

Through The Years

A MEMORIAL RECOLLECTION
OF
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SARVER, PENNSYLVANIA
1866-2001



“The Little White Church on Top of the Hill”

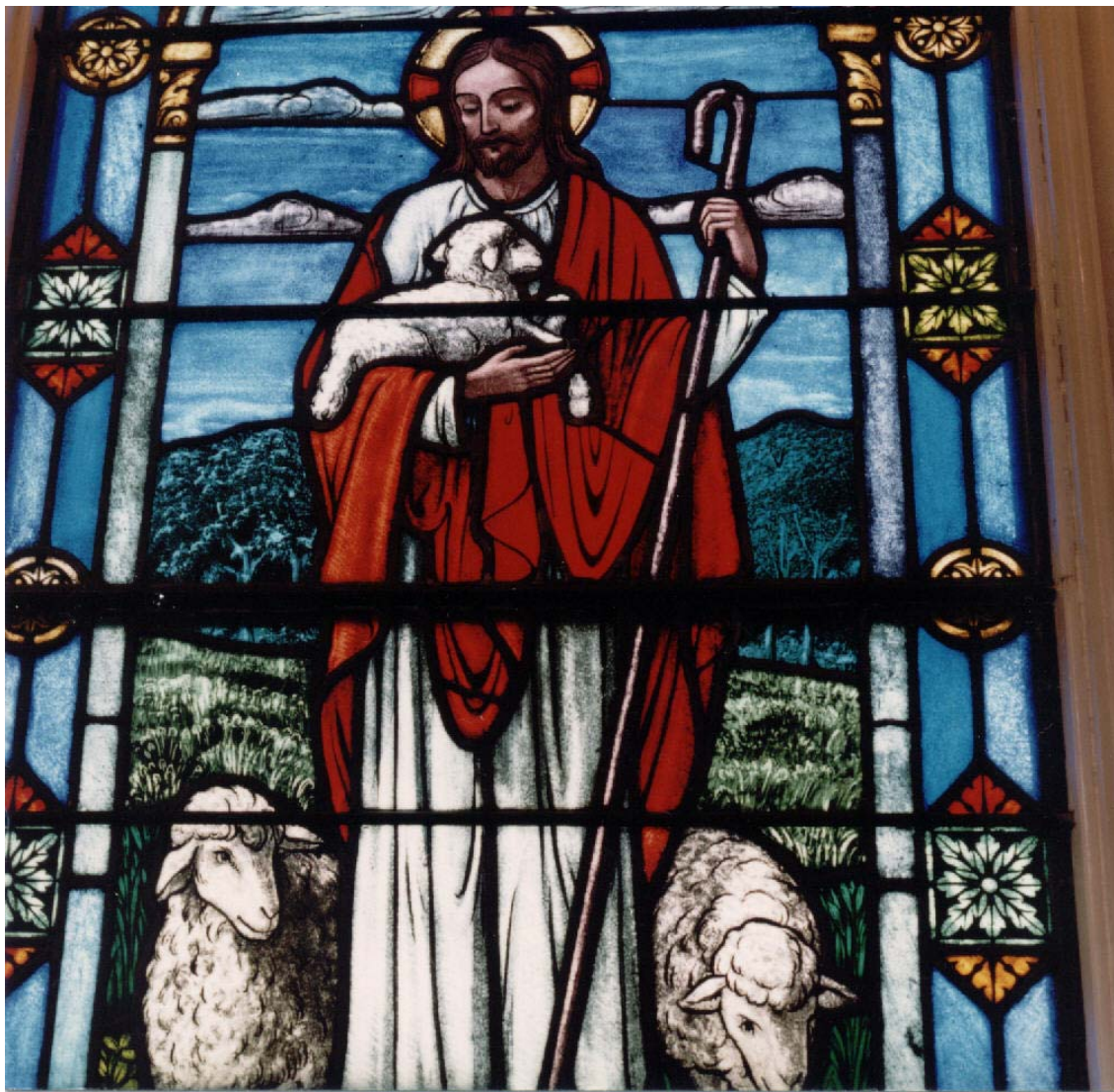
MEMORIAL HISTORY

of

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

409 Sarver Road
Sarver, Pennsylvania 16055

1866-2001



This book is dedicated to the Glory of God
And to the Family of God at St. Paul's

With Gratitude

During a portion of my life, God had entrusted me with the honor of being your church secretary, and throughout those years during that special ministry of faith, He provided me with an abundance of memorable experiences that will last a lifetime.

It is therefore with humble gratitude that I present this book to my family of St. Paul's and that I express my sincere thanks to the many people who have so lovingly contributed their assistance in this endeavor. For reviewing the materials: Marlene Lacanic, Cathy Boyer, Glenn & Deann Sanner, and Larry Szebalskie. I am especially grateful to Bill Boyer for his invaluable computer expertise and guidance on this project.

Again, I would like to acknowledge the 125th Anniversary Committee Members: Ken and Dorothy Toy, Walter and Grace Weigand, Clara Falkner, Melvin and Peg Harvey, Paul and Dorothy Schmeider, Henry and Lois Grimm, Pastor Barnett, and Susan Marcinko.

A very special thank you to Henry Grimm for writing the Memorial Introduction, to Dianne Zier for her beautiful poem, "My Little Church", to Michele Ciani and Shirley Lasich for the Volleyball history, to Hobe Kenton, Sr., for the Boy Scout history, and to St. Paul's Ladies Guild for the inclusion of their historical project, "Preserving the Past".

I would like to acknowledge Sandy Hallam and Bruce Cooper for the contribution of their drawings of St. Paul's Church.

Thank you again to everyone who has had a helping hand in this project. Our church has been richly blessed with your kind, sincere help, and generosity.

Carolyn Szebalskie



*"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
Giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
Colossians 3:17*

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PREFACE

The information for this memorial book was taken from a variety of sources: *St. Paul's Historical Register Books #1, #2, and #3; the 100th Anniversary Scrapbook; Church Photograph Albums; Church Bulletins and Newsletters; St. Paul's Ladies Guild Files; the 125th Anniversary Notes; various newspaper clippings; and verbal accounts by senior members of our parish.

This publication is divided into three sections: the Historical Data, a Photograph Section, and the last section entitled, "Preserving the Past" which is a collection of interviews of the Senior Members of St. Paul's recorded between 1985-1986 by the St. Paul's Ladies Guild.

The wording throughout the early history from Register #1 and the last section containing the personal interviews was kept as close to the original form as possible.

A transcript of Register #1 and Register #2 was done in 1999 by Ethel Maloney and Paul Miller Ruff and published in 1999 by the Baltzer Meyer Historical Society: "St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sarver, Butler County, Parish Records 1866-1930". A copy is kept in the Church Files and another in the Church Library. This book lists the membership, baptisms, communions, marriages, and death records.

A short history of St. Paul's, consisting of four or five paragraphs is recorded in two separate books published by the Synod: "Pittsburgh Synod Congregational Histories" by Ernest G. Heissenbuttel, 1959; and, "The Memorial History of the Pittsburgh Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church 1749—1845—1924" by Ellis Beaver Burgess, 1925.

* Video recordings were taken throughout the year during the 125th Anniversary Celebrations and are stored on the book shelves in the Pastor's Office in Heide Hall.

* Register Books #1 and #2 are in the Thiel College Archives, Greenville, PA.

We are thankful that our forefathers preserved the early church records for later generations to use. However, it was discovered that some information was missing, basically the years between 1872 through 1902. There are just a few records between the years of 1903 through 1929.

One church member, while cleaning the attic of their parent's house, came across a box of dusty, old Church Treasurer's Records. That discovery led to the hope that someday others might come upon a similar find regarding the missing years between 1872 and 1902.

It is of interest to note that on Page 69, paragraph 5, of Clara Smith Falkner's interview in the "Preserving the Past" section of this book, she mentions, "*At one time my mother had a book with the entire history of St. Paul's from the beginning when people met in the different homes.*" All we need is a lucky find, so be careful when cleaning out your attics, the book that Clara talked about could resurface, and what a blessing that would be!

Twenty-one ministers have served St. Paul's. Pastor Donald Fetterly served the longest with 29 years of service; and our current minister, Pastor Emery L. Barnett, has served St. Paul's since 1987.

We are proud of our past when our forefathers met in Benjamin Sarver's home and were led by the Holy Spirit to serve God and build a house of worship, and through the many years we have been continually and richly blessed in the quality of leadership. Our goal is looking ahead with new plans to do the will of God in our lives and in our community and we gratefully thank God for all of the marvelous things He has done.

Standing on the past...
Reaching for the future.

Memorial Introduction

by

Henry Grimm

Recorded, September, 1998

“The Little White Church on Top of the Hill”

Years ago, instead of the main road being where it is now, it was located in front of St. Paul's Church. That is the reason the back door of the church faces the road today.

The church parking lot had a lot of trees in it and the members tied their horses and buggies to the trees. The preacher tied his horse to a ring on the left side of the church's foundation. You can see it till this day.

The church had white glass windows. There was a vestibule where people came in. In the church, there were two pot belly stoves on each side about half way up. The seats were short and around the stoves. There were no arches up front at this time. There were flights of steps on each side of a platform. In the middle was a pulpit where the preacher stood and in front of that was an altar. Antique chairs were on each side of the altar and a pump organ was to the right.

Years later, the able-bodied men of the church dug out a basement under the church building. Afterwards, a coal furnace with a 4 x 4 foot grate on top, was installed in the middle of the basement. Later, this was replaced with a new furnace which was located in the back corner of the basement.

The church was again remodeled. That is when they put arches in front of the church and a new altar was built by Charles Sauter. Oliver Grimm built a new pulpit and the two chairs which are still situated on each side of the altar. A new organ was purchased and stained glass windows were installed by the Pittsburgh Stained Glass Studios.

The members of St. Paul's purchased and installed the old pews from St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Butler. A new steeple was built and John Freehling got the bell from the old St. Matthew's Church; it was placed in the new tower.

When St. Matthew's disbanded, some of the members joined St. Paul's and some went to St. Luke's in Saxonburg.

St. Luke's had their own minister. He served three churches — St. Luke's, St. Matthew's, and St. Paul's. St. Paul's conducted the morning service; St. Matthew's, the afternoon service; and St. Luke's, the evening service. They would change each week.

Every year a Christmas Service was held and the children had speeches. At the conclusion of the service, each child received one pound of candy. St. Paul's had a Sunday School Superintendent.

There was always plenty of activity taking place in the church.

Respectfully,

Henry Grimm

My Little Church



My little church is a church on a hill,
Way up high looking out on the world.
And we all praise the Lord,
In our own little way,
Some with song,
Some with prayer,
Some with joy!

My little church is a church full of hope,
Reaching out with its arms open wide.
And we all share the news,
Of the word of the Lord,
Some in thoughts,
Some in deeds,
Some in words!

My little church is a church full of love,
And its members all show that they care,
Some support,
Some uphold,
Some embrace.

All together,
All the time,
For the Lord!

*...Diane M. Zier
1997*