

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 9

## The Grapevine

September 2021

### CONSISTORY CORNER

#### St. Matthew's story continues ...

In 1926, a bell was installed in the belfry. During the same year, the church was covered with shingles. The cemetery was enlarged and the new part divided into plots during 1925 or 1926.

Sunday, May 30, 1937, was a full but inspiring day for members and friends as they observed the centennial of the church's organization. In conjunction with the centennial celebration, they honored the Reverend John A. Koons, Pastor of St. Matthew's, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination into the ministry. Speakers for this memorable occasion were the following: the Reverend Charles W. Warlick, Dr. James D. Andrew, the Reverend C. Columbus Wagoner, the Reverend Carl H. Clapp, the Reverend Harvey G. Kopenhaver, the Reverend O. Bain Michael, the Reverend Harry D. Althouse, the Honorable Loomis F. Klutz, Dr. Walter W. Rowe, and Elder John F. Carpenter.

On June 26, 1934, the Reformed Church in the United States and the Evangelical Synod of North America united to form the Evangelical and Reformed church. St. Matthew's changed from the German Reformed to Evangelical and Reformed.

Electricity was installed in the church during the summer of 1939. It was used for the first time on Sunday night, August 13, 1939, at a service following the catechism and Bible School.

As we approach the 1950's, a story from one of our elder members comes to mind. The sanctuary stood as a lone edifice or a single room. Upon entering through the vestibule, the children's classes, taught by Mrs. Bernard Parker, were held in the back of the sanctuary. The women's class, taught by Mrs. Sudie Crooks and/or Mrs. Edna Holbrooks, was to the left front facing the altar. The men's class with P.J. McRee as teacher was where the choir loft stood. Mr. McRee taught a men's class until just before his death at age 90. Loreine Parker served the Church as secretary and Sunday school secretary.

As the congregation grew in size, so did the need for a larger Sunday school facility. Thus, the plan for the Educational wing as we know it came into being with the assistance of P.J. McRee and his construction crew.

The congregation felt the necessity for more adequate Sunday School facilities. In 1944, these desires approached reality. Adrian L. Shuford, Sr., a member of Trinity Church, Conover, contributed a considerable amount to the building fund. From that year the congregation had accumulated funds for a building

project. One Sunday each month the Sunday School offering was placed in this fund. Paul J. McRee was instructed by the congregation at a meeting held in January 1950, to design an educational annex. On February 5, 1950, the plans were presented to the congregation and approved.

Two days after the congregational meeting, the building and finance committees met. The following persons were members of these committees:

**BUILDING:** Paul J. McRee, Chairman, H. Albert Shrum, Aubrey H. Campbell, Paul M. Hartzoge

**FINANCE:** Lester Keever, Chairman, T. B. Parker, Theodore Campbell, Frank Bumgarner, J. O. Carpenter, Woodrow Shrum, R. Glenn McRee, Everett Campbell, and Miles Shrum.

Work began immediately. Timber was cut on the church grounds. A groundbreaking ceremony was conducted on March 5, 1950. The cornerstone, laid on August 20, was a gift of The Marble and Granite Company of Salisbury, North Carolina. On October 1, 1950, Sunday School classes began using the educational wing. The facility was dedicated on June 29, 1952.

Carpet was placed in the church in January 1949, and dedicated on March 6, 1949. The first service to be conduct-

Continued on page 6

**St. Matthew's Reformed Church**  
**Consistory Minutes**  
**August 8, 2021**

**We Assemble in God's Name**

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

**Guest-** Chris Carpenter, Chair of Sanctuary committee  
 Candace Carpenter, Chair of waterline  
 Judy Hooper, Financial  
 Marilyn McRee, Search Committee

President Libby Herman called the meeting to order with prayer and devotion on caring for one another.

**Motion** was made by Ruth Haynes to add adjustments and to approve the August agenda.

Second by Ronnie Bumgarner  
 Motion carried

Chris Carpenter gave us an update on the sanctuary.

- Speakers were removed from the sanctuary and relocated to fellowship hall
- A protection was placed over sanctuary windows
- Altar flooring removed for cabinet
- Plaster will begin this week

Candace Carpenter gave us an update on the waterline.

- The waterline should start this Wednesday and it should take a week to complete, if everything falls into place.

**Motion** was made by Jan Rice to accept the July minutes with the correction of the misspelling of the word, July.

Second by Chris Barger  
 Motion carried

**Motion** was made by Gina Chandler to accept the financial report.

Second by Bruce Wray  
 Motion carried

**Committee Reports**

**Cemetery**-held work days Friday, June 4 and Saturday, June 5 to install five new footstones for previously unmarked graves.

Minnie Flowers Bulla	1B-B3
Sarah Vincent Crooks	2B-A4
Alva Leona Bost	3B-D3
Delbert Glenn Rudisill	10B-D4
Dorothy Hatchett	12A-F2

In addition the committee arranged for Dan Bridle, Winecoff Memorials to inscribe death dates on five grave markers:

Edna Holbrook	Row 7-18 (old section)
Sarah H. Herman	5B-E4
Dean McRee	3B-A3
Sarah Harverson Bradley Reinhardt	7A-C4
Lorene Potter	8B-F3

**BOCE** - discussed Carnival Family Fun Day, Sunday school material, bibles for first graders

Church wide yard sale/fundraiser hamburger and hotdog sale is September 18 at 7:00am with a rain date of October 2

Greg Barkley is looking to replace the TV and DVD player for the Sunday school room

Returned (18) bibles that were not ordered correctly resulting in a credit of \$257.67

Purchased 2 additional bibles to place with the 3 on-hand (total 5 needed for 2021) \$35.27

**Financial** - Judy Hooper, more details will be considered for the financial report

**Motion** was made by Ronnie Bumgarner to accept the committee reports

Second by Susan Stewart  
 Motion carried

Still searching for a Revival speaker

Homecoming Speaker will be Rev. Ken Clap

**Motion** was made by Ruth Haynes to have no meal following the homecoming service because of rising numbers of Covid cases.

Second by Jan Rice  
 Motion carried

**Motion** was made by Susan Stewart to have no congregation singing and return to just the special singers (no choir) each Sunday service because of Covid.

Second by Chris Barger  
 Motion carried 11  
 Motion failed 1

**Motion** was made by Matthew Hawn to have no group meals for John's River because of Covid.

Second by Ronnie Bumgarner  
 Motion carried

**New Business:**

**Motion** was made by Lora Rice that the Search committee has recommended a pastor for our congregation. They also recommended a financial package for him to discuss and in the future will bring this to the congregation. He will preach a trial sermon September 19<sup>th</sup>, afterwards there will be a ballot vote. The congregation will receive a letter two weeks before he is to preach. Per his request he will be preaching under the arbor.

**Motion** was made by Bruce Wray to adjourn

Second by Frank Snider  
 Motion carried

Next meeting September 19, 2021.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Lora W. Rice Secretary



We express our Christian sympathy to the following families for the loss of their loved ones.

Mrs. Ethel Mae Funderburk Sigmon who died on August 28, 2021.

Mr. Curtis Dean Bradshaw, Jr. who died on August 26, 2021.

Mr. Leonard Goodson who died on September 7, 2021.

Mrs. Belinda Abernathy Arruza who died on September 7, 2021.

Our thoughts, love, and prayers are with each of these families.

### Sunday School Record

Date	Attd. 2021	Offg. 2021	Attd. 2019	Offg. 2019
8/01	37		35	
8/08	34		46	
8/15	30		49	
8/22	24		45	
8/29	20		—	—

Jacquelyn Barger, Wells Carpenter, Annabel Barger, Greg Barkley, Cindy Minter, Jerry Minter, Chris Carpenter Terrell Bumgarner, Libby Herman, Ruth Haynes, Candace Carpenter, Faye Painter, Chris Barger, Bruce Wray.



All Sundays in October 2021 are open for flower sponsors.

Please call

Lealta Smith (828) 428-8327 or email: smithlea@charter.net if you wish to place flowers on the altar.

—Thank you—

### ATTENTION ...

#### Church History Book on sale!

The Women's Fellowship is sponsoring and selling a new book entitled, "Six Miles North up the Island Ford Road" (The first 100 years of St. Matthews Reform Church) written by Bud Michael. The book cost is \$10.00/each.

Please see Hilda Shrum to make a purchase. Make checks payable to St. Matthew's Women's Fellowship.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the Sanctuary Fund.

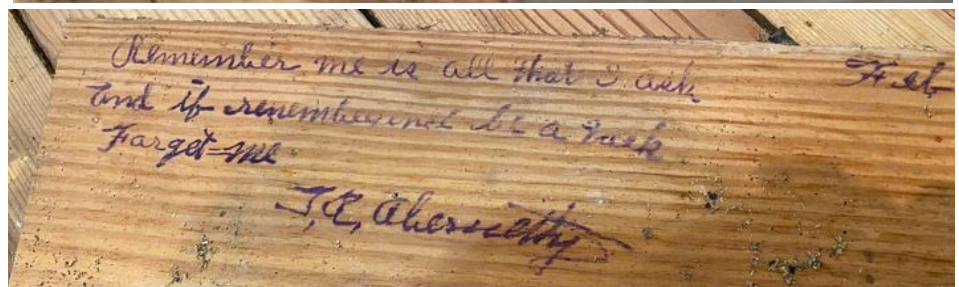
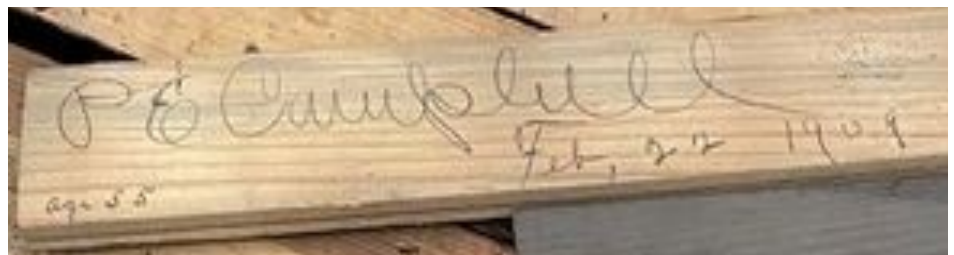
### TIME CAPSULE ....

If you love our Church, you will LOVE this historical find. While cleaning under the Altar area we uncovered 13 wooden boards that contain names and messages from 1909! (When the Church Sanctuary was originally constructed). These were obviously hidden here with the intention of being found!

With that said, the Sanctuary Committee would like to create our own Time Capsule to be placed (along with these historical boards) back under the choir loft/altar area during our 2021 renovation for future generations to find.

The Sanctuary Committee invites each Church Member to submit a photo with a note written on the back OR an index card with a note to be included in the 2021 time capsule. These will be sealed under the choir loft before the new flooring top is installed.

All photos or index cards will need to be delivered to Chris Carpenter by Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup>.



**SUNDAY****MONDAY****TUESDAY**

♥ Wedding Anniversaries

♦ Birthdays

**3 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship  
 Guest Speaker: Greg Richard

**4**

♥ M/M Micah Hawn

**5**

♦ Jewel Stiles

**10 TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship  
 Guest Speaker: Weston Henderson  
 11:00 A.M. Board of Christian Education meeting following  
 Worship service  
 6:00 P.M. Consistory Meeting

**11 COLUMBUS DAY**

♦ Helen Owens, Pam Caskey

**12****17 LAITY SUNDAY**

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship  
 Guest Speaker: Greg Richard

♦ Danny McRee

**18****19****24 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship  
 Guest Speaker: Weston Henderson

♦ Kandace Caskey, Kendall Caskey

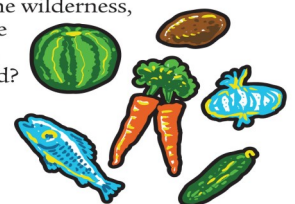
**25**♦ Aniston Arruza  
Landon Duncan**26****31 REFORMATION SUNDAY**

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship  
 Guest Speaker: Greg Richard

## ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ? ?

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they'd had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?

- A. carrots and potatoes
- B. onions and garlic
- C. fish and leeks
- D. melons and cucumbers



Answer: A (See Numbers 11:4-6.)



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>September 2021</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>6</b>  ♦ Johnny Leonard Todd Bumgarner	<b>7</b>  ♥ M/M Danny Owens ♦ Dawn Williams	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  ♦ Kelli McRee	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>27</b>  ♦ Brianna Armstrong Lyda Hawn	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Trick or Trunk (Candy donations will be appreciated.)
<b>NOTES</b> _____ _____ _____ _____			<b>November 2021</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

**HISTORY—Continued from page 1**

ed in the church following the installation was the funeral service of one of the donors.

On October 17, 1954, a proposal to build a parsonage was presented to St. Matthew's Consistory. A motion was made to combine the educational building fund and the parsonage building fund into one fund known as St. Matthew's building fund. These proposals were approved. The recommendation to build a parsonage was presented to the Joint Consistory of the Lincoln Charge on Sunday, October 24, 1954. The Joint Consistory then introduced the following to the congregations of St. Matthew's, Memorial, and Salem:

1. That St. Matthew's congregation build the proposed parsonage.
2. That St. Matthew's congregation build the parsonage at St. Matthew's.
3. That St. Matthew's percentage of the pastor's salary remain the same even though they build the parsonage.
4. That St. Matthew's build a parsonage that will be a credit to the charge.

All three congregations voted in favor of the proposal. St. Matthew's congregational meeting was on November 7, 1954.

At a congregational meeting on Sunday night, November 27, 1955, the congregation voted in favor of the proposed parsonage plans. The congregation also decided that the building should be of solid red brick and the den and study should be pine paneled. Estimated cost of the parsonage was \$15,000 with St. Matthew's share being one-half or \$7,500.00. Because Salem and Memorial chose to pay twenty percent each, St. Matthew's share of the cost was later changed to sixty percent. St. Matthew's was to receive one-third of the sale price of the old parsonage located next to Memorial in Maiden.

On July 29, 1956, at 11:00 a.m., the Reverend Frank Snider, pastor, presided at the groundbreaking ceremony for the congregations of all three churches in the

charge. In early 1957, the parsonage had been constructed on land northeast of the church. The first occupant of the parsonage was the Reverend James D. Rumley, Jr. Following his installation service on July 27, 1958, Pastor Rumley conducted the dedication service of the parsonage.

According to an April 1956, newsletter for all churches of the charge, the following improvements had recently been made at St. Matthew's. Additional concrete was poured at the front of the church to make extra space for standing before, between, and after services. To aid in preventing water from seeping into the basement of the church, concrete was also poured at the back of the church.

Two closets, one for literature and the other for tools and equipment, were built in the basement of the church. Two bookcases and three small cabinets were made for use in the Sunday School department.

A higher voltage wire was connected to the church so that more electrical current might be available for cooking and lighting.

The Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Church united into one body named the United Church of Christ on June 25, 1957. Since that time St. Matthew's has been known as St. Matthew's United Church of Christ.

The Sunday School enrollment had increased to the point that additional classroom space was required. In November 1963, the additional Sunday School rooms and the expansion of the Fellowship Hall were completed. Dedication services were held the following year.

St. Matthew's was a member of the Lincoln Charge which included Memorial Reformed in Maiden and Salem Reformed Church on the Startown Highway in Lincolnton. By a request of the congregation in 1965, the Southern Synod declared St. Matthew's an independent, self-supporting entity.

On September 1, 1965, St. Matthew's purchased from Salem and Memorial their shares in the parsonage. This sum increased the building debt to \$7,000.00 on that date. As of January 2, 1968, the debt for the Sunday School additions and the parsonage was paid in full. Shortly thereafter, the congregation celebrated the paying of the note by a service of "burning the mortgage."

Throughout its history, St. Matthew's has had dedicated members whose lives were evident of their love of God and their love of their Church. Mr. Jim Propst, who didn't have a driver license, walked through the woods, when he couldn't find a ride, to clean the Church as well as to attend church services. This trek of about a mile to the Church took him from the end of what is now 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Another true servant of the Lord, was Mrs. Sudie Crooks, who also walked to the Church, not only to teach the adult ladies class, but also to play the old pump organ for services. She put on her galoshes and a wool coat, when weather dictated, to walk from "Gobblers' Knob", the ridge across from Ethan Allen, for services at St. Matthew's. This too was approximately a mile walk.

Would this kind of service to the Church and dedication of this extent be found today? This history gives much food for thought and reflection.

St. Matthew's history to be continued in next month's newsletter.

**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 new-comers.