

## **Shelton Church of the Brethren History**

The Shelton Church of the Brethren was formed in 1900 and organized May 19, 1917 with Bros. A.N. Hylton and H.J. Woodie. The first recorded elder was Bro. Woodie.

The first elected officers were Roland Kirkman and Ashley Hiatt, both deacons, and Howard Hiatt as Secretary-Treasurer. The first recorded revival was in November of 1917. There was no record of membership at that time, but current membership is one hundred and fifty eight. Originally, both deacons and trustees were elected for life. Today they serve five-year terms, eligible for re-election at the end of their term.

In the early days, the deacons paid a yearly visit to the church members. If they were not in full fellowship, the member would have to come before the church and make a public confession. Also, if members missed three council meetings, which were held every three months, they were withdrawn from fellowship of the church. We still have council meetings every six months. Additionally, LoveFeast and communion are observed twice a year.

At the time of organization, the church had no pastor. Ministers from various churches filled the pulpit. Our first pastor, Reverend N.C. Reed from Schoolfield, Virginia, was called on December 28, 1930. Brother Reed served as pastor approximately twenty years with very little monetary compensation from the church. He was loved and respected by all that knew him. He was very dedicated and sometimes sacrificed his own earnings to keep the church going. He lived in the community and served the church well until his death in 1951. Ministers since 1951 include Rev. Richard Gottshall, of Pennsylvania, Rev. Fred Dancy of North Carolina, Rev. Bristoe Osborne of North Carolina, Rev. W.C. Sweitzer of Virginia, Rev. Paul Priddy of North Carolina, Rev. Frank Layman of Virginia, Rev. Ben Hylton of Oregon, Rev. Graham Sowers of North Carolina, Rev. Galeu Wine of Virginia, Rev. John Barton of Virginia, Rev. Jay Tilley of North Carolina, Rev. Earl Stovall of Virginia, Rev. Owen horton of Virginia, Rev. Ed West of

Pennsylvania, Rev. John Wagner of Iowa, Rev. Tom Auker of Pennsylvania, and our present pastor Rev. Marvin Wade of Virginia.

This church continues to flourish and grow. On May 21<sup>st</sup> we celebrated 100 years in this community. What a wonderful time as so many came into worship and fellowship. We can never thank God enough for all his great blessings.