

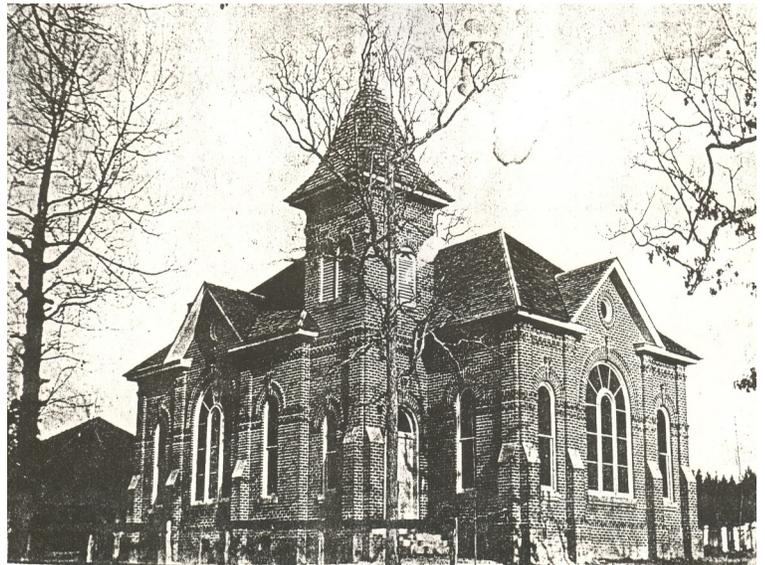
ST. MATTHEW'S
REFORMED CHURCH
4575 Maiden HWY.
P. O. Box 739
Maiden, NC 28650
"A Faithful and Welcoming Congregation"

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Volume 47 Issue 8

The Grapevine

August 2021

Report from the Search Committee

Hi everyone, the Search Committee is pleased to announce we have a candidate to recommend for the full-time minister position of St. Matthew's. After months of reviewing numerous profiles, we recommend **Rev. William W. Sowers**.

Rev. Sowers is a native of North Carolina. He graduated in 2002 from Catawba College with a Bachelor, of Art in Religion and Philosophy with a concentration in Christian Education and a minor in History. He received his Master of Divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary and was ordained by the United Church of Christ in May 2008. Rev. Sowers has been the pastor of Hedrick's Grove Reformed UCC in Lexington, NC for the past thirteen years. His passion within the church is youth ministry and mission trips as well as visitation to people in his congregation and community. Rev. Sowers is married and has two children.

Rev. Sowers will preach a trial sermon at St. Matthew's on Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 10 AM under the arbor. A congregational vote will take place following the service on whether to

call Rev. Sowers as St. Matthew's full-time minister.

We encourage all members to attend. If you do not want to sit under the arbor you will be able to hear the service in your vehicle in the church parking lot by tuning in to Station 99.1.

We pray we will see you **on Sunday, September 19th at 10 AM.**

CONSISTORY CORNER

As the 1800's are drawing to a close and the 20th century opens, St. Matthew's has many changes in store. The German Reformed Church on Island Ford Road is beginning to feel some growing pains and questions the adequacy of its white one-room church. The forethought, the faith, the meticulous planning, and the generosity of members and friends allowed the church to begin making plans for a new brick building that stands today as a testament to the devotion of the earlier fathers of the church.

Our story continues

During the year 1906, the congregation thought the first church was inadequate. The committee organized to make arrangements for constructing a new church met at the home of Elder Thomas L. Finger. An interesting point is the

committee met at the same house, around the same huge fireplace where the first church had been planned. Elected to the building committee were Thomas L. Finger, Julius L. Shrum, and Daniel F. Campbell. H. Jacob Crooks was chosen treasurer of the building fund. Thomas Finger was responsible for securing plans and Julius Shrum was selected to supervise the construction of the building.

A spirit of unity was manifested by the members and friends of the congregation as work began on the new brick church in early 1908. The bricks for the new church were made on the Levi Shrum farm located a few hundred yards southeast of the church. (A senior member of our church recalled his helping make the brick. He was age twelve or thirteen when the present sanctuary was being built.) Lumber for the church was cut and sawed on the church ground. On Ascension's Day of that year, the cornerstone for the building was laid by the Reverend J. L. Yearick, pastor.

The church was furnished by gifts from members and organizations of the church. New pews were purchased in 1911, by

Continued on page 6

St. Matthew's Reformed Church Consistory Minutes July 11, 2021

We Assemble in God's Name

Attendance: Libby Herman, Frank Snider, Matthew Hawn, Ruth Haynes, Jan Rice, Ronnie Bumgarner, Bruce Wray, Gina Chandler, Susan Stewart, Chris Barger, Lora Rice, and Faye Painter

Guest- Chris Carpenter, Chair of Sanctuary committee
Jean Funderburk, Linda Hawn
Candace Carpenter, Chair of water line committee, BOCE
Hilda Shrum, music committee

President Libby Herman called the meeting to order with prayer and devotion.

***Motion** was made by Gina Chandler to add adjustments and to approve the July agenda.
Second by Ronnie Bumgarner
Motion Carried

Candace Carpenter gave us an update on the water line...

- Mr. Bill Garrett (waterline contractor) held the pre construction meeting onsite with Lincoln County and Recil Wright (Engineer) on Thursday June 24, 2021. Everything went smoothly.
- A surveyor was used to stake the placement and locations of the fire hydrants. Cost was \$500.00 and invoice was given to Mr. Garrett. The original estimated cost for the surveying was \$1500.00.

\$70,729.30 - Total cost of the waterline

\$ 9,189.22 - Expenses paid to date
\$44,765.90 amount in Waterline account (7-11-21)

\$16,774.18 - Shortfall/funds still needed

• John's Pump and Electric: \$7,500
-Verbally quoted 6-1-21 with on-site visit

• Work began on Thursday, July 8, 2021 Estimated one week to complete the job (will have water each day)

• Re-plumbing of the Sunday

School wing to be completed the week of July 12, 2021.

Motion was made by Susan Stewart that if you had donated money toward the sanctuary or waterline and did not specify on your envelope, you need to let Faye Painter know and she will get your money to the right fund. This will also be announced during worship.

Second by Chris Barger
Motion carried

Motion was made by Gina Chandler to borrow money from the building fund to finish the sanctuary/waterline projects. When all the money is raised for these projects, the building fund will be reimbursed.

Second Ronnie Bumgarner
Motion carried

Chris Carpenter gave us an update on the Sanctuary.

- Choir loft maintenance and repair was completed on June 18, 2021
- Doors are being stripped and prepped
- Pew sale fundraiser updates 19 new pews sold
- Brick maintenance was completed June 28, 2021 at a cost of \$1150.00; congregation approved amount of \$1500.00, saving \$350.00.
- Legacy Sound Equipment - if sold separately valued at roughly \$1200.00, needs to be removed from sanctuary by Friday, July 16, 2021.

\$188,017.00 - Total Cost of the Sanctuary project

\$ 36,241.38 - Expenses paid to date

\$130,727.49 - Amount in Sanctuary account

\$ 21,048.13 Shortfall/funds still needed

All old pew sales/donations will end August 1, 2021.

Motion was made by Ronnie Bumgarner that when a purchase of a new pew is made, the check is to be written to St. Matthew's Reformed

Church and to be given to Chris Carpenter or Gina Chandler. Then all money will be turned in together,

Second by Chris Barger
Motion carried

Hilda Shrum came on behalf of the music committee. The music committee would like to have permission to pursue the sale/disposal of the organ that was in the choir loft which has already been discussed and voted on by the consistory at an earlier date. At this point, Doug Brady Music in Hickory has moved the organ from the sanctuary to the fellowship hall. We would like to see what options are available with Doug Brady and report back to the consistory as soon as we have information.

Motion was made by Gina Chandler to go ahead with looking into the options of the organ.

Second by Frank Snider
Motion carried

Motion was made by Jan Rice to accept the June minutes with the correction of the date.

Second by Ruth Haynes
Motion carried

Motion was made by Jan Rice to accept the financial report.

Second by Ruth Haynes
Motion carried

Committee Reports:

Property

- Frank Snider is going to talk with Matt Painter about the quotes from the 3 security system, Helms; Pre; CPI
- Ronnie Bumgarner updated us on replacing the windows project.

Motion was made by Ronnie Bumgarner to replace 6 windows at \$275.00 each with the total being \$1650.00, on the side of the church around the conference room and choir room.

Second by Frank Snider

Continued from Page 2

Motion carried

- July 17, 2021 the property committee will meet at the parsonage to cut down shrubs and remove them because they are too far in the ground to pull out.

BOCE - VBS is Family Fun Day. The theme is "carnival". They would like the whole church to come and fellowship and enjoy being together since Covid. Family and friends are welcome. A date of August 7, 2021 from 3:00 - 7:00 pm with 5:00 being designated for supper and entertainment.

- There are 4 rising 1st graders: Keever Hawn Reagan Crouse Karlee Cook Wells Carpenter Noah Seiler (Amanda Labounty) will also be added to the list as he did not receive one last year.
- The committee would like to hold a church wide yard sale. This would be open to any member who would like to participate. During this event they would also like to sponsor a fundraiser hamburger and hotdog sale, with the proceeds going to the sanctuary committee. We would also like to get the youth group involved with the fundraiser. A date and time has currently not been set.

New Business:

Lora Rice brought to the consistory a proposal of advertising in the Maiden Football program to invite people to church. Candace Carpenter designed the ad for the program.

Motion was made by Bruce Wray to do a \$100.00 ½ page ad for the Maiden football program and to check about doing one for Lincoln's football program for the same amount of money. The money will come out of our advertisement budget.

Second by Gina Chandler
Motion carried

Revival will be September 1, 2021, on a Wednesday night starting at 7:00pm if we do not have a hymn sing. We are looking into speakers for Revival night and Homecoming.

John's River Valley Camp: Libby Herman is going to check with Phil Hardy (camp director) to see if we are still able to retreat on September 6-12.

It was brought to the Consistory's attention that the TV and DVD player on the roller cart is now not working. Greg Barkley has asked if he can look for a new one because this TV/DVD player is used during Sunday School and Children's Church.

Motion was made by Chris Barger to proceed with Greg Barkley to look into a new TV/DVD player.

Second by Bruce Wray
Motion carried

Motion was made by Bruce Wray to adjourn.
Second by Frank Snider
Motion carried

Next meeting August 8, 2021.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lora W. Rice Secretary



The Women's Fellowship will host a gift-card/gifts baby shower in honor of

Amanda and Cody Trexler following the morning worship on September 26th, 2021.

Due to the continued outbreaks with Covid, a gift table will be provided for those wishing to participate. The Trexler's are registered at Amazon, Walmart, and Target.

Our support and best wishes to Amanda and Cody on their up-coming new chapter.

Sunday School Record

Note: No Sunday School March 15, 2020 to July 4, 2021

Date	Attd. 2021	Offg. 2021	Attd. 2019	Offg. 2019
07/04	Sunday school resumed 7/11			
07/11	27	27.00	54	61.00
07/18	29	54.00	29	80.00
07/25	23	42.00	50	57.00

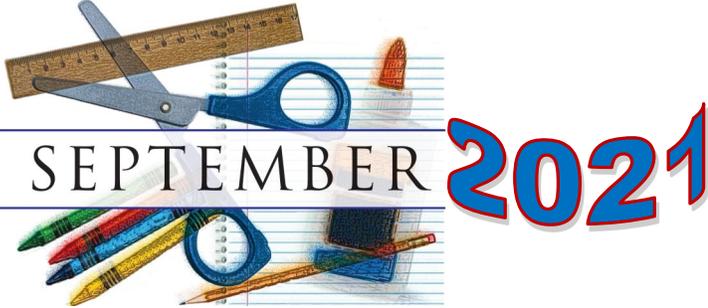
Hilda Shrum, Jacquelyn Barger, Soya Leonard, Annabel Barger, Elsie Painter, LaDonna Goodson, Greg Barkley, Terrell Bumgarner, Libby Herman, Ruth Haynes, Shirley McRee, Faye Painter, Lealta Smith, Chris Barger.



We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of James

Edward "Jim" Martin who passed away on Friday night, August 20, 2021. Our prayers are with the Martin family. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

ALTAR FLOWERS ...
September 12th, 19th, and 26th
are available for Flower Sponsors. Please call Lealta Smith (828) 428-8327 or email: smithlea@charter.net. Thank you.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>September 19, 2021</p> <p>The new Sunday School Church Year begins— All church families are invited to join us In Bible Study each Sunday morning at 9 AM. Classes available for all ages.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ Wedding Anniversaries ♦ Birthdays</p>	
<p>5 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST HOMECOMING</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship Speaker: Dr. Rev. Kenneth Clapp Sacrament of Holy Communion Fellowship Meal cancelled</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ Danny Owens</p>	<p>6 LABOR DAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ M/M Jason Goodson</p>	<p>7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ Jennifer Lee, Ruth Haynes</p>
<p>12 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JOHN'S RIVER SUNDAY</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Sunday School (TBA) 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship - St. Matthew's Speaker: LaDonna Goodson 10:00 A.M. Worship Service - John's River Speaker: Greg Richard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ Leonard Goodson, Robert Bost</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>19 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROMOTION SUNDAY</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship Trial Sermon: Rev. William W. Sowers</p> <p>6:00 P.M. Consistory Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ Robin Caskey</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ Levi Barnes, Libby Herman</p>
<p>26 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship Speaker: Greg Richard 11:00 A.M. Baby Gift Shower given in honor of Amanda & Cody Trexler today. A gift table will be provided. (Please see more information on page 3.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ M/M Aaron Barnes ♦ Faye Painter, Wanda Snider, Wayne Shrum</p>	<p>27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♦ Dwight Shrum</p>	<p>28</p>

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																																
<p>1</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Revival Service Guest Speaker: Rev. Eddie Andrews, First Baptist Church</p> <p>♥ M/M Ronald Bumgarner</p>	<p>2</p> <p>♥ M/M Charles Bumgarner ♦ Cameron Goodson</p>	<p>3</p> <p>♦ Cindy Minter</p>	<p>4</p>																																																																																																																
<p>8</p> <p>♦ Matthew Hawn</p>	<p>9</p> <p>♦ Aubrey McCrary Ruby Bumgarner</p>	<p>10</p> <p>♦ Ronnie Williams</p>	<p>11</p>																																																																																																																
<p>15</p> <p>Pew fund raiser! - Checks payable to St. Matthew's are due today if you purchased a new church pew.</p> <p>♦ Christian Valesquez Jordan Valesquez</p>	<p>16</p> <p>♦ Jordan Minter</p>	<p>17</p> <p>♦ Walter Rice</p>	<p>18</p> <p>♥ M/M Michael Stewart</p>																																																																																																																
<p>22 FALL BEGINS</p>	<p>23</p> <p>♦ Chris Ingle</p>	<p>24</p> <p>♥ M/M Keith Goodson</p>	<p>25</p> <p>♥ M/M Burl Shrum</p>																																																																																																																
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">August 2021</th> <th colspan="7">October 2021</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		August 2021							October 2021							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1	2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	29	30	31					24	25	26	27	28	29	30								31						
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John's River Family Week

The annual family week at John's River for St. Matthew's will be September 7th thru September 12th; however, changes will be observed with the Covid-19 continues to be an ongoing problem.

Campers or family groups are asked to keep distance while at camp and mask are highly recommended if you are inside. It was also decided to continue with the no planned meals prepared as a group. All campers are responsible for their own food and snacks including any soft drinks or bottles of water you may need during your stay. Campers will also need to provide your own paper products for meals and snack needs. There will be no planned or purchased camp food or drinks available.

All regular sleeping quarters (main site cabins, the 2 lodges, and camper sites near the river) will be available.

2021 Camp fees:

Main Site:

- Age birth to 3 - free**
- Ages 4 - 12 - \$ 13.00/night/person**
- 13 + and older - \$ 16.00/night/person**
- Day Rate - \$ 1.25/person/day**

Boger Site:

- Shuford Lodge**
- Black Living Lodge**
- \$ 85.00/room/night**

Members planning to attend anytime during the week are asked to please register on Sunday morning or call Lealta Smith (828) 428-8327 before Homecoming Sunday. Please designate when registering the name of each adult camper, the age & name of children, and your request for sleeping quarters.

The service at JRVC will be September 12th at 10:00 a.m. with Greg Richard delivering the message.

Notes of Appreciation recently received.

- Lincoln County Coalition against Domestic Violence\$ 125.00
- Carolina Caring, Newton, NC\$ 250.00
- Hospice & Palliative, Lincolnton, NC\$ 250.00
- Nazareth Child & Family Connection....\$ 500.00
- ECCCM, Newton, NC\$ 500.00
- United Church Home & Services.....\$ 250.00
- American Cancer Society (Gift).....\$ 100.00

Consistory Corner Continued

individuals and families. The Ladies Aid, later known as the Women's Guild and now as the Women's Fellowship, donated the pulpit chairs a two gasoline lamps. Another lamp and an organ were purchased by the congregation. Other gifts included a hanging lamp, the church hymnals, a communion table, and the pulpit.

By the time the church was completed, the congregation had contributed money, materials, furnishings, and services in the following amounts: contributions, \$1,800.90 plastering, \$55.00; windows, \$91.45; pews, \$163.25; painting, \$110.00; organ, \$75.00 pulpit, \$50.00; chairs, \$40.00; lamps, \$30.00; and books, \$12.00. According to records St. Matthew's, one of the finest rural churches in the county, was built and furnished at a cost of \$2,427.64.

While the church was being built, the spring and the surrounding area were cleaned. Cement was placed around the spring on August 6, 1909.

The church was dedicated on September 3, 1921.

Although members of St. Matthew's Church deserve much credit for progress that has been made through the years, there have been "friends" who have helped along the way. The cemetery was the beneficiary of a large sum of money that began its own fund to keep the cemetery in good order. The Sanctuary project fund was begun with the bequest from an estate of someone who had attended and was influenced by St. Matthew's many years ago. A non-member donor saw the need for reliable and "good" water and gave a substantial donation to begin the fund for the waterline. As we recognize these bequests from outside the membership, we must also recognize that somewhere in its journey, St. Matthew's has influenced or impacted people in its path. As the church strives to stay true to the God it serves, may it continue to be a "light" to the community it serves.

MISSION . . . To worship God, to provide training and support for discipleship growth, and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed.

VISION . . . To strengthen our ministry to youth, to provide fellowship opportunities, to grow in membership, to deepen in faith, and to expand the church's outreach to the community.

VALUES . . . Strive to love and serve God, to love one another and keep relationships healthy, and to welcome and befriend newcomers.