking age was lowered to 18. It was like everyone turned 21 on the same day. There was standing room only in the local bar named Squirrley's. One of our members who lives nears Squirrley's recalls people walking into her house mistaking it for the tavern.

There was a gas shortage or gas crisis. You were assigned to buy gas on even/odd days. 35 years later we are still having gas wars,

### **1990's (Sedonia Martin)**

My family and I came to Trinity in July of 1994. Ken Heasley was our interim pastor at that time.

The Family Life Committee which I chaired, organized Intergenerational Halloween parties, Thanksgiving dinners, advent workshops, Shrove Tuesday, Spring covered dish dinner, Mother/Daughter banquet, a float in the Manchester Fireman's parade and Frederick Keys games.

In the late '90's I chaired the handicapped accessibility committee. We hired [Arbaugh Architecture Studio](#) to design an elevator tower and handicapped accessible entrance and restrooms. After three years of evaluation and presentations to the congregation, the congregation voted against the proposal. Today we are still not handicapped accessible.

### **2000's up to present (Sedonia Martin and Jim Kelbaugh)**

#### **Sedonia Martin's Memories**

In the 2002, we started the youth group at Trinity. Some of our best memories are of youth group events and working with our "kids" include:

Car washes; holiday babysitting; skits; lock-in's; Sleep-Out's for the homeless; Orioles games; circus; baking Christmas cookies; went to Christian Band concerts; Field of Screams Halloween trips; bowling parties; Youth Group bake sales after church; Super Bowl Sunday Sub Sales; Spaghetti and Lazagna dinners; Mystery Lenten Dinner; Cook-outs; Catoctin Association Youth retreats at Hashawa & Camp Joy-El; pizza/cookie dough fundraisers; Wolfgang candy fundraisers; Mystery trips; camping trips; canoe trips; Youth Sundays with Christian Rock bands, and more!

#### **Jim Kelbaugh's Memories**

My wife, our daughter, and I first started coming to Trinity in November of 2003. We tried another church first, and it wasn't for us. We decided to try Trinity because during genealogical research, I discovered that family members attended there during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In fact, my fifth great grandparents were among the founding members. We immediately felt at home at Trinity.

On the first Sunday we attended, Dave Schlichter was the greeter. We were expecting to find nursery care for our daughter as this was mentioned on the website at the time. Well, the nursery wasn't staffed, but she was welcomed in the sanctuary. Pastor Rock was here at the



time, and made mention of quarterback Y.A. Tittle, which scored points with me, a football fan.

We have a wonderful Vacation Bible School, blood drives twice a year, movie nights, go to a Keys game from time to time, and each June we worship at Christmas Tree Park followed by a Sunday School Picnic. The men get together every November and assemble the nativity scene, which is unveiled during Manchester's "Black Friday" celebration.

We've had three more pastors here since my family and I began attending: Pastor LoisAnn Furgess-Oler who served twice as our interim, Pastor Laura Cross, and now Pastor Suzanne Adele Schmidt.

**Note: As revisions are made to this document it will be reposted on our website.**