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“A Faithful and Welcoming Congregation”

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The Grapevine

March 2021

CONSISTORY CORNER

Spring is officially here—the Bradford pears have transformed from white puffs of flowers to green leaves, Easter lilies have bloomed, and all the neighbors are mowing grass. One thing we can count on in this world of chaos is God's consistency. His faithfulness will always bring us springtime, a time of hope and growth.

This time of year, also, brings cemetery cleanup, property and grounds cleaning, and taking care of damage and debris from winter winds and storms. The property committee will be working on replacing/repairing some pews in the arbor on Saturday. While we expect to be worshipping in the arbor soon, the freezing temperatures predicted this weekend will likely prevent us

from enjoying it for Easter.

As the season changes, we are beginning to change our worship by adding some of our worship elements back into the order of worship. The Apostle's Creed and the Children's Sermon were inserted last week, and the Lord's Prayer will be added soon. Perhaps other gatherings will be an item of discussion in the near future. While it seems we have had to learn many new ways of getting a job done, and for a variety of reasons, our attendance and participation in services has been good. Your loyalty to the church is much appreciated.

As we celebrate our risen Savior, we must remember the agony and suffering that Christ endured; the price he paid for each of us. Let us be reminded of this when we contemplate what we can do for the church or each other.

Libby Herman

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The committee has reviewed 13 ministerial profiles, five church profiles were sent to five candidates. The committee has held two zoom interviews with two potential prospects. However, we're still searching. Keep praying for God to send his servant to us.

LaDonna Goodson



**St. Matthew's
Reformed Church
Consistory Minutes
February 14, 2021**

In attendance: Libby Herman, Frank Snider, Matthew Hawn, Gina Chandler, Ruth Haynes, Jan Rice, Chris Barger, Ronnie Bumgarner, Burl Shrum, Lora Rice, and Faye Painter. (Chris Carpenter, Chair of Sanctuary committee and some members Jean Funderburk, and Linda Hawn) (Judy Hooper Finance)

*President Libby Herman called the meeting to order and had prayer.

*Started the meeting in the Sanctuary where Chris updated the Consistory on the cosmetic updates for Sanctuary. A motion was made to repair the choir loft by the Property Committee.

Motion made by Ruth Haynes
Second by Matthew Hawn
Motion Carried

* A motion was made that we add a Confidentiality Agreement and Assign a new consistory member to the agenda.
Motion made by Chris Barger
Second by Jan Rice
Motion Carried

* Judy Hooper, (Finance) met with the Consistory, Sanctuary Committee has requested funds to seal the exposed brick in Sanctuary. They recommend taking funds from the church maintenance General Fund since this is a

needed repair to the current situation. A motion was made that the Finance is allowed to do this.

Motion made by Matthew Hawn
Second by Chris Barger
Motion Carried

*A motion was made to fix two things on the minutes. On Committee Reports, Property Committee, the Heat Pump to be replaced was \$6,600 instead of \$22,000. Also add Marilyn McRee's last name to the January 17th meeting. With the changes made the minutes were approved.

Motion made by Gina Chandler
Second by Jan Rice
Motion Carried

*Motion was made to approve the Financial Report.

Motion made by Gina Chandler
Second by Ronnie Bumgarner
Motion carried

*A motion was made to send out a phone tree asking the Congregation if they would be interested in having a FM Transmitter so those that don't feel safe coming in the Fellowship-Hall for service could listen to it in the church parking lot. Price would be \$175.00 for the FM Transmitter.

Motion made by Ronnie Bumgarner
Second by Jan Rice
Motion carried

New Business:

*Motion was made to replace Kandace Caskey with Susan Stewart for the rest of Kandace's term since she is no longer able to return.

Motion made by Ruth Haynes
Second by Ronnie Bumgarner
Motion carried

*A motion was made to have no Ash Wednesday Service, no communion on February 21 service, and no Easter Sunrise Service and potentially having a Maundy Thursday Service.

Motion made by Jan Rice
Second by Gina Chandler
Motion carried

*Motion to adjourn

Motion made by Ronnie Bumgarner
Second by Matthew Hawn
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Lora Rice, Secretary

Bible Quiz



We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus.

Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas

See Luke 24:18

Answer: D

Please Pray For ...

Judy & Joel Campbell
Emma Grace Minteer
Lyda Hawn
Melissa Woodring
Joyce Bradshaw
Arthur McGahan
Ellen Roads
Kristen Sipe
Dwight Shrum
Brandi Gilbert
Greg Fulbright
Adrian Lemmond
Pastor Search Committee
and Church Leadership
Larry & Vicky Parker

Homebound Members:

Shirley Martin
Lucille Shook
Robert and Ann Bost
Dot Mathis
Joyce Bradshaw

Please contact Libby Herman or Lealta Smith to help keep the Prayer List up-to-date.



Flower Sponsors are needed for the April 11th thru 25th. Also, please confirm or reserve any dates you wish to have during the year. Please call Lealta Smith (828) 428-8327 or email: smithlea@charter.net.

—Thank you—

Bud Michael

Cemetery Notes

I had an interesting conversation with Terry Waldrop this week. Terry is a cemetery investigator who has documented cemeteries and graveyards throughout Lincoln and Catawba Counties over the past 25 years. Terry said to me during our conversation, "You know, St. Matthew's Church does not have a cemetery." "What?", I responded.

"It's not a cemetery," he said. "It's a graveyard. In the language of cemetery investigators, burial grounds like the Ramsour Cemetery on River Road which are not associated with a specific church are, yes, cemeteries. Burial grounds specific to churches, like St. Matthew's and Salem, are referred to as graveyards. You have a graveyard."

OK, whatever. On to the news. We had a great work morning on Saturday, March 13. A total of 15 volunteers worked from before 9 am till noon, cleaning the woods of concrete, bricks, blocks, and other debris. Several downed trees were cut up and removed by the tractor scoopful by Charles Bumgarner and A.D. Shrum. A. D. moved several yards of fill dirt to low spots in the old section where many hands raked smooth the fill, removed rocks and roots, then sowed grass seed. Others helped remove and bag faded flowers and other debris from the grave sites.

We'll do it again soon. Join us for a great morning of fellowship and volunteering. All you need is a rake, gloves, and 2 - 3 hours of time!

Cultivating kindness

Kind hearts are the gardens.
Kind thoughts are the roots.
Kind words are the flowers.
Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden
and keep out the weeds.
Fill it with sunshine,
kind words and kind deeds.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

PUZZLE

EASTER MORNING
message

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.

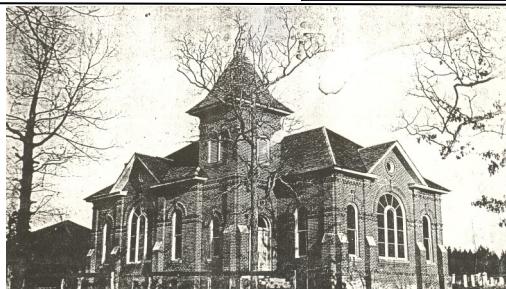
Luke 24:5-6, NIV

The puzzle is a circular maze with the following text inside:

SUN RISE ON EARTH
BORN IN GETHSEMANE
ANGELS SAID HE IS RISEN!
HOLY EASTER MORNING

LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV



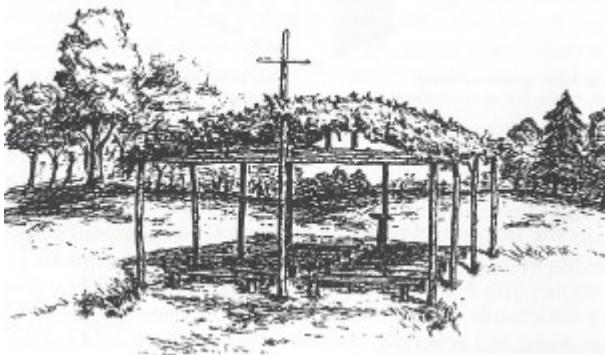
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRIDAY	SAT
			<p>♥ Wedding Anniversaries ♦ Birthdays</p> <p>♥ Wedding Anniversaries</p>	<p>1 MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>♦ Chris Barger</p>	<p>2 GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>♦ Hilda Shrum</p>	<p>3 HOLY SATURDAY</p>
4 EASTER 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship Speaker: Rev. Greg Richard	5 ♦ Lisa Specht	6	7 ♦ Morgan Burgess	8 ♦ Matthew Hawn	9	10 ♥ M/M Greg Barkley
11 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship Speaker: Lora Rice 6:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting	12 ♦ Larry Parker	13	14 ♦ Alisa Herman	15	16	17 ♦ Annette Wray Linda Hawn
18 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship Speaker: Rev. Greg Richard	19 ♦ Grace Herman	20	21 	22 ♥ MM Jean-Paul La Bounty ♦ Taylor Beard	23	24
25 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship Speaker: Rev. Greg Richard ♦ Charles Bumgarner	26 ♦ Deanie Michael Tyger McRee	27	28 ♥ M/M Dale Goodson	29 ♦ Sandy Bumgarner	30 ♦ Karlee Cook	

Our Arbor

Bud Michael

Warm weather will soon allow us to again worship in our arbor. And when we do gather there, pause a moment to look up. Note the massive internal columns, the intricate framing, the tight joints fastened with wood pegs, and the delicate structure holding the roof in place.

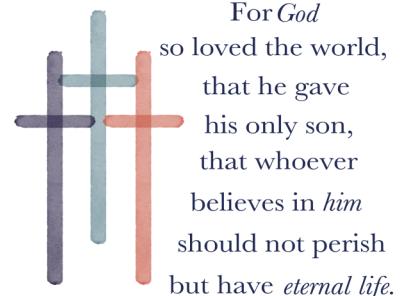
Our beautiful wood framed arbor dates to 1845. But before Joseph Finger built that arbor, St. Matthew's had a brush arbor. Brush arbors were not uncommon in Reformed and Lutheran Churches. A brush arbor served as an outdoor church until a more permanent meeting house could be built.



Our 1845 arbor was five times bigger than our original 1836 church to accommodate the large numbers of attendees at the annual three day meetings held in early September. Those meetings were held every year until about 1878. Surrounding the arbor on three sides were 22 family "tents", rudimentary wooden cottages. The "tents" were dismantled by about 1900.

Todays arbor was constructed in 1990, replacing the original wood structure which was destroyed by fire of undetermined origin in 1989. Thankfully, measured drawings of the arbor were made and archived by the Design School of North Carolina State University. These drawings were used to faithfully replicate our beloved "outdoor church".

Coloring photo! Take time to give thanks and color.



John 3:16

Coloring sample below if needed!





SUNRISE SURPRISE

The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

What you do:

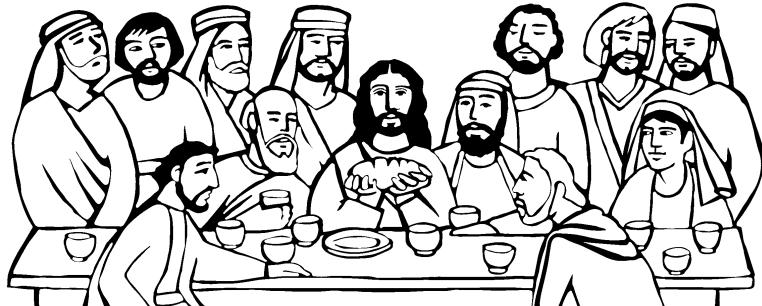
1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!



PUZZLE

Picturing the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.



Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.



And he took _____, gave _____ and _____ it, and gave



it to them, saying, "This is my _____ given for you; do this in



_____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he



took the cup, saying, "This _____ is the new _____ in my



blood, which is _____ out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

Answer: bread, thanks, broke, body, remembrance, cup, covenant, poured

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.