

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

Church Phone: 828-428-9651

Church Website: [www.stmatthewsmaiden.org/](http://www.stmatthewsmaiden.org/)  
Church Email: [stmatthewsoffice@bellsouth.net](mailto:stmatthewsoffice@bellsouth.net)

Susan Barnette, Office Assistant

Lealta Smith, Editor  
Email: [smithlea@charter.net](mailto:smithlea@charter.net)



Volume 47 Issue 12

The Grapevine

December 2021



"But as for me and my household we will serve the Lord."  
Joshua 24:15

I have a wall hanger that my parents gave me years ago with this scripture on it. I probably don't look at it as often as I should, but as I recently took it off the wall over the doorway, I was reminded of its importance. I still remember the place that it hung in the parsonage of the Woodcock Valley, when I served in Pennsylvania, and I have always tried to place it in an important location so that I will see it often. There are many important scriptures, but this is one that I try to live by.

Joshua had judged Israel for many years at this point, and he knew his time was drawing short so he left the people with this advice. You see, there were many options other than serving God. He explained that that they could serve the gods of the Canaanites or the gods of those

others that were beyond the river. The choice was up to them. Today, as modern Christians, I think there are plenty of "gods" that we can still serve. However, like the ancient Israelites, we too, must choose.

The greatest gift that I have ever received is knowing Jesus Christ. Years ago when I accepted His call, I knew I must follow wherever he led me. Sometimes it is really easy, yet other times it is more of a challenge, but there is never a challenge that is too great with God's help. As I recently finished a confirmation class, I was reminded that you can do your best to teach, but then it is up to the other person to accept Christ. In this world, there are so many things that we can't control, but we can control whether or not we choose to accept Christ. So I ask, "Who will you serve?" I can't tell you who or what to choose, but like Joshua said to Israel, "But as for me and my household we will serve the Lord."

-Rev. William M. Sowers



### St. Matthew's Reformed Church Consistory Minutes November 14, 2021

#### We Assemble in God's Name

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

**Guest:** Candace Carpenter, Waterline and BOCE  
Chris Carpenter, Sanctuary  
Walter Rice, parsonage

President Libby Herman called the meeting to order with prayer and devotion, "Wanting the best for others."

Candace Carpenter gave an update on the water line. Unfortunately, an underground powerline was not marked during the utility marking process and was severed during the waterline installation last week. Duke Power and John's Pump and Electric were called to correct. Expect an invoice from John's Pump and Electric for their emergency services.

Walter Rice and Ronnie Bumgarner were the points of

Continued on page 2

## Consistory —Continued from page 1

contact. The shed across the road currently does not have power. This has been turned over to the property committee. The final component, a 2" meter set, is still on backorder.

Mr. Garrett (JITOW LLC) is requesting a partial payment of \$18,500. With the remainder to be paid after completion of Installation and testing. I have requested a formal invoice via email/text.

**\*Red** = paid to date

Engineer: **\$ 9,189.22**

Ferguson (parts): **\$31,472.36**  
(full quote \$41,957.66)

JITOW LLC (labor): \$18,500 (full quote supplies and labor \$64,432) \*did not reflect price increase of supplies

Surveyor: \$500-will be included in (Mr. Garrett's invoice) Mr. Garrett paid for this service

**Total to Date: \$40,661.58 plus \$18,500 this week: \$59,161.58**

Sales Tax on Supplies: \$2,060.30

Shortfall is still stated at \$ 12,357.31 as of November 7, 2021

\*Any additional funds to be pulled from Building Fund

**Motion** was made by Lora Rice to take \$800.00 out of the general fund to pay Mr. Garrett. Second by Ronnie Bumgarner Motion carried

Please note: we will have to pay in full and complete the project before Lincoln County reimburses the \$10,258.92 (6in to 8in pipe size difference.)

Candace also gave us an update of BOCE. Bibles that were bought incorrectly were returned with a refund of \$257.62. The yard sale/ hotdog fundraiser was a success. A new TV/DVD player was purchased for the adult Sunday school class room and the old one was disposed of. New names were given for the BOCE. They also looked over

their budget for the 2022 year.

The BOCE suggested instead of doing a children's Christmas play, they have a youth party Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00. It is for all children Sunday school age.

There will be a nursery sign-up sheet for anyone who would like to volunteer for nursery duty starting in Nov. 2021.

Chris Carpenter gave us an update on the sanctuary.

Hemlock Builders Update

Pay app #3 was paid November 3, 2021 for \$14,250.00

Original contract sum \$118,562.00

Current payment due \$ 14,250.00

Balance to finish, including retainage \$67,682.00

Lincoln County sum \$118,562.00

Change order No. 1 (ADA Ramp/Vestibule) \$ 20,728.51

Change order No. 2 (Vestibule 2 Flooring) \$ 276.38

The new contract sum including order #1 and #2 \$139,566.89

Additional Hemlock change orders-coming soon

Other Expense Items (non-Hemlock):

Qty choir chairs-down payment to Carolina Furniture Mart \$2,000 (total \$6,955+\$455 tax)

Donation \$250.00 per chair, if you would like to purchase in honor or in memory of someone.

Stain glass window repair-gathering quotes. Pew name plates-seeking quotes

Project financials: to date

Original Scope Hemlock Builders and pews \$188,017.00

Lincoln County Inspections Office -change orders \$ 21,004.89

Expenses paid to date (\$ 76,915.36)

Amount in sanctuary funds \$143,309.60

Current surplus (approximately) \$ 11,202.96

**Pew update:**

New Holland arrival date: Monday, November 22 at 7:00am (Installation duration: 1-2 days)

Contract amount \$ 59,231.40

7% Sales Tax \$ 4,146.20

Contracted total \$ 63,377.55

Down payment ck#4808 (\$ 19,132.55)

Amount due at delivery (Nov 23) \$ 44,242.05

First event in new sanctuary

The Sanctuary Committee has voted unanimously to not hold any services, events, or productions in the newly renovated Sanctuary until Rev. Sowers first Sunday as our new minister (Jan, 2, 2022) and/or the dedication service (request to also be led by Rev. Sowers.)

A phone tree will be sent to anyone who made a donation to the sanctuary fund and would like to be anonymous; their name will not be on the program for the dedication.

Walter Rice gave us an update on the property. Walter will be removing the wiring from the outside building. The power is off but needs to be removed.

Lawing Heating and Air will be putting in a furnace (air scrubber by Aurus ozone free, 15 HVAC) for the parsonage. The price is \$807.85.

Ronnie Bumgarner got quotes for taking down and trimming trees at the church.

John White \$ 4,000.00 (4 trees)

Rushton \$ 6,500.00 (4 trees)

\* By Consensus (something to consider in the near future but will wait till a later date.)

**Motion** was made by Ruth Haynes to accept October minutes

Second, by Chris Barger

**Lighting the Church Before Electricity**

Part 1: by Bud Michael

So, we might wonder what St. Matthew's worshipers did for lighting before electricity. What? *What do you mean BEFORE electricity?* Yes. Even though Thomas Edison invented a reliable light bulb in the 1880s, electricity in farms, churches and rural homes was rare until fifty years later. (We'll get to that story in Part 2.)

Before the mid-1920s many rural churches rarely had nighttime services. Some city churches might have had gas lighting if gas lines were installed along the city streets. Private system lighting was available but usually too expensive to own and operate for small rural churches.

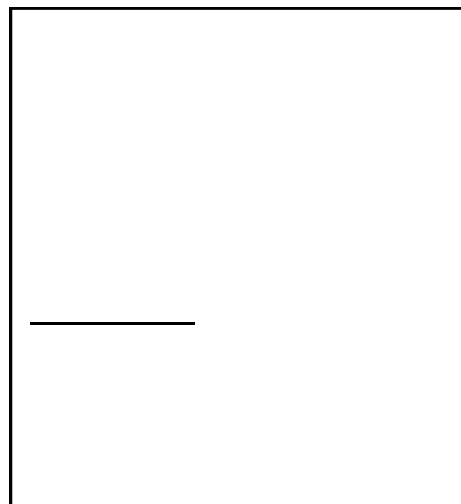
In the Summer of 1920, St. Matthew's acquired four gas pressure lamps made in Wichita, Kansas by the Coleman Lamp Company. The lamps were part of a Church redecorating and remodeling project that included a new pulpit, pulpit furniture, fresh interior paint, and a new organ. Two of the lamps were donated by the Ladies Aid Society (Women's Fellowship), one was purchased by the congregation, and a third lamp was donated to the Church by Mrs. E.C. Shuford, in memory of her late father, Levi Shrum, on whose farm bricks for the Church were made.

These lamps, invented in 1909 and continuously improved upon became widely available by the 1920s. They were advertised as "twenty times brighter than an ordinary kerosene lamp". One feature of the lamp was an extension rod to enable the lamp to be hung from the ceiling. Because of our tall ceilings, the lamps were probably set on tall stands in the sanctuary. The hanging lamp might have been mounted above the pulpit.

To operate the lamp, fuel is added to the tank or fount (in the base of the lamp), a small hand pump is used to pressurize the fuel, and the delicate mantles are lit with the turn of a knob while applying a lit match. One lamp is about as bright as a

100-watt light bulb. The lamp will burn for several hours without further attention. Releasing the fount pressure turns off the lamp.

Once our sanctuary renovation is complete and the construction materials are removed, an example of these gas pressure lamps will be placed in our History Room for all to see and imagine sitting near in the sanctuary on a dark afternoon or at a Christmas Eve service.



### Congregational Meeting Results November 28, 2021

**Board of Christian Education:**  
Katie Barnes and Jerry Minter

**Deacons:** Charles Bumgarner  
Susan Stewart

**Elders:** Candace Carpenter  
Jane Lemmond

2022 Budget approved



—Continued next column

**Sunday School Record**

Date	Attd. 2021	Offg. 2021	Attd. 2020	Offg. 2020
11/07	31	0	No Sunday School Mar-Dec. 2020 due to COVID-19	
11/14	31			
11/21	30			
11/28	22			

Hilda Shrum, Jacquelyn Barger, Sonya Leonard, Annabel Barger, Morgan Burgess, LaDonna Goodson, Elsie Painter, Greg Barkley, Sam Goodson, Terrell Bumgarner, Roger Beard, Ruth Haynes, Shirley McRee, Faye Painter, Lealta Smith, and Chris Barger.

We express appreciation to the following officers for their faithful service the last three years ...

**Deacons**

(Kandace Caskey) Susan Stewart  
(Kay Lowman) Gina Chandler

**Elders**

Libby Herman, Ronnie Bumgarner

**Installation & Ordination Service**

will be held on

**January 9, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.**

The following elected officers will be Installed and Ordained for a three year term in their designated office.

**Deacons**

Charles Bumgarner, Susan Stewart

**Elders**

Candace Carpenter, Jane Lemmond

**Altar Flowers**

The following Sundays are available for sponsors:

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup>.

Please confirm or reserve any dates you wish to have during the year. Please call

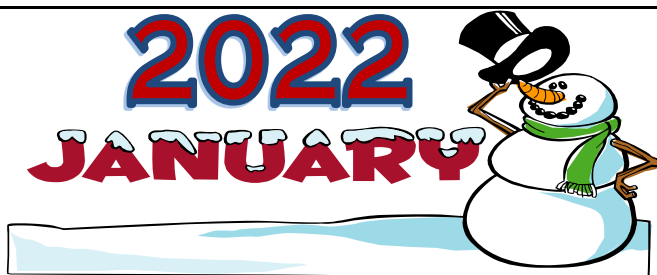
Lealta Smith (828) 428-8327 or email:

smithlea@charter.net

— Thank you —





**SUNDAY****MONDAY****TUESDAY****2 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship  
 Sacrament of Holy Communion

**3****4**

♦ Bud Michael

**9 THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship  
 Installation and Ordination Service

TBA Board of Christian Education Meeting  
 6:00 P.M. Consistory Meeting

**10****11****16 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

♦ Doug Miller, Jane Lemmond

**17 MARTIN LUTHER  
 KING, JR. DAY**

♥ M/M Mark Williams

**18****23 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

**24****25****30 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

9:00 A.M. Sunday School  
 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship

♥ M/M A.D. Shrum

**31**

♥ M/M Walter Rice  
 ♦ Kenneth M. Campbell

♥ WEDDING  
 ANNIVERSARIES

♦ BIRTHDAYS

**WEDNESDAY****THURSDAY****FRIDAY****SATURDAY****NOTES** \_\_\_\_\_**1 NEW YEAR'S DAY****5****6****7****8****12**♦ Jan Rice,  
Candace Carpenter**13****14**

♦ Amelia Duncan

**15**

♦ Louise Shrum

**19**

♦ Ronnie Bumgarner

**20**

♦ Sonya Leonard

**21**

♦ Michael Stewart

**22****26****27****28****29**

♦ Roger Beard

**Bible Quiz ...**

After Sarah died, Abraham remarried. What was his second wife's name?

- A. Miriam  
B. Keturah  
C. Bathsheba  
D. Tamar

(Read Genesis 25:1 for answer.)



WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR!

**February 2022**

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					

## Consistory—Continued from page 2

Motion carried

**Motion** was made by Ronnie Bumgarner to accept the Financial report  
Second, by Ruth Haynes  
Motion carried

Gina Chandler gave a report from the personnel committee. Marilyn McRee and LaDonna Goodson met with each paid staff member to go over and verify the current job description.

The Personnel and Pastoral Relations committee is making a recommendation to the Consistory that each paid staff member have an additional person that “shadows” them and understands their job duties. The Consistory to approve each person.

The Personnel and Pastoral Relations Committee is making a recommendation to the Consistory that they seek a Music Director using monies from the Advertising Fund to place ads in several local newspapers along with sending a job description to Lenoir Rhyne and Catawba colleges.

They would also like to recommend that an Audit committee be established with the responsibility of performing or securing a financial audit/review at least every 3 years, in order to protect the staff member and the church. We further recommend that this procedure become part of St. Matthews

Constitution.

**Motion** was made by Susan Stewart to approve all committee reports.  
Second by Chris Barger  
Motion carried

### **New Business:**

Aubree Cook and Morgan Burgess would like to collect items for Christian Ministry. Those items are food, socks, and blankets. One collection will be done before Christmas and the other in January, 2022.

**Motion** was made by Gina Chandler to proceed with this project.

Second by Bruce Wray  
Motion carried

People would like to rent the fellowship hall.

Katie Barnes Thanksgiving Day (Bruce Wray)

Brumley sisters December 4 and December 11 (will check another date for the 11<sup>th</sup> since that is the same date as the youth party) (Libby Herman)

**Motion** was made by Ronnie Bumgarner to allow both to use the facilities.

Second by Gina Chandler  
Motion carried

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

Second by Chris Barger  
Motion carried

Next meeting: December 12, 2021

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Lora W. Rice Secretary

### **Appreciation note . . .**

November 4, 2021

Dear Friends at St. Matthews,

It has been a joy to be able to share in worship with you over the past year.

Now it also is my privilege to express appreciation for your recent gift to Catawba. As I have noted before, your gifts help Catawba be able to continue to emphasize the importance of spiritual growth as well as academic performance.

I am excited about the future of St. Matthew's with the leadership of Pastor Sowers.

Blessings, Ken Clapp

### **“Bits and Pieces” from Ideal's Christmas issues . . .**

“Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all thirty feet tall.”  
—Larry Wilde

“Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.”

—Calvin Coolidge

“Christmas is a day of meaning and traditions, a special day spent in the warm circle of family and friends.”

--Margaret Thatcher

“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?”

—Bob Hope

“The perfect Christmas tree? All Christmas trees are perfect! —Charles Barnard

### **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.