

ST. MATTHEW'S  
REFORMED CHURCH  
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Maiden, NC 28650

"A Faithful and Welcoming Congregation"

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3-12-2017 - SMRC Arbor - Snow dusting

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## The Grapevine

February 2022



*"When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. 'I am about to go the way of the earth,' he said. So be strong, act like a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you prosper in the Lord..." 1 Kings 2:1-3a*

King David is an old man and he knows that his time on earth is drawing to a close. He has spent 40 years on the throne of Israel, 7 as king in Hebron and 33 as king Jerusalem. Now he is at the end of his rule. He has already had Solomon crowned king as to achieve a smooth transition of power. He has taken care of his throne, but now he leaves Solomon this last piece of advice.

First of all, he is reminded to be **Strong**. Leadership is never for the faint of heart, and the kingship in Israel required

strength. During David's time he would face invaders and even had sons try to usurp his kingship. Next, to **Act** like a Man, he is reminding Solomon that the days of his childhood are behind him that in order to rule he must act like an adult. These two things are very important for Solomon to remain King.

Next, things take a more important spiritual turn. David then advises to **Observe** what the Lord your God requires. He doesn't just want Solomon to be a physically strong leader but strong spiritually as well. Observing this requires more than simply looking but to then walk in God's ways.

What does this mean for us today? We are Christians who are called to service to Almighty God. This call requires us to be strong, to act and to observe. This is a spiritual calling for us. Our service to the church is a service to God. We can't just simply act with some of these leadership skills without allowing all of them to be present. We need to walk in the ways of God if we want to do the best job that we possibly can.

-Rev. William M. Sowers

### Up-coming Events

A Food Drive for the Lincoln County Christian Ministry continues. It is sponsored by Morgan Burgess and Aubrey McCrary. A collection basket is provided in the fellowship hall entrance for donations of canned food, non-perishable foods, and socks.

Items will be collected until Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**TIME CHANGE**  
**beginning on March 13<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Sunday School - 9:30 A.M.**  
**Morning Worship - 10:30 A.M.**

The Women's Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. All church women are welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

Choir rehearsal dates and times for March to be determined.

Monthly Youth Gatherings - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. for all ages.

Community Easter Egg Hunt  
Saturday, April 9, 2022  
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Egg Hunt also after worship on Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> for Children in attendance.

VBS dates - Aug. 17-19, 2022

## St. Matthew's Reformed Church Consistory Meeting Minutes January 9, 2022

### Consistory Members in attendance:

Chris Barger, Charles Bumgarner, Candace Carpenter, Matthew Hawn, Ruth Haynes, Libby Herman (2021 President), Jane Lemmond, Lora Rice, Jan Rice, Burl Shrum, Frank Snider, Susan Stewart, Bruce Wray, Rev. William Sowers (ex officio)

**Guest in attendance:** Chris Carpenter, LaDonna Goodson, Marilyn McRee, Faye Painter

Call to Order and Devotion: Libby Herman

### Adjustments to January 9, 2022

**Agenda:** Addition of BoCE to Committee Reports. Quotes for Copiers added to Old Business. Motion to accept amended Agenda: Chris Barger, seconded by Ruth Haynes. Approved.

**Sanctuary Update** given by Chris Carpenter. The **Choir Loft/Chancel area flooring** was placed, sanded and stained. The Sanctuary Committee is concerned about the final quality and color, they will be seeking to correct via the Contractor at no cost. This may delay the project several weeks, however feel this is necessary. Update on items still required (ADA double doors, interior handrail, AV cabinet, Chancel furniture, electrical trim). Permission to purchase **choir chair cushion fabric** to match pew cushions requested at a max of \$631. Motion to approve fabric cost by Frank Snider, seconded by Susan Stewart. Approved. **Stain glass windows need minor repair and maintenance**, quote has been received by original company (Laws Stained Glass). Request of up to \$800 for stain glass repairs requested. Motion made by Matthew Hawn, seconded by Frank Snider. Approved. **All-weather floor mats** were discussed and quote provided.

Consistory suggested a sample be ordered due to total cost. Request made to Faye Painter to provide information for **Sanctuary Dedication Program**. Check draw #7 for contractor Hemlock requested and approved - \$6,676.38.

**Waterline Update** given by Candace Carpenter. A thank you to Property Committee for repairing hole. Power line to Church was cut but repaired same day. In communication with Lincoln County in hopes of uncovering a grant or reimbursement for shortage of funds – unfortunately, no movement to date. Contractor, JITOW, was onsite all week for in-ground installation. Next step is to conduct pressure and bacteria test with Lincoln County within the next 2 weeks (if schedules/weather align). Second (and final) payment to JITOW will be due upon all County sign-offs. Discussion and **Consistory consensus that City Water should be provided to the Parsonage**.

**Personnel Committee Update** given by Marilyn McRee and LaDonna Goodson. Two members of Personnel meet with **Church Staff to review job descriptions and discuss concerns**. Report summary was given to and acknowledged by the Consistory. Several recommendations were made by the Personnel Committee including:

- 1) A recommendation that a **Media Communication Team** be formed to help inform all Members of events/happenings within the Church.
- 2) An **internal audit of Church financial records** be conducted.
- 3) A **shadowing / apprentice program** be put into place for all positions. Discussion was had that Staff Evaluations by Consistory have not been held since 2019 and should be

conducted. Discussion was held to investigate past **Church Constitutions** and the potential removal/inclusion of financial audit guidelines.

### Election of 2022

Consistory Officers:

Jan Rice – President

Frank Snider – Vice President

Candace Carpenter – Secretary

### Review of December 2021

**Minutes:** Insurance question raised for clarification. Adjusting the deductible from \$1,000 to \$5,000 was the first step to reevaluating the Church's insurance increased cost. More research and policy price comparisons to be conducted soon. Motion to approve December 2021 Consistory Minutes by Frank Snider, seconded by Bruce Wray. Approved.

### December 2021 Financial Report

given by Faye Painter. Discussion of Parsonage Renovation. Have not been billed for the renovation by the Contractor, Barry Harbinson, as of yet – awaiting the new Study door. The maintenance still needed is minimal (water spots in ceiling, outside outlet, and would like to have the Parsonage rekeyed). Great team effort on the Parsonage renovation. Motion to approve December 2021 Financial Report made by Chris Barger, seconded by Charles Bumgarner. Approved.

### Board of Christian Education Committee Report

given by Candace Carpenter. BoCE meetings moved to the first Sunday of each month. Suggestion to open the **Nursery** beginning Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup> with volunteer list – will communicate to Staff for bulletin and newsletter. The BoCE requested that all items to be purchased from BoCE budget be reviewed, price-compared and **approved by the BoCE** before purchases are made by Church Staff. **Actual**

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**years' spend amounts** for largest two line items (Sunday School Literature and VBS) were requested from Faye Painter. Requested approval to begin holding a **monthly youth gathering** – dates/times TBD. Motion to approve all above mentioned BoCE request made by Frank Snider, seconded by Lora Rice. **All Request Approved.** Discussion continued to evaluate future Sunday School and Worship times to be presented to the Congregation for a vote. Children's Church will be paused and re-evaluated. Children's Sermon to be in rotation by volunteers.

#### Old Business:

**Grounds Keeping Contract** was signed for 2022 with Integrity, Kyle Crafton. Includes Church, Parsonage and Cemetery once a week. Ball Field is monthly. The Church Cemetery Fund will pay half of the cost.

**Quotes for Church Office Copier** were obtained by Susan Stewart. Old copier contract was signed April 9, 2017 for 60 months by John Barnette. Approx. 1,200 - 1,500 black copies made per month. Current budget \$3,600 per year with Carolina Office Systems. **New copier could be purchased or leased.**

Quote #1 Docutex (referred by Corinth), savings approx. \$1,400 - \$2,000 per year, does not include folding machine.

Quote #2 Docugraphics, savings approx. \$1,000 per year.

Quote #3 RJ Young, savings \$1,200 year – does include folding machine. Folding Machines can be purchased \$500-\$800 if needed.

**Next steps:** Evaluation of new copier quotes and respective features by Consistory Members. Decision tabled.

**2022 Property Tax** for the Par-

sonage. An exemption letter has been sent to Lincoln County for 2022.

#### New Business:

**Membership stats** provided by Lealta Smith for review. Edits noted for Hank Wesson Trexler birth date change to 11-12-2021.

**Church Directory** is in the process of being updated by Lealta Smith and Rev. Sowers. Future investigation into a more formal Church Directory with photos, contact information, etc. soon.

**Funeral request** made by Rev. Sowers. Use of Funeral Pall for an off-site funeral location for Mrs. Ann Bost's funeral. Consensus to approve by all.

**Filing Cabinets** were requested for Rev. Sowers's office and staff. \$259 + tax for 4 drawer cabinet. Question for Church Staff's request: Is there an opportunity to shred older files and declutter – keep for audit purposes quoted at 7 years + current year. Faye Painter to have her office file cabinets rearranged to fit new cabinet. Motion to approve purchase of 3 file cabinets made by Candace Carpenter, seconded by Bruce Wray.

#### Security Duty Volunteers.

Security efforts were paused during COVID. Volunteer list has been populated. Consistory agrees that security post to start immediately. Candace Carpenter to reach out to individuals, assign months and pass information for future Bulletins and Newsletter to Staff.

**Evaluate communication / events within Bulletin.** Reflect back to a pre-COVID and past bulletins to see what was listed including (but not limited to) weekly meeting dates/times, nursery volunteers, money counters, closers, security

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#### Sunday School Record

Date	Attd. 2022	Offg. 2022	Attd. 2021	Offg. 2021
01/02	30		No Sunday School 01/03 to 7/25 2021 due to COVID	
01/09	32			
01/16	--- Snow ---			
01/23	30			
01/30	36		--	--

Hilda Shrum, Karlee Cook, Wilson Sowers, Aubree McCrary, Annabell Barger, Charlotte Sowers, Morgan Burgess, Sonya Leonard, Roger Beard, Greg Barkley, Cindy Minter, Jerry Minter, Joan Campbell, Sammy Goodson, LaDonna Goodson, Elsie Painter, Pastor Sowers, Abby Sowers, Ruth Haynes, Shirley McRee, and Faye Painter.

#### Financial Information for January 2022 . . .



#### Altar Flowers

The following Sundays are available for a flower sponsor:  
March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, & 27<sup>th</sup>.

Please confirm or reserve any dates you wish to have during the year. Please feel free to call Lealta Smith (828) 428-8327 or email: smithlea@charter.net

— Thank you —

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		1
<b>6 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship 11:15 A.M. Board of Christian Educ. Meeting 6:00 P.M. Called Consistory Meeting  Nursery: Hilda Shrum & Kristel Shrum Security: Aaron Barnes ♥ M/M Roger Beard	7     ♦ Peyton McRee	8     ♦ Eleanor Daniels Vick Lancaster
<b>13 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</b> DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS  9:30 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Morning Worship 6:00 P.M. Consistory Meeting  Nursery: Sonya Leonard & Cindy Minter Security: Ronnie Bumgarner	14	15   10:00 a.m. Young at Hearts Luncheon Meeting  ♦ Keith Goodson Scarlett Hartzoge
<b>20 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT</b> SPRING BEGINS  9:30 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Morning Worship  Nursery: Jan Rice & Lydie Rice Security: Aaron Barnes ♦ Katie Barnes	21	22     ♦ Jacquelyne Barger Sharon Smith
<b>27 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 9:30 A.M. Sunday School 10:30 A.M. Morning Worship 3:00 P.M. Children's monthly gathering from 3:00 - 5:00 pm (all ages)  Nursery: LaDonna Goodson & Gina Chandler Security: Ronnie Bumgarner ♥ M/M Chris Lee	28	29

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>2 ASH WEDNESDAY</b>  1:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship Meeting  7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	<b>3</b>  ♦ Jean Funderburk Ashley Shrum	<b>4</b> WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	<b>5</b>  ♦ Joseph Bost
<b>9</b>  ♦ Shirley McRee	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  ♦ Meredith Lee
<b>16</b>  ♦ Johnnie Stiles	<b>17</b> ST. PATRICK'S DAY	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>23</b>  ♦ Matheson Painter	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  ♦ Greg Barkley	<b>26</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	♥ Wedding Anniversaries   ♦ Birthdays	



### Did They Move the Road?

I asked myself that question many years ago when we moved to our former home near Carpenter's Creek, three miles south of our Church. The two main bridges on Island Ford Road (business 321) cross Carpenter's Creek at the bottom of Hanes Hill near the old Whitehouse Apple plant and Lockardt's Creek just down the hill from the Church. Lockhardt's Creek is where Finger's Mill once stood.

Walking in the woods along Carpenter's Creek one day, I found an old bridge abutment about sixty feet from the current bridge. And I thought, "Golly did they move the road." They did, sort of.

When you drive south from the Church and cross Lockhardt's Creek, you can look to the right and see the former bridge supports on the banks of that creek as well. Of course, it's no mystery when you look into it. The Island Ford Road was the primary north-south route through Lincoln County in 1837 when our Church was constructed. Those two creeks were crossed at ground level in those days: no bridges. In time, however, wooden bridges were constructed over the creeks, supported by the old concrete abutments you can still see today.

The Island Ford Road was the most heavily travelled road into and out of Lincolnton. So, when in 1926 Lincolnton's courthouse square was first paved, plans were made to pave the Island Ford Road north to the county line. When it came to crossing streams, it's easier to build a new bridge alongside the earlier bridge in order to allow traffic to continue flowing. A side benefit is to sometimes straighten the route slightly. Hence, the roadbed gets moved somewhat before the old bridges are abandoned or deconstructed.

These two bridges were built in the early 1930s to accommodate the newly paved road. An old county road map marked the road as NC Highway 16. That was changed in 1936 when Island Ford Road became a portion of U.S. highway 321 which today stretches more than 500 miles from Hardeeville, South Carolina to Interstate 40 southwest of Knoxville, Tennessee.

As for these two 90-year-old bridges, a 2012 road study labeled them as "functionally obsolete" considering the increased traffic load over recent decades. A proposed road plan at that time considered widening the road and replacing the bridges. As we now know, however, the plans were shelved to build a new multilane US 321 through Lincoln County.

-Bud Michael

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detail, etc. Candace Carpenter to arrange with Church Staff.

Request to abandon the **Offering lock box** and begin using the traditional offering plate(s) during service.

Research **umbrella bags** for the new Sanctuary entry due to hardwood flooring.

**Men's Brotherhood.** Bruce Wray would like to explore starting back with new participants.

**Membership Transfer Request.** Rev. William Sowers would like to transfer his membership to St. Matthew's. Letter to be requested from Susan Barnette. Motion made by Candace Carpenter, seconded by Lora Rice.

Motion to adjourn Bruce Wray, seconded by Chris Barger.

Next Consistory Meeting: **Sunday February 13, 2022 at 5 pm.**

Minutes submitted by Candace Carpenter, Secretary



**EVENING  
WORSHIP  
7:00 P.M.**

*"God has made everything beautiful for its own time."*

-Ecclesiastes 3:11

### 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.