

History of Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – October 2011

Reflecting on a few of Holy Trinity's Pastors by Susan Exley

There were 50 charter members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in June of 1912. One other was listed as a member in another document but not in the minute book.

Holy Trinity has had 14 pastors who served the congregation through Rev. Joseph Copeck who recently resigned.

Our first Pastor, Rev. T. W. Shealy served our congregation and the Bethel Parish (of which we were a part) for 24 years, dying of a heart attack on Tybee Island Beach, Savannah, Georgia at a Sunday School Picnic. Ironically he did not keep records of baptisms, marriages and deaths. The importance of keeping records at that time was not thought to be as important, perhaps.

Rev. J. Virgil Addy who served from 1937 through 1943 tried hard to get data and reconstruct the missing records from the previous 24 years. We learned from him the value of keeping up to date written records.

Rev. Tom Weeks served our parish from 1944-47. His wife, a talented seamstress, made the first Dossal for Holy Trinity.

Rev. Roy Troutman came to the parish in 1948. He and his wife are remembered for their work with the young people of the churches. According to Charles Hinely, of Holy Trinity, they provided good Christian instruction and taught young people to take part in the service. Their strong influence taught leadership skills, confidence and instilled the desire for Christian service and regular church attendance still seen in our members from the Troutman days. Four young men became pastors from the parish under Rev. Troutman's tenure before he left in 1953. The two from Holy Trinity were the Rev. Ernest Burns and Rev. A. Jackson "Jack" Zipperer.

Holy Trinity became independent from the Bethel Parish on November 14, 1962. We built a parsonage with Rev. Clarence C. Adderholdt and his family being the first to live in the lovely home on Maple Street in Springfield after his arrival in 1963.

Rev. Lawrence Bollinger came to Holy Trinity in July of 1971 serving until the end of 1974. He introduced the practice of liturgical processions for special services.

The second longest serving Pastor was Rev. Ronald G. Smith serving us for over 18 years from July of 1978 through 1996. Needing extensive repair, we sold the parsonage before the Smith family left in 1994, opting to offer a living allowance for our pastor.

Pastor Eric Friedrichs served Holy Trinity as his first congregation, ordained in Athens, coming to us in 1996. His wife Tara, an associate in ministry, became our first Director of Youth and Christian Education providing programs for children of different ages and intergenerational activities for the congregation.

Look for more from our history each month up until our 100th Anniversary June 10, 2012.