

History of Churches in Glen Arm/Hydes/Long Green

Church/Religious Institution buildings

When Church congregations in our area were first established, many met in homes, halls and schools before property was acquired and church building constructed.

* Two churches renovated their original church: **Trinity Episcopal** and **Mt. Zion AME**

* Two rebuilt new churches on original property or across the street: **Wilson Methodist** and **Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren**.

* Two moved into Glen Arm/Hydes/Long Green from nearby adjacent areas: **St. John the Evangelist** from Carroll Manor and **St. John's Lutheran of Blenheim** from Dance Mill Road.

* Two of the church structures that burned down were not rebuilt on the same property: **St. John the Evangelist** rebuilt on new property and the **Mennonites** did not rebuild another structure after their Meeting House burned in 1914. These are the dedication dates for the first building for each church/institution:

1820 **Trinity Episcopal Church** on Manor Rd. The Gothic Tower was not added until the 1899 renovation.

1822 **St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church** in Carroll Manor, known as "St John's on the Ridge (moved to Long Green Pike in 1855).

1839 **Wilson Methodist Church** on Long Green Road

1845 **Waugh Methodist Church** on Long Green Pike

1854 **St. John's Lutheran Church of Blenheim** on Dance Mill Road (moved to Manor Rd in 1962)

1855 **Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church** on Manor Road

1898 **Mennonite Meeting House** on Kanes Road. Mennonites were in Long Green from 1830 to the early 1900s.

1908 **Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren** on Long Green Road

1909 **Villa Maria** dedicated in Glen Arm Road. Villa Maria was a farm and home for the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

1960 **Long Green Baptist Church** on Manor Road

Travel in the 1800s in our area.

Difficult travel in the 1800s motivated local members of each current denomination in this area to establish a congregation closer to home. Denominations that had parish systems created missions and chapels to serve the congregants in this area. **St. John's the Evangelist Catholic Church** was originally a mission to St. Ignatius Parish of Hickory; **Trinity Episcopal Church** was originally a "Chapel of Ease" for the larger St. John's Episcopal Parish where the closest "Chapel of Ease" was St. James in Monkton/My Lady's Manor.

Methodist congregations, such as **Waugh** and **Wilson**, banded together with other Methodist congregations adjacent to form a "circuit" where pastors would serve each congregation on alternate Sundays. **St. John's Lutheran of Blenheim** shared a Pastor with St. Paul's (Kingsville) and St. Peter's (Harford Co) while **Trinity Episcopal** shared a Rector with St. James (Monkton) – both found the situation unsatisfactory and did not feel not properly served until they were able

to have their own Pastor or Rector. One source of contention was the use of horse and carriage for the Rector and Pastor who had to travel between congregations. From this arose such conflicts as which congregation would store and feed the horse and who would get the property once the congregations separated.

Community Benefits from Church Buildings

Several Church Properties have been used for Community activities, including education.

- 1850s **Trinity Episcopal** Church started a school which served as public school until public schools were established at Long Green/Unionville in 1864.
- 1858 **St. John the Evangelist** builds school which operated sporadically until 1947 and was reopened under the School Sisters of Notre Dame and has been successful.
- 1884 **St. John's Lutheran of Blenheim**, while still on Dance Mill Road, opens school and rents out space for a public school, with the provision that the children do not enter the cemetery, the space is left as they found it and that the Pastor could teach the Lutheran children there several times a week.
- 1893 **Wilson Methodist's** second church built with church Bell. This Bell was used to alert the Volunteer Firemen before Fire House built.
- 1896 **Wilson Methodist's** first Church is used a Church Hall after their second Church was built and this Church Hall was rented out to other groups until 1907.
- 1949 **Trinity Episcopal's** Parish House built and rented out to local groups.
- 1950s **Trinity Episcopal** starts their Day School
- 1954 **St. John's Lutheran of Blenheim** establishes Kindergarten until 1969, when Baltimore County Public Schools offer free Kindergarten to residents.

German Influence

Some Churches reflect the influx of German Immigration to the US in the 1800s.

- 1833 One of first **Mennonites**, Moses Miller, moves to Long Green from Lancaster PA
- 1847 The School Sisters of Notre Dame immigrate to Milwaukee WI from Germany to teach German Immigrants in US. **Villa Maria**, a farm and home established by this Order, was built in Glen Arm in 1909.
- 1849 **St. John's Lutheran Church of Blenheim**, a Missouri Synod congregation, was established. This synod was established by Germans who immigrated to Missouri.
- 1855 **St. John's Lutheran** congregation split over disagreement about using German language. One group broke away to establish St. John's Lutheran Church of Sweet Air. Over the following 6 decades, St. John's Lutheran of Blenheim slowly integrated English into their worship by holding English-speaking services one a month (1887); holding 2 German and 2 English-speaking services each month (1909) and finally eliminating German altogether due to US involvement in WWI (1918).