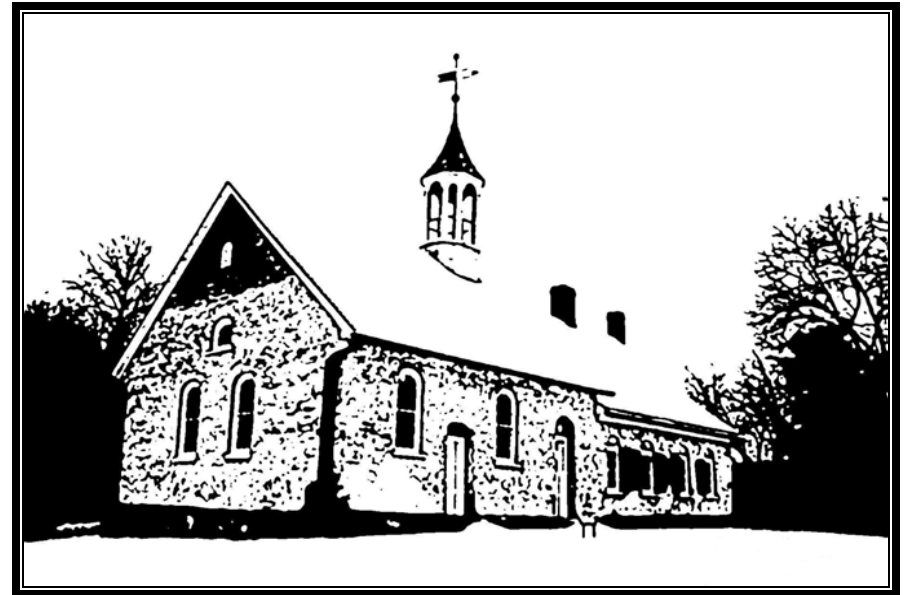


The Construction Workers

Name	Affiliation	Occupation	Home Community
Frederic Marshall	Moravian	Architect	Salem
Abraham Loesch	Moravian	Master Mason	Salem
William Grabs	Moravian	Mason's Assistant	Bethania
Lazarus Hege	Moravian	Mason's Assistant	Bethania
Johann Transou	Moravian	Mason's Assistant	Bethania
Heinrich Beroth	Moravian	Mason's Assistant	Bethania
Abraham Meyer	Non-Moravian	Mason's Assistant	?
Stephen Müller	Non-Moravian	Mason's Assistant	?
Johannes Ackerman	Non-Moravian	Drayman	Just outside Bethabara
Johann Krause	Moravian	Master Joiner	Salem
Gottlieb Stauber	Moravian	Joiner Apprentice	Salem
Rudolf Strehle	Moravian	Carpenter	Salem
Johannes Binckely	Non-Moravian	Carpenter	Near Bethania
Andreas Volk	Moravian	Carpenter	Bethania
Johannes Schaub	Moravian	Brick maker	Bethabara
Moses Martin	Non-Moravian	Shingle maker	Northeast Wachovia
Jeamy Martin	Non-Moravian	Shingle maker	Northeast Wachovia
Matthaeus Oesterlein	Moravian	Blacksmith	Bethabara
Joannes Seiler	Moravian?	Carpenter	Bethania
John David Holder	Moravian	Mason Apprentice	Salem
Rudolph Christ	Moravian	Potter	Salem



The Rooms

The Schoolroom: The schoolroom was used for other purposes also, such as the making of love-feast coffee. The school, itself, moved out of the Gemeinhaus in 1805.

The Parlor: The front room was the minister's parlor in the early days of the Gemeinhaus. By 1849, the "parlor" had moved to the old schoolroom in the back of the structure.

The Upstairs Bedroom: The upstairs bedroom was used for visiting church workers. Strangers (non-Moravians) never stayed in the Gemeinhaus, instead being housed in the tavern. (The rest of the upstairs was used for storage of church equipment, such as the gravedigger's tools, and personal property of the minister.)

The Kitchen, Saal and Downstairs Bedroom: These rooms were always used as their names imply. In a more modern era, the back wall of the Saal was removed to enlarge the size of the sanctuary; it was replaced during the most recent renovation.

1788 Gemeinhaus

*And to Him we sound forth praise,
That within this building holy
We may seek through all our days
Strength to love and serve Him solely*

(From the musical ode consecrating the building)

Historic Bethabara Park

History of the 1788 Gemeinhaus

The church, called the “Gemeinhaus” even in the earliest records of the community of Bethabara, served as a residence for the minister and other church workers and had a “Saal”—a “meeting hall”—for the congregation; the most accepted translation of “Gemeinhaus” being “congregation house.” Built in 1788, the current Gemeinhaus replaced an original log structure built in 1756 that was located elsewhere on the Bethabara grounds.

The “Lot” decided the exact location of the 1788 Gemeinhaus. This is a method of decision-making employed by the early Moravians on many aspects of life: several possible solutions to a question are placed in a hat and the one selected was prayerfully respected as the Lord’s decision.

A quote from the Moravian records:

“The Saviour approves that the Gemeinhaus in Bethabara should be built along the street in Stach’s garden.”

The architect for the project, Frederic William Marshall, submitted plans on January 4, 1788 and, with the whole congregation in attendance, the foundation stone was laid April 8, 1788. Both Moravian and non-Moravian workers were hired; Moravians were paid 9 shillings and non-Moravians 8 shillings, with room and board provided.

With only eighteen families in the Bethabara congregation, the minister, Jacob Ernst, requested financial help from the Moravian congregations in

Pennsylvania to allow the church to be completed without going into debt; however, no help was received.

Stone was quarried from a farm south of town and the timbers fashioned using broadaxe and adz. Yellow poplar shingles, leftover from the recent construction of a distillery across the street, were used on the roof. The gutters, also made of yellow poplar, were tarred on the inside and painted red on the outside.

Consecration of the Bethabara Gemeinhaus took place on November 26, 1788, though there seems to be no reason for this date other than convenience of schedule. The fact that it is close to November 17, the date from thirty-five years earlier when the first Moravians arrived in Wachovia, seems to hold more interest to us today than it did to the early Moravians—the Church fathers apparently put more store in spiritual history than in events of hardship or accomplishment.

The 1788 Gemeinhaus served the Bethabara Moravian congregation until 1953, fully two hundred years after the founding of the community. The new, replacement church was built at the intersection of Bethabara Road and Indiana Boulevard.

Excavation of the original foundations of Bethabara occurred in the mid-1960s. Restoration of the Gemeinhaus took place in 1969-70 and the restored Gemeinhaus and the new Historic Bethabara Park were dedicated on Sunday, April 25, 1971. Today, employees of the Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Department serve as administrators.