

*St. Matthew's
United Church of Christ
(Reformed)*

*One-Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary
1837 - 1987*

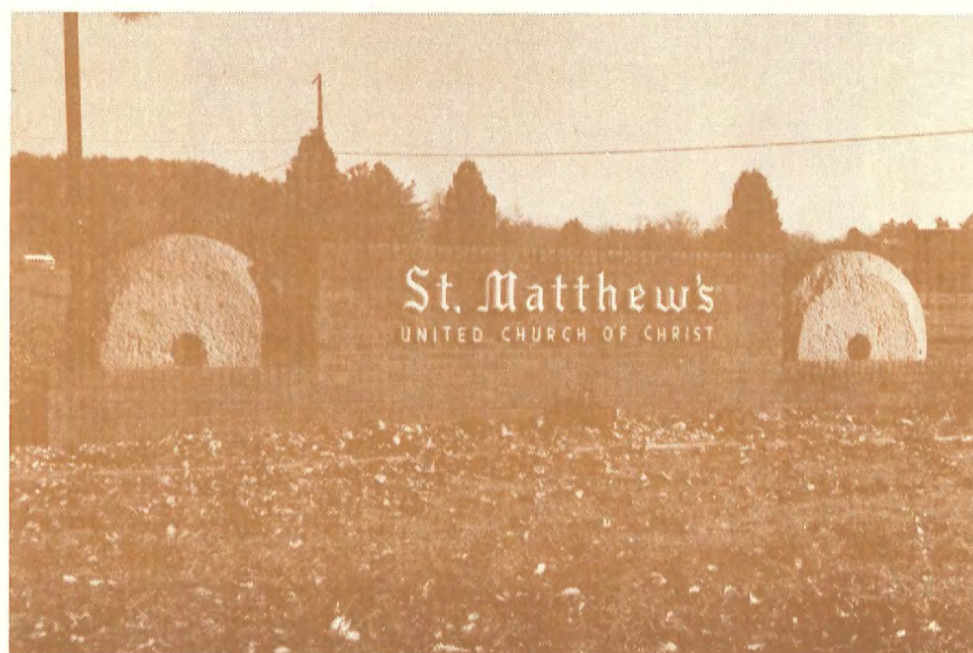


*Highway 321 South
P. O. Box 739
Maiden, North Carolina 28650*



"Come unto me, all ye that
labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28



INTRODUCTION

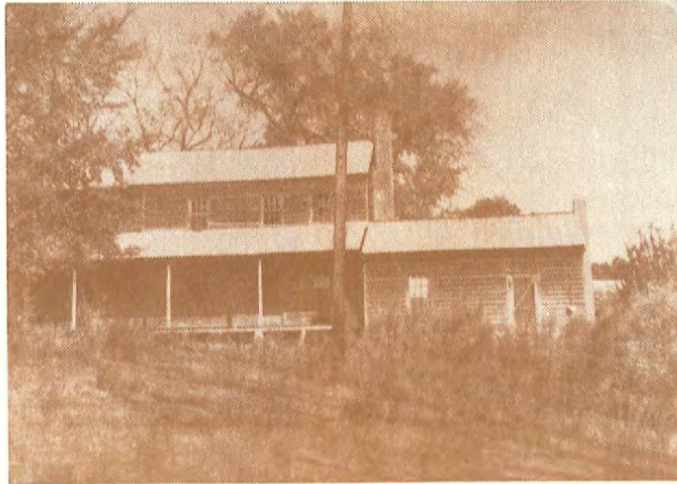
Treasured memories. Joyous memories. For one-hundred and fifty years, the members of St. Matthew's have collected many memories of the church's establishment, its growth, and its effectiveness within the community.

Through this booklet, we hope to express the joyous events from the beginning of the church until the present time. We begin with the founding of the church and proceed through the years to the current happenings.

A biographical description of each full-time pastor and the dates they served the church follows the history of the church. Because of their invaluable contributions to the church, we have depicted each organization individually.

The information was gathered from available records, old bulletins, and personal notes of members of the congregation. Unfortunately, records for all the years were not available; therefore, the history may appear incomplete. Names of contributors in most cases have been omitted because of insufficient data.

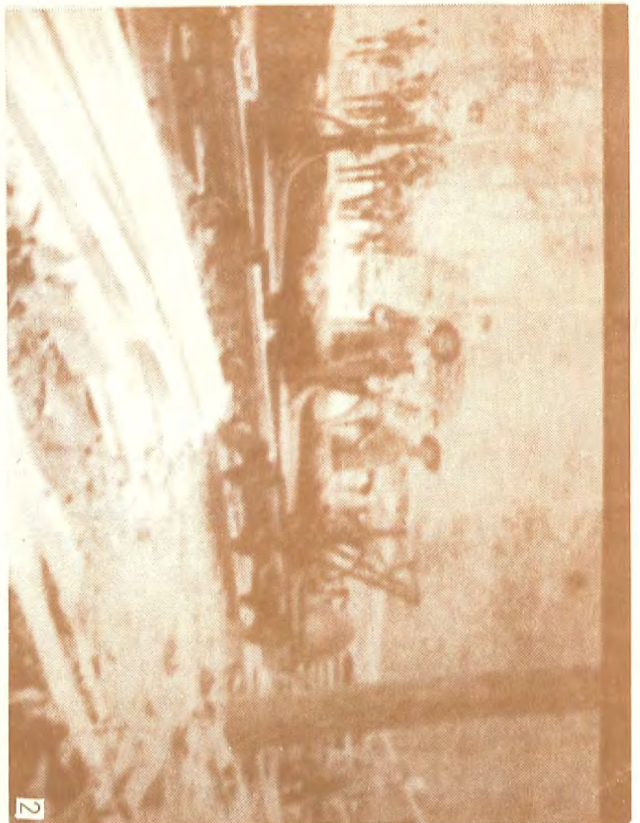
We hope you enjoy reading this history as much as we who compiled it. The congregation can be proud of the rich heritage of St. Matthew's. Throughout the years to come, let us continue to build memories that our successors can look upon with respect.



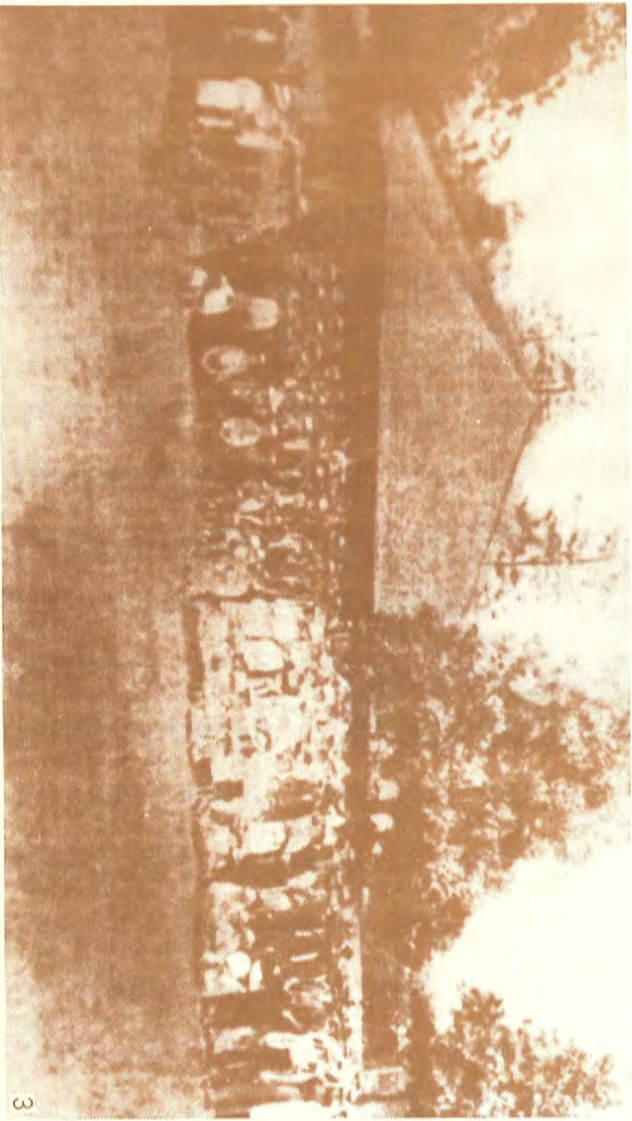
"The Beginning"

Meetings around the fireplace at the
Michael Finger Home.





1. Ground breaking for church
in 1908
2. Sawing logs for present
church
3. Homecoming in early
days



"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy."

I Peter 2: 9-10

HISTORY
ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1837 - 1987

Plans for the organization of St. Matthew's began on May 23, 1836, when the German Reformed citizens living in the neighborhood north of Lincolnton met at the home of Mr. Michael Finger to consider the building of a meeting house. The group unanimously agreed to build on the road from Lincolnton to Island Ford (now Maiden) on land donated by John Ramsour. On June 3, 1836, John Ramsour, for a nominal consideration of fifty cents, deeded five acres of land to the church. This land, given for the purpose of erecting a building for the worship of Almighty God, was near "Hallman School House" built in 1822, on land donated by Daniel Hallman. The log school house stood approximately 200 yards south of the present church building. John Ramsour also leased the spring to the church for 199 years. Later Daniel Finger purchased the spring and deeded it to the congregation.

Again on June 4, 1836, the citizens met and contributed money for the erection of the building to be known as Saint Matthew's German Reformed Church. The building committee met on July 23, 1836, at the home of Joseph Finger and drafted the dimensions of the building which were to be forty feet long, thirty feet wide, and one-story high. Construction of the building was advertised; and the contract was awarded to Mr. Joseph Finger, the lowest bidder, for the sum of \$265.00 on August 13, 1836. The frame construction was painted white in 1837.

The cash and pledges received for the building fund totaled \$232.00. Pledges ranged from fifty cents to ten dollars. Gifts received later covered the entire expense of the building.

Before the building was completed, the infant daughter of John and Mary Carpenter died. Her funeral on February 13, 1837, was the first funeral conducted at the church.

St. Matthew's was organized on May 3, 1837, following a sermon by the Reverend John Fritchey, pastor of the Lincoln Charge. At that time fifty people expressed wishes to become members. John Carpenter, Jacob Ramsour, John Ramsour, and Daniel Finger were elected the first elders; David Bennick was elected clerk or secretary; and the Reverend John G. Fritchey became the first pastor of the church. The church was enrolled in the Classis of North Carolina on May 10, 1837, with a charter membership of forty-nine.

On May 19, 1837, a three-day meeting commenced for the purpose of dedicating the church and ordaining the elders. The church was dedicated on May 21, 1837, the last day of the meeting, with the Reverend J. H. Crawford preaching the dedicatory sermon. His text was I Kings 8:63, "So the King and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord." The Reverends John G. Fritchey and W. C. Rankin were also present for the service.

The following family names are shown on the early church records; Bolick, Bennick, Boyd, Carpenter, Crooks, Finger, Goodson, Hallman, Icherd, Murphy, Ramsaur, Ramsour, Rudisill, Saunders, Shrum, and Summerow.

According to a resolution from an old minutes book dated June 24, 1837, St. Matthew's made provisions for the colored people. The resolution is as follows:

"Resolved that the colored people occupy the two back seats at the end of the house, one on each side of the entrance, as often and as long as the Consistory may think proper."

Provisions were made for them in the sanctuary and for camp meetings. They were admitted to membership; however, the number of those who joined is unknown.

The first class of catechumens were confirmed on June 3, 1838. Among those confirmed were Levi Shrum, John Shrum, Levi Carpenter, and William P. Reinhardt.

On September 9, 1838, John Ramsaur conveyed twenty-five acres of land to the trustees of the church for a graveyard and a camp meeting ground. The camp meeting which began on August 15, 1839, and was held annually for about thirty-five years was an institution of great interest and benefit for the community. In 1840, the Classis of North Carolina passed the following resolution:

"That a camp meeting shall be held at St. Matthew's Church, commencing on Friday previous to the third Sabbath in August next, and it shall be the duty of all ministerial brethren to attend said meetings."

The churches in this section closed their doors on this Sunday and the members attended the camp meeting services. Services were held under a brush arbor until 1845, when a more substantial arbor of wood was constructed. The architects of this magnificent arbor were Henry Whitener, James Summerow, and Joseph Finger. Joseph Finger did the construction. Since its construction, this structure has been used on a continuous basis for special services and Homecoming services. The present roof was placed on the arbor in 1921.

Twenty-two families had tents near the arbor. During the meeting of 1849, the Loretz Beneficiary Society which assisted in the education of young men for the ministry was meeting at the tent owned by John Coulter. Mr. W. L. McCorkle, later known as the Honorable Judge McCorkle, proposed that steps be taken to establish an institute of higher learning in our midst. Shortly after this meeting, this institution known as Catawba College opened at Newton, North Carolina. Catawba College was chartered by the state legislature in 1852. The college operated in Newton until the early 1920's, when it closed. In 1925, it reopened in Salisbury, North Carolina.

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 individuals and families. The Ladies Aid, later known as the Women's Guild and now as the Women's Fellowship, donated the pulpit chairs and 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, \$1,800.94; 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. The following order of service was used for the dedication;

HYMN	"Great God now Condescend"	No. 497
INVOCATION		Rev. John A. Koons
HYMN	"Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"	No. 443
SCRIPTURE LESSON		Rev. Shuford Peeler of Charlotte
PRAYER		Rev. W. H. McNairy of Lincolnton
HYMN	"The Church's One Foundation"	No. 441
SERMON	Text: I Kings 8:63	Rev. A. D. Wolfinger, D.D President of Catawba College
TRIO		Misses Martha Bungarner, Irene Shrum and Etta Bungarner
REMARKS		Rev. John A. Koons, Pastor
APOSTLES' CREED		led by Rev. C. H. Sensenig of Conover
DEDICATION		Pastor
PRAYER		Rev. Shuford Peeler
BENEDICTION		Rev. Dr. Wolfinger

Coincidentally, Dr. Wolfinger's text, I Kings 8:63, "So the King and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord," was the same text that the Reverend J. H. Crawford used when the first church building was dedicated in 1837.

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.

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 were 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 ground breaking 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 conducted 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. An 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

ground breaking 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."

Another happy occasion for the congregation during 1968, was the sharing in the ordination service of one of its members. On Sunday, June 16, 1968, the congregation participated in the ordination service of William (Bill) John Campbell, the only known member to be ordained into the ministry of the United Church of Christ. The ministers taking part in the service were the Reverends Edwin M. Alcorn, James D. Rumley, Martin L. Parker, Jr., and Frank W. Snider. During the service, the congregation gave him a pastor's robe.

William is the son of Maude Campbell and the late W. Theodore Campbell. He graduated from Lincolnton High School in Lincolnton, Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, and Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. His first pastorate was Hedrick's Grove United Church of Christ, Lexington, North Carolina. He is now serving as pastor of First Reformed United Church of Christ in High Point, North Carolina.

During the 1970's, the congregation of St. Matthew's accomplished several major projects. Renovation of the sanctuary was concluded in 1973. This major project consisted of new windows, light fixtures, a choir loft, carpet, padded pews, and air-conditioning. The Reverend Linn Finger, Pastor, conducted a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication on May 13, 1973.

A large portion of the parking lot was paved in 1975. Three years later this portion was insufficient and the members agreed to pave the remaining parking area and the cemetery road. This was completed in August 1978.

In 1970, a baptismal fount was contributed to the church. A vigil light or an eternal flame was given during 1971.

On September 1, 1974, the congregation dedicated a church sign located at the front of the church property. Two huge millstones with a combined weight of more than 7,000 pounds embrace the sign. These stones were found at the site of an old mill in Lockhardt's Creek about three miles from the church. It is believed that the mill was built sometime between 1800 and the outbreak of the Civil War. The mill was last operated by Mr. Michael Finger at whose home St. Matthew's was organized in 1836.

Carillon chimes were donated and installed in the belfry of the church in December 1975. These were dedicated on the third Sunday of May 1977.

In August 1976, the church purchased a new Conn organ with a matched set of pipes and two remote sound cabinets. On October 10, 1976, the Reverend Lynwood Hubbard conducted the dedication service for the organ.

A much needed church bus was purchased in April 1977. The bus is to be used by various organizations within the church for their activities.

In 1978, an extensive renovation of the interior of the Educational Department began. Volunteer labor, using funds from memorial gifts and the Sunday School, painted, wallpapered, refinished furniture, put down carpet, and made new draperies. During the remodeling, the Consistory accepted the plans to convert the Senior High Sunday School room into a History-Conference room in memory of Charles Arnold McRee who had suggested the conversion. On August 3, 1980, the History-Conference room was dedicated. Some of the historical items include:

1. Pictures of the Michael Finger home
2. The mantel, from the Michael Finger home, around which the organization of St. Matthew's was discussed
3. Old Sunday School books and records dating back to 1835
4. Hymn books that were used in the first church
5. Communion Set and Baptismal Bowl which were used in the first church
6. Picture of the laying of the cornerstone of the church
7. Personal Bible of Arnold McRee

An old pump organ purchased by the congregation in 1902, was restored during late 1979. The organ which was last played in 1943, before its restoration, is a handsome piece of furniture for our sanctuary. Since the organ has been restored, it has been played for special occasions. During 1979, the congregation also purchased a Kohler and Campbell Studio Juliette piano for use in the Fellowship Hall.

A memorial garden in the grove of trees in front of the church was completed in August 1979, and was dedicated on September 9, 1979. Collection plates, a brass communion set, and religious research material were donated during 1979.

The congregation has continued progressing during the 1980's. Many members or families of members have contributed numerous gifts such as:

1. Choir robes for the adult choir in March 1980
2. A reredos (the paneled wall behind the altar) in April 1980
3. Leaded stained glass windows for the sanctuary installed in 1984

4. A Baldwin piano for use in the sanctuary donated in 1985
5. Hymnals for use during the worship service donated in 1986

A Panasonic copier with an electronic editing system was purchased in June 1985. Not only has the copier aided the church secretary in her work but also has been a useful tool for all the organizations.

The garage at the parsonage was converted into a laundry and utility room and a two-car garage was added to the parsonage during 1985. This renovation was done in concurrence with measures to prevent water from entering the basement.

In 1986, the congregation agreed to pursue plans for a multi-purpose building to be built adjacent to the Educational Department. The building is to be used by all organizations from the young to the elderly.

In June 1986, a committee formed to commence plans for the one-hundred fiftieth anniversary of the church. From this committee, members were appointed chairpersons of sub-committees to plan and carry out different aspects of the celebrations during the anniversary year.

On Thursday, August 21, 1986, church members, hoping to find historical information, gathered to watch Paul McRee and Woodrow Shrum, co-chairmen of the History Committee, remove the cornerstone that was placed in the church in 1908. Regretfully, the remains of papers were yellowed and crumbled; therefore, little information could be obtained. An almanac reminded us that 1908 was a leap year. The remains of an old church newspaper called the Reformed Church Record dated April 2, 1908, were also in the cornerstone.

Historical information was in the cornerstone of the Educational Department. This information about all three churches of the charge included old bulletins, a Bible, and papers pertaining to planning and building the educational department.

Being in Lincoln County and bordering the Catawba County line, St. Matthew's participates in projects or activities of both counties. Members of the congregation contribute food and household items to be distributed to needy persons by the Lincoln County Christian Ministry. Volunteers also give of their time to work at the office of the Christian Ministry.

St. Matthew's joins with churches in the Maiden area for joint Thanksgiving services

on the Sunday night prior to Thanksgiving. A different church is host each year. Ministers from each church participate in the services.

During Lent, ministers from churches in the Maiden area portray different Biblical characters who were a part of Jesus' ministry or crucifixion. Each Sunday night during Lent, the ministers rotate pulpits for these special services.

Presently St. Matthew's has an enrollment of 298 members. Approximately 130 members are enrolled for Sunday School which offers classes for all ages. Active organizations include the Choir, Women's Fellowship, Men's Fellowship, Junior Youth Fellowship, Middle Youth Fellowship, Senior High Fellowship, Young People's Fellowship, Young at Heart Club, and the Girl Scouts. These groups have been instrumental in filling the needs of the church.

During 1987, St. Matthew's will celebrate its one-hundred fiftieth anniversary with special services to be held from May through October. As we celebrate this occasion, we thank God for all his blessings and remember with gratitude all the persons who have been a part of this congregation. A spirit of unity has resulted from our love, concern, and dedication. The name and works of the Almighty God have been made known and reflected through our worship, learning, witness, service, and support. As we move into the future, may we continue to experience this spirit of unity and be open to God's presence, guidance, and blessings.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PASTORS

JOHN G. FRITCHEY
1837 - 1840

John G. Fritchey was born on February 7, 1802, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He was the first student at the opening of the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church at Carlisle which he attended from 1825 through 1828. After his ordination into the ministry in 1828, he took charge of all the Reformed churches west of the Catawba River. He served these churches for twelve years during which he renewed life and activity to old congregations and organized several new ones. One of those churches he organized was St. Matthew's which he pastored from 1837 through 1840.

In 1840, he resigned because of his unwillingness to bring up his family in the midst of slavery and returned to Pennsylvania. There he had several long and rewarding pastorates. Even after his retirement at age sixty-five, he continued to use his skills to help churches reach the self-supporting status.

The Reverend John Fritchey died at the age of eighty-three years in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on March 12, 1885.

SOLOMON S. MIDDLEKAUFF
1842 - 1845

Born during 1818 in Hagerstown, Maryland, Solomon S. Middlekauff attended Marshall College in 1839, and graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1841. He was ordained on August 1, 1842, and served as the pastor of St. Matthew's from 1842 until May 1845.

After his death in Mineral Springs, North Carolina on May 21, 1845, he was buried in the cemetery of the old "White Church" in Lincolnton.

DAVID CROOKS
1845 - 1859

David Crooks was born in Pennsylvania on March 12, 1820. After attending Lancaster Seminary in 1837, he was ordained in the North Carolina Classis in 1838. Before coming

to St. Matthew's where he was the pastor from 1845 until his death in 1859, he served as pastor in Lexington, North Carolina.

Fourteen years out of the twenty-one he spent in the ministry, the Reverend Crooks was in declining health. However, his health did not hinder him for he continued to administer to the needs of his people until only a few weeks prior to his death. He died on January 24, 1859, and is buried in St. Matthew's cemetery.

JOHN LANTZ
1859 - 1868

On May 11, 1811, John Lantz was born in Lincoln County, North Carolina. He was licensed by the Synod in September 1837, and was ordained on August 5, 1838.

Before serving St. Matthew's from 1859 through 1868, he was pastor in Rowan County. After serving St. Matthew's, he moved to Virginia and then to Taneytown, Maryland. He died in Taneytown on January 26, 1873.

JOSEPH L. MURPHY, D.D
1885 - 1890

Dr. Joseph L. Murphy was born in Davidson County, North Carolina on July 10, 1858. After graduating from Catawba College and Ursinus College, he was licensed and ordained on October 23, 1885. He served as a trustee of Catawba College for many years and was frequently a delegate to the Synod. During his ministry in the Hickory area, he served as a trustee, teacher, and President of Claremont College.

Dr. Murphy was instrumental in beginning the "Reformed Church Standard." He was the editor of the paper at the time of his death in Hickory on October 11, 1917.

JACOB C. CLAPP, D.D.
1868 - 1873
1894 - 1897

While serving as a professor and President of Catawba College from 1885 through 1900, Dr. Jacob C. Clapp pastored and supplied most of the pulpits in both Catawba and Lincoln counties. He served as a supply pastor for St. Matthew's both before and after the periods of time, 1868 through 1873 and 1894 through 1897, that he was the pastor.

He was born in Guilford County, North Carolina on September 5, 1832. An alumnus of

both Catawba College and Amherst College, he was licensed on April 27, 1867, and was ordained on May 2, 1869.

Dr. Clapp began his ministry at Smyrna Church of Catawba County in 1867. His ministry ended there when he preached his last sermon on June 12, 1910, just two days prior to his death.

THEODORE C. HESSON
1897 - 1902

A native of Littlestown, Pennsylvania, Theodore C. Hesson was born on April 23, 1870. He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College and Lancaster Seminary. During 1893 and 1894, he was an instructor at Schuylkill Seminary in Fredricksburg, Pennsylvania.

He was licensed by the Gettys College in 1897, and was ordained by the North Carolina Classis on July 18, 1897. After serving as pastor for the Lincoln Charge during 1897 through 1902, he returned to Pennsylvania. On April 30, 1952, he died in St. John's, Pennsylvania.

CALVIN B. HELLER
1902 - 1906

On December 12, 1853, Calvin B. Heller was born in Madison Township, Columbia County, Pennsylvania. After attending Franklin and Marshall College and Lancaster Seminary, he was licensed by the Maryland Classis in 1884. He was ordained on June 30, 1884.

From 1902 through 1906, he was the pastor of the Lincoln Charge which included St. Matthew's. He died on May 19, 1935.

J. LEIDY YEARICK
1907 - 1908

Born in Hilltown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania on July 21, 1870, J. Leidy Yearick attended Lancaster Seminary. He was licensed by the Tohic Classis and was ordained by the North Carolina Classis in 1907.

His first pastorate was the Lincoln Charge which he served during 1907 and 1908. He died in Saegertown, Pennsylvania on November 3, 1936.

C. COLUMBUS WAGONER
1910 - 1912

C. Columbus Wagoner was born in Stanley County, North Carolina on April 30, 1884. An alumnus of Catawba College and Central Theological Seminary, he was licensed by the North Carolina Classis in 1910, and was ordained on July 17, 1910.

The Lincoln Charge was his first pastorate which he served from 1910 through 1912. During 1920, he was President of the North Carolina Classis.

The Reverend Columbus Wagoner retired in Rockwell, North Carolina where he died on June 16, 1951.

JOHN A. KOONS
1919 - 1944
1948 - 1953

The Reverend John A. Koons was the pastor of St. Matthew's for many years serving the first time from 1919 until 1944. After teaching school from 1944 until 1948, he returned and served as pastor from 1948 until his death on May 31, 1953.

He was born in State Line, Pennsylvania on January 30, 1886. An alumnus of Ursinus College and Central Seminary, he was ordained into the ministry in 1912. During 1923, he was the President of the North Carolina Classis.

WILLIAM A. JONES
1946 - 1947

On July 8, 1921, William A. Jones was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Catawba College in 1943, and from Eden Theological Seminary in 1945. Licensed by the Philadelphia Synod on December 28, 1945, he was ordained by the identical Synod on December 30, 1945.

The Reverend Jones was the pastor of St. Matthew's during 1946 and 1947. Because of declining health, he now resides in the Lutheran Home in Salisbury, North Carolina.

FRANK W. SNIDER
1954 - 1956

The first pastorate of the Reverend Frank W. Snider was the Lincoln Charge from 1954 through 1956. He was born in Forsyth County, North Carolina on July 5, 1929. He graduated from Catawba College in 1951, and Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1954.

In 1958, he was an organizing co-pastor of St. Andrew's in Lexington, North Carolina. He has served as historian of the Southern Synod and chairman of the Board of Editors of A Story of the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Presently he is the pastor of Hebron United Church of Christ in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

JAMES D. RUMLEY, JR.
1958 - 1965

Burlington, North Carolina was the birthplace of James D. Rumley, Jr. on December 1, 1920. he graduated from Elon College in 1941, Lancaster Seminary in 1958, and did graduate work at Eden Theological Seminary. In June 1958, he was ordained into the ministry at St. Mark's in Burlington. St. Matthew's or the Lincoln Charge was his first pastorate.

During his ministry, he served on many committees and was on many occasions a delegate to the General Synod. He was involved in developing churches from mission status to a self-sustaining status.

The Reverend James Rumley died in Salisbury, North Carolina on January 25, 1986.

MARTIN L. PARKER, JR.
1965 - 1971

Born in Louisiana on August 3, 1916, the Reverend Martin L. Parker, Jr. attended Utica College in New York, Lakeland College in Plymouth, Wisconsin, and Mission House Seminary. He was ordained by the North Wisconsin Synod.

From 1965 through 1971, he was the pastor of St. Matthew's. He has now retired and resides in Rockwell, North Carolina.

H. LINN FINGER
1971 - 1975

The Reverend H. Linn Finger was born in Catawba County, North Carolina on August 10, 1938. A son of the Salem United Church of Christ (Reformed) congregation, he is a great-grandson of Michael Finger who was a charter member of St. Matthew's. An alumnus of both Catawba College and Lancaster Theological Seminary, he did graduate work at Appalachian State University. He was ordained on June 21, 1964.

From 1968 through 1971, he served as a chaplain in the United States Army. Part of this time was spent in Vietnam. Currently he serves as a chaplain to the North Carolina National Guard in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Since 1979, he has been the pastor of Emanuel United Church of Christ in Lincolnton, North Carolina.

LYNWOOD L. HUBBARD
1976 -

The present pastor of St. Matthew's is the Reverend Lynwood L. Hubbard who has been here since July 18, 1976. He was born in Langdale, Alabama on November 28, 1926.

An alumnus of Southern Union College and Elon College, he was licensed by the East Alabama Association of Congregational Christian Churches on February 4, 1951, and was ordained by the same Association on March 28, 1954. Prior to coming to St. Matthew's, he had served churches in Alabama and North Carolina. Zion United Church of Christ in Thomasville, North Carolina was the most recent he served.

A number of ministers filled the pulpit during the vacancy of a full-time pastor. Many of those names are not known. Their supplying during the interim periods is deeply appreciated.



Arbor
Constructed
in 1845



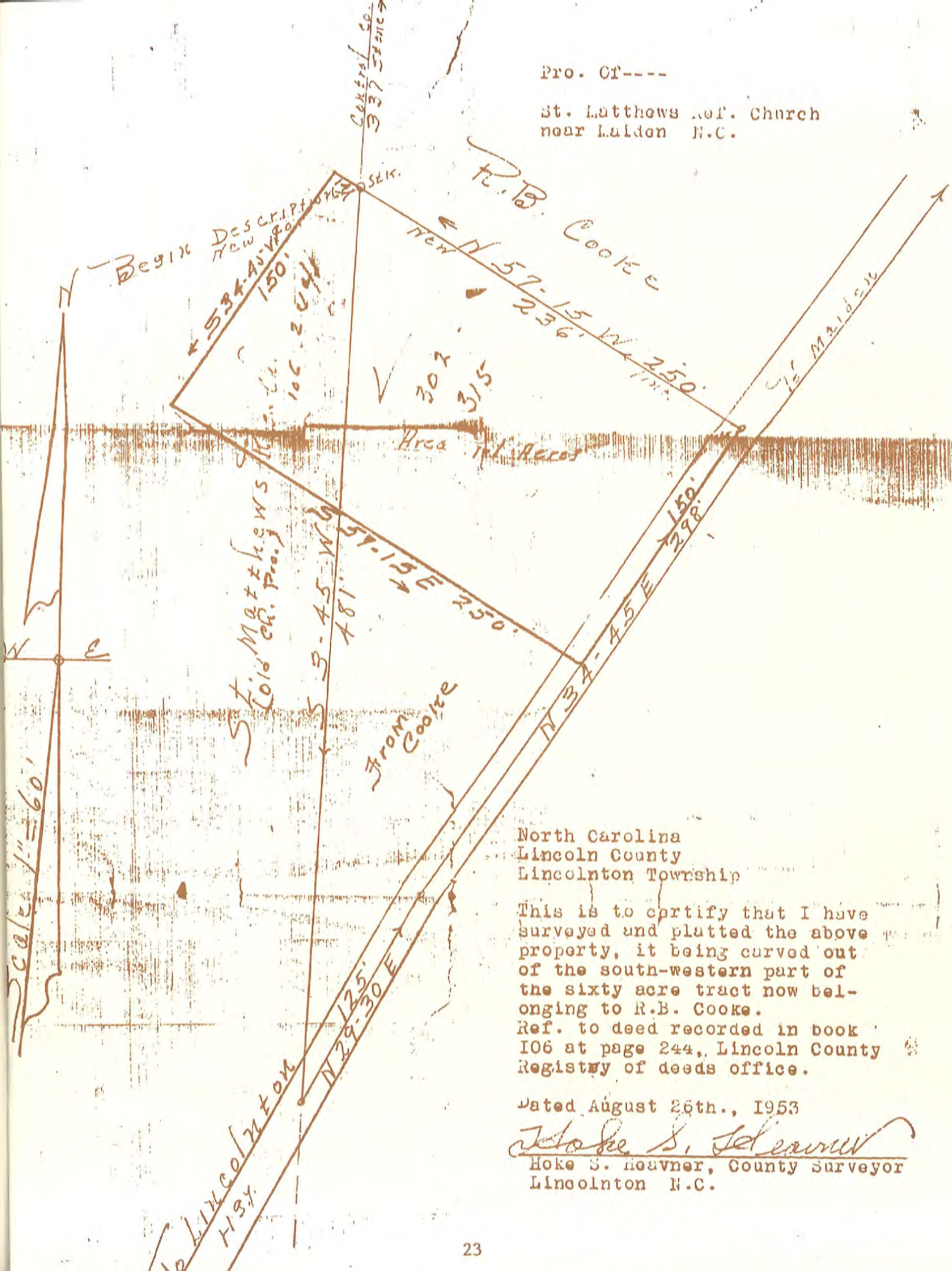
Spring
First leased then deeded to
the congregation
Cemented August 6, 1909



Church Cemetery

Pro. Of----

St. Matthews Ref. Church
near Laiden N.C.



North Carolina
Lincoln County
Lincolnton Township

This is to certify that I have surveyed and platted the above property, it being curved out of the south-western part of the sixty acre tract now belonging to R.B. Cooke.

Ref. to deed recorded in book IO6 at page 244, Lincoln County Registry of deeds office.

Dated August 26th., 1953

Hoke S. Seavner

Hoke S. Seavner, County Surveyor
Lincolnton N.C.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH PROGRAM

1. A full-time pastor
2. Sunday School -- 9:45 a.m. each Sunday
Classes for all ages
Vacation Bible School
Recreation Program
3. Worship Service -- 11 a.m. each Sunday
4. Choir
5. Women's Fellowship
6. Men's Fellowship
7. Youth Program
Junior Youth Fellowship
Middle Youth Fellowship
Senior High Youth Fellowship
8. Young People's Fellowship
9. Girl Scouts
Brownie
Junior
Cadette
10. Young at Hearts (Senior members of church and community)
11. Cemetery -- self-supporting

HISTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Records indicate that Sabbath School (later known as Sunday School) originated at St. Matthew's during the 1830's. Using books published by the American Sunday School Union, the first students combined studying the Bible with learning to read and spell. According to attendance records dated from the 1830's through the early 1900's, Sabbath School was usually conducted during April through October. Sunday School members assembled each Sunday of the year after the present church building was built in 1921.

The first woman to serve as assistant superintendent was Mrs. J. A. Crooks. She was elected on June 4, 1922.

Membership continued to increase to the point that in 1950, the congregation built an educational annex to accommodate all members. Presently there are approximately 130 members enrolled in the classes offered for all ages. Each Sunday the young children enjoy a time of devotions and songs designed especially for them prior to their classroom studies.

The Board of Christian Education governs the activities of the Sunday School. The Board consists of four members elected by the congregation, the superintendent, the assistant superintendent, and a representative of each organization in the church.

Easter would not be complete for the young without an Easter Egg Hunt. On Saturday prior to Easter, the small children through those in the sixth grade gather to hide and hunt eggs and for refreshments.

Each summer the Sunday School sponsors a week of Vacation Bible School for members and persons in the community. During the two-hour sessions, the children and youth enjoy studying the Bible, singing, and making crafts. The adults hold a Bible study during this week. Following the commencement exercises, the members of Vacation Bible School and their families relish the traditional ice cream supper.

Another highlight of the year is the Christmas program. Parents, grandparents, members, and friends assemble to see the young children recite poems and sing Christmas carols and to see a pageant presented by the adults and the youth. Following the pro-

gram, treats of fruits, nuts, and candies are given to those attending the program.

Until this year (1987), the Sunday School has funded all or a major portion of the recreation program for the children, youth, and men. The children and youth enjoy playing softball teams from other churches while learning sportsmanship. Both the children and youth have won several trophies during softball seasons since the recreation program began. Parents, grandparents, and friends support these groups by attending the games. When the games are played on our field, all persons enjoy the delicious hotdogs and other refreshments prepared by those in charge of our concession stand.

The men belong to a ball league from Maiden. Their games are usually played at the Maiden City Field.

A recreation committee was formed in 1986. This committee hopes to make the recreation program independent of the Sunday School.

The Sunday School has been and continues to be a vital segment of our church program.

CHOIR

Music has always been an inspiration and an important aspect of our church. No date for the formation of a choir can be determined; however, special music by a quartet, trio, group, etc., was rendered on special occasions according to old bulletins.

The first known organized choir was during the pastorate of the Reverend Frank Snider when his wife, Gladys, directed the junior and adult choirs. Since that time, several others have directed the choirs and have been effective in teaching choir members the essential techniques of a good choir. Mrs. M. L. Parker was the first director to be compensated for her work.

Musicians and choir members are volunteers donating their time and talent to blend their voices in harmony for the Glory of God. Practice sessions are not only work but also fun when each one can laugh over the mistakes made when learning a new song. Each member experiences feelings of accomplishments and worthiness when the choir receives compliments from the congregation on an anthem or a cantata.

The choir renders an anthem each Sunday during the worship hour and for special

services. At Christmas and Easter, the choir has practiced diligently to present a cantata. Cantatas by the adult choir include "Joseph the Carpenter," "Hosanna," "Jesus is Born," "Hallelujah! What a Saviour," "His Last Days," and "The Love Story."

The youth choir has presented musicals entitled "God's Kids" and "Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs, and Fireflies."

Each year at Christmas, adult choir members and their families look forward to caroling for the senior citizens and the shut-ins of the congregation. After caroling, the group enjoys fellowship and refreshments.

Not only has the choir fulfilled the essential aspects of the church, it has also been an inspiration to many members and friends of the congregation.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies Aid Society was organized on May 19, 1912, by Mrs. C. C. Wagoner, wife of the pastor. She was elected president with Mrs. W. L. Holbrooks as vice-president and Mrs. Sudie Crooks as secretary and treasurer. They decided to meet once a month. The first regular meeting was held on the third Sunday afternoon in June 1912. According to records, the organization met for approximately two years.

On April 14, 1934, the Ladies Aid Society reorganized. The following officers were elected: president, Mrs. W. L. Holbrooks, vice-president, Mrs. Lester Kever, secretary, Mrs. Lottie Crooks, and treasurer, Mrs. N. L. McGee. Twenty members were present for the organizational meeting. They agreed to meet once a month in homes of the members. Monthly dues were ten cents per member.

Their first project was making a quilt which they later sold for \$5.00. Names to be embroidered on the quilt were sold for ten cents each. A sum of \$19.17 was collected from selling the names. The profit from the sale of the quilt totaled \$24.17.

In 1941, the name became the Women's Guild. The change was a result of the merger of the Evangelical Synod of North America and the Reformed Church in the United States. During the late 1960's, the name changed to the Women's Fellowship as we know it today.

For several years during the 1960's, St. Matthew's had three groups meeting once a month. One month out of each quarter all groups met together. In 1970, the women unit-

ed into one group which continues to meet once a month at the church for a program and a business session.

Officers are elected for a two-year term. Every two years the executive committee appoints three committees to plan the special programs and projects of the Women's Fellowship. The Study Committee plans and promotes the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner and the Spring Fellowship. Suggesting group and mission projects are the responsibility of the Witness Committee. Planning the Thank-Offering program, assisting with the World Day of Prayer Service, and promoting membership are the duties of the Faith Committee.

The Women's Fellowship since its formation has been a group of working women. After the youth meetings during the 1960's, the women prepared and served refreshments for the youth. The women were also responsible for planting the shrubbery at the parsonage.

When the Men's Brotherhood has been host for the District Brotherhood meeting, the ladies have prepared and served a meal to those men in attendance.

Many items including a new set of dishes, stainless steel silverware, stainless steel mixing bowls, a Bunn coffee maker, and a drain set have been purchased by the women for use in the kitchen.

The nursery has also been a project of the women. To furnish the nursery with toys, books, crib sheets, and other items, the women "showered" the nursery. Each Sunday, a member of the fellowship is responsible for a worker being in the nursery during the morning worship hour.

On December 10, 1967, the women began annual parties for the senior members of the church. The eleven guests who attended the first party were served cookies, coffee, and punch. They were also presented corsages and fruit baskets. For the program, the children dressed as different animals telling how each animal viewed Christmas.

In subsequent years, the congregation was invited to provide a picnic lunch and to join in honoring the senior members. The approximate number of honored guests for the past several years has been thirty-five.

The women gathered favorite recipes from members of the fellowship and the congregation, arranged the recipes according to categories, and published a cookbook during 1980. Approximately one-thousand copies were sold.

Each Christmas since 1977, members of the congregation have enjoyed the Chrismon tree. Members of the Women's Fellowship learned the meaning of many of the Chrismons as they made them. Following a covered dish supper, members of the congregation join with the women in decorating the tree on the first Wednesday night of December.

Many projects have become annual events. The second Sunday of February has been designated as Blanket Sunday. Monies received are applied toward blankets for persons in countries that have experienced natural disasters.

Each year at Valentine's, the women sponsor a party for the residents of the United Church of Christ Retirement Home in Newton.

The women join with women of other churches in the Maiden area in the World Day of Prayer service held on the first Friday of March. Although all members of the churches are invited, the women conduct the service. Each year a different church is host.

The Spring Fellowship held in May has also become a yearly outing. Members of the congregation gather for an afternoon filled with recreation and fellowship followed by a cook-out.

In recognition of their accomplishments, the women honor the high school and college graduates during a worship service in June of each year. The graduates are also remembered with a gift.

A Thank-Offering Service held the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving is another annual event of the women. Previously the service was conducted during the opening of Sunday School. Later the women became in charge of the morning worship hour with women participating in all aspects of the service. To remind us of the bountiful blessings for which we should be thankful, Mack and Vick Herman prepare a table of fruits and vegetables for display during the Thank-Offering Service. The offering specified as Thank-Offering is contributed to a charity selected by the women.

Volunteers from the Fellowship pour the wine and prepare the bread for each Communion Service.

If there is a death within the church family, the women prepare food for the family. They also assist in serving the food and in any other way they are needed.

Through their dedication and support, the women have been and will continue to be invaluable contributors of the church.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Brotherhood was organized on January 5, 1959, and enrolled as a member of the Churchmen's Brotherhood of the Evangelical and Reformed Church on January 15, 1959. Paul McRee was the first president of the organization which commenced with fifteen members.

Between 1975 and 1980, the group reorganized as the Men's Fellowship. Their purpose is to undertake projects other than the main work of the church. The men have volunteered time and labor to fulfill their goal as illustrated in the following projects.

On Saturday, February 23, 1980, they sponsored a fish and oyster supper for the men of the church. The purpose was to promote membership for the organization.

The group prepared and served a meal to the ladies who attended a Mother-Daughter banquet in May 1980.

In March 1981, they held a fish fry to raise funds to pay for junior choir robes. From the profit they purchased twenty-five to thirty robes.

During 1982, their attention was centered on the ballfield. In February, they built rest rooms and bleachers. They purchased the material used for the building of the concession stand as well as the gas stove and the cooking utensils used in the concession stand. The men also had the ballfield limed and fertilized, and purchased a line marker for use at the ballfield. While preparing the ballfield for use, the men cleaned the woods above the cemetery of stumps and undergrowth.

Two fund raising barbeque suppers were held during 1982, one on March 20 and the other on October 16.

During 1983, they supported Miss Rhonda Leatherman of Lincolnton in her crusade, Reach Out, to the college students at Ohio State College. They contributed \$10.00 each month for twelve months toward this cause.

For Maiden's Centennial parade in May 1983, the men built and sponsored the float from St. Matthew's. Choir members joined the men in riding the float.

The biggest project undertaken by the men was the renovation of Brotherhood cabin at John's River Camp. From July 6 through July 8, 1984, a total of 521 man hours were spent on this project. Paul McRee donated the material for sheeting the outside of the

cabin. The cost for the project was \$2,600.00. After donations were received and the bills were paid, they still owed the church \$999.78. So they could pay off the debt, the men had a barbeque to raise funds on February 9, 1985. The proceeds were sufficient to pay the debt and have an adequate balance in their treasury for other projects. At that point, the men decided to make the barbeque an annual project.

During August 1985, the men repaired the supports at the back of the arbor. By sawing away the rotted bottoms of the supports and replacing these with concrete foundations, they made the supports more substantial.

The Men's Fellowship and the Women's Fellowship cosponsored a barbeque chicken supper on February 22, 1986. A profit of \$1,379.00 out of total receipts of \$2,144.79 was donated to the building fund.

For the past several years, the men have been responsible for preparing and serving breakfast on Easter Sunday following the Sunrise Service.

The men are also in charge of the morning worship service on Laymen's Sunday which is the second Sunday of October.

Although the Men's Fellowship has only eleven active members, these men have accomplished their goal as an organization and have been effective in their role within the church.

YOUTH PROGRAM

During the summer of 1933, the Reverend John A. Koons and his wife, Ruby, organized the Christian Endeavor for youth at St. Matthew's. Ethel Leonhardt (Funderburk) was elected president of the organization which had eighteen members. Meetings were held on a Sunday afternoon of each month.

The next available records are dated in 1952, where the organization is known as the Youth Fellowship. At that time St. Matthew's was a part of the Lincoln Charge and the youth from all three churches met together. Each year a highlight of the youth activities was Youth Sunday when the youth conducted the service. Several youth from the charge presented meditations. In 1956, the speakers were students from Catawba College.

In January 1956, the youth began publishing "The Bulletin," a newsletter for the

three churches in the charge. Information included in the first issue was a directory of officers of each organization and a list of members of each church. The purpose of the newsletters was to provide useful information to each member.

The Youth Fellowship continued to be an active and an essential part of the church. Through the years, many advisors or counselors have taught Bible studies and have coordinated activities for the youth.

In 1975, the youth joined the youth from Emanuel United Church of Christ in Lincolnton and Hebron United Church of Christ in Winston-Salem in presenting a musical, "Shalom for You and Me," written by the Reverend Kenneth Clapp who was then the pastor of Emanuel. The musical incorporated dialogue and popular songs to convey a Biblical message of Shalom, a Hebrew word meaning peace and wholeness. During June 1975, the group toured seven northern states and presented the musical to residents of a United Church of Christ sponsored retirement center and to several congregations of the United Church of Christ. Sightseeing in New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. was also included in the tour. After their return from the tour, they also presented the musical at several of the churches in this area.

The Senior Youth washed cars on June 18, 1977, to raise money for their up-coming beach trip. Following the car wash, the group enjoyed a swimming party. On Wednesday, July 27, 1977, twelve members of the Senior Youth and four counselors began their journey to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for a spiritual retreat. Each morning following breakfast, two of the youth led the group in a Bible study. The days activities were closed with a Bible study led by two members of the youth.

On July 24, 1977, an organizational meeting was held for the Junior Youth Fellowship. This meeting was open to children entering the first through the fourth grades. The recreation for that meeting was a Mexican craft called "The Eye of God."

An organizational meeting for children in grades five through seven was held on September 11, 1977. This group was known as the Junior High Youth. In January 1982, an invitation was extended to all persons in the fourth through the eight grades to become active members of this organization. Later this group became known as the Middle High Youth Fellowship.

From January 1982 until September 1983, there was no Senior Youth Fellowship. The Senior High was reorganized on September 11, 1983.

Today the youth program is divided into three groups according to age. Those groups are the Junior Youth Fellowship, the Middle High Youth Fellowship, and the Senior Youth Fellowship.

JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Junior Youth Fellowship is for persons in the first through the fourth grades. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. A member is responsible for the program for each meeting. Following the program and activity, the group enjoys refreshments. From 1979 until 1987, the number of members on the roll has been eight to thirteen.

These children have made donations of \$50.00 to the piano fund in 1979, and in 1980, a \$15.00 donation to the Children's Home to help send a child to summer camp. In addition to their regular meetings, the youth have gone on numerous outings. During 1980, they joined the Junior High's to see the religious movies, "Why we Celebrate Holy Week" and "It's a Mile from Here to Glory." Other outings included playing putt putt and a cookout. The movie, "The Shopping Bag Lady," was a treat for the group during 1981.

Although there was only one counselor for the group during 1982, the group continued their outings. In May, they saw the movie, "That's My Name, Don't Wear It Out," and a week later they went to play putt putt. That year, according to records, began a traditional pizza party for Christmas. On May 1, 1983, the group attended the cookout sponsored by the Board of Christian Education for all youth, parents, and counselors.

The counselors had a cookout for the youth in May 1984. In November, the Junior and Junior High Youth toured the Catawba County Historical Museum in Newton. The group stopped for ice cream before returning to the church.

During 1985 and 1986, the group enjoyed a cookout and a hot dog supper. Rather than preparing the pizza at the church which had been the tradition, the group enjoyed pizza from Pappa's Pizza in Lincolnton for their Christmas party.

The youth made a donation of \$30.00 to Nazareth's Children's Home during May 1987.

This generous contribution given by nine members and two counselors will aid the Home financially.

MIDDLE HIGH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Middle High Youth Fellowship was established for persons in the fifth through the eighth grades in September 1983. Meetings are one hour every second and fourth Sunday evenings. Following the meetings which are held in the Fellowship Hall, the group enjoys refreshments furnished by members of the fellowship.

The purpose of the fellowship is to combine learning and fun activities. Programs have consisted of trivia, mosaics, games, puzzles, tapes, and movies. Lessons on family life, church life, school activities, peer groups and its pressure, and the devil have been some of the program topics.

Each quarter the group enjoys one activity which is paid for as much as possible from the treasury. The group has toured King's Mountain National Park, Old St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and the Catawba Historical Museum. Other activities have included putt putt, swimming, bowling, skating, camping, a sleep-in at the church, and Christmas parties.

SENIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

In 1983, it became necessary to reorganize the youth of the church. The group which was called the Senior Youth were graduated from high school, yet wanted to maintain the close fellowship. These people chose to take the name of Young People's Fellowship making way for the present Senior Youth.

During the summer of 1984, the Senior Youth and other members of St. Matthew's traveled to Atlanta, Georgia for a tour of Stone Mountain, for fun at Six Flags over Georgia, and to watch the Atlanta "Braves" defeat the Philadelphia "Phillies" thirteen to one on July 20, 1984.

Many new projects were initiated to maintain the interest of old members and to attract new members. The annual Senior Youth Christmas Party as a present to parents of youth members was begun. The meal and entertainment were prepared and presented by the

youth group and their advisors. This festivity was enjoyed by all, and at the request of church members was enlarged in the succeeding years to incorporate other interested people.

Spring of 1985 saw the youth group actively participating in projects, sports, and outings. At the request of the North Carolina governor, a statewide highway clean-up was initiated. This church group did its share of work by picking up trash along a mile stretch of highway 321 near the church. A letter and a certificate of commendation was received for their efforts. Doughnut sales, car washes, and hot dog sales kept the youth busy trying to raise money for their trip to Williamsburg, Virginia during the summer of 1985. A van and two cars carried the youth members to Virginia for four days of fun and fellowship. The youth group was acclaimed at several tour sites for their Christian behavior.

Although there was no planned need for replenishing its treasury, the young folks maintained their project sales. Catawba College invited the Senior Youth to attend the Catawba vs. Guilford College football game, tour the campus, and have lunch in the campus cafeteria. The church bus transported youth members and chaperones to Salisbury, North Carolina for the event. Concerts, ballgames, Carowinds, and Appalachian Ski Mountain were enjoyed by youth members during the 1985 church year.

In 1986, the church began to actively pursue the idea of a multi-purpose building. Supporting this concept, the Senior Youth determined to contribute to this cause. In November of 1986, the youth group presented the musical, "Movin' On," to the congregation of St. Matthew's during the worship hour. At the conclusion of the service, a donation for the building fund was presented by the youth.

Later this same month, the Senior Youth chartered a bus to travel to Duke University for Youth Day and to see the Duke "Blue Devils" defeat the Wake Forest "Demon Deacons" in football.

With twenty-three members and four advisors, the Senior Youth Fellowship was able to engage in a number of activities.

1987 brought a busy schedule for youth members and advisors. Again, the group was asked by the North Carolina governor's wife to participate in another highway clean-up.

A rainy, April 25, saw six members, two advisors, and the project organizer picking up litter along highway 321 south of the church.

This group saw a tremendous change with high school graduations as seven members were graduated from Maiden High School and two were graduated from Lincolnton High School. More than 50% of these young people will be continuing their education at institutes of higher learning.

The impact that St. Matthew's Church has had on its young people is evident in the future aspirations and goals set by the youth; the group has, in turn, made its mark on the church and its members. In striving together to accomplish common goals, a bond of unity is created that time and distance cannot sever.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

During December 1981, members of the Senior Youth who were college age and over desired to remain as a group but thought they were too mature to be called Senior Youth. On December 19, 1981, these persons attended a covered dish and snack supper followed by an organizational meeting. They chose to be called the Young People's Fellowship. Officers of the Young People's Fellowship were elected at their meeting in January 1982. Those officers were: President, Anthony Herman, Vice-President, Lisa McAlister, Secretary, Terri Herman, and Treasurer, Linda Hawn.

Since its organization, the group has been extremely active within the church. They wallpapered both the men's and ladies bathrooms during 1983. They painted the fellowship hall during November and December 1983.

On June 23-26, 1983, they sponsored a trip to Williamsburg, Virginia. Members of the church were invited to join the group on this trip.

To improve the ballfield, the Young People put rock dust on the ballfield during March 1984.

During February 1985, the group installed timers or photocells on the lights at the church sign. They had a yard and hot dog sale in April 1985 to raise funds for their projects. A tradition began for each year since, they have had a yard and hot dog sale during April.

During 1986, the Young People's Fellowship and Commander James McRee donated and installed the flagpole and the American Flag in the corner near the gate into the cemetery. The flagpole is twenty-seven feet high and weighs approximately eighty-five pounds. As the inscription states, the flag and flagpole were "given in honor and memory of the American Veterans and in recognition of the proud heritage of St. Matthew's United Church of Christ."

The Young People's Fellowship through their contributions to the church and the community has become a part of the proud heritage of St. Matthew's.

GIRL SCOUTS

As we celebrate our one-hundred fiftieth anniversary at St. Matthew's United Church of Christ, the Girl Scouts of America are celebrating their seventy-fifth anniversary. In Savannah, Georgia on March 12, 1912, Juliette Gordon Low, who later became known as "Daisy," established the Girl Scouts in the United States. She wrote the first Girl Scout handbook, and with this, she gained support from national and community leaders. A voluntary organization, the Girl Scouts are "dedicated to helping girls develop as happy, resourceful individuals willing to share their abilities as citizens in their country, their homes, their communities, and the world."

The program is now offered to five age levels: Daisy's, age 5, Brownies, ages 6-8, Juniors, ages 9-11, Cadettes, ages 12-14, and Seniors, ages 14-17. Beginning with a Brownie Troop in 1976, the Scouts at St. Matthew's have since formed a Junior Troop in 1978, and a Cadette Troop in 1981. The girls take part in activities centered on the home, the arts, the out-of-doors, and citizenship. Camping is considered one of the most effective means for accomplishing the Girl Scout objectives. The program also emphasizes acquiring new skills to be applied to the welfare of others.

As members of a 91-nation World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, we are bound together by common purposes, ideals, and practices as expressed in their joint Promise and Laws, and by the use of the trefoil emblem that symbolizes the three parts of the Promise: duty to God and country, helpfulness, and obedience to the Laws. The Laws are a simple code for daily living which include honesty, helpfulness, courtesy,

friendship, and kindness.

Because the scouts are a non-profit organization, they have only a few ways in which to make money for their activities. Those ways are by selling calendars, cookies, and projects approved by the council. The money that is made is used to buy patches (which the girls have worked off), camping trips, and any other activities that are undertaken.

The Girl Scouts sponsored a trip to Washington, D.C. While plans were being finalized for the trip in 1984, the Reverend and Mrs. Lynwood Hubbard made arrangements with Congressman James Broyhill to fly an American flag over the United States Capitol. This request was granted. On Girl Scout Sunday in March 1984, the flag was presented to all three troops.

Since the Girl Scout program at St. Matthew's was initiated, everyone has been most helpful. The scouts appreciate this helpfulness and encouragement that has been given.

We wish St. Matthew's a happy one-hundred fiftieth anniversary, and we as Girl Scouts a happy seventy-fifth year, and hope we both have many fruitful years to come.

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

On November 18, 1982, St. Matthew's formed a club for the senior citizens of the church and the community. Mrs. Christine Hubbard, an organizer and advisor for the group, shared the devotions, "Making the Most of Life," with the thirteen persons present. The members kept this message in their hearts as they decided on the club's name, guidelines, and projects.

At the meeting in December 1982, the group of thirty-one persons adopted the name "Young at Heart Club." Membership is open to anyone fifty-five years of age or older. The group chose to gather on the third Tuesday of each month for a program, a business meeting, and a covered dish luncheon.

The first officers to be elected were: President, Mrs. Marie Martin, Vice-President, Mrs. Ethel Funderburk, Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Edith Coulter. Other positions were: Birthday Bank, Mrs. Lois Keener, Music Director, Mrs. Myrtle Kever, Hospitality, Mary Jane Beal, Program Committee, Dot Kimbrell, Hazel Hartzoge, Mary Louise Hartzoge, and Advisors, Christine Hubbard, Sue Campbell, and Lester Kever.

A quilt top was donated to the group which began projects to raise money for their activities. In April 1983, the group did the quilting and then sold tickets for chances on the quilt. A winner was drawn on June 1. On June 21, when the group went to Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds, the members' lunches were paid by the proceeds from the sale of the quilt.

Not only does the group have inspiring devotions but also educational programs. A detective spoke on safety and how to protect ourselves, the home, and the car. Representatives from the Health Department talked about the services offered by the department and the duties of a home health care nurse. After this program, the nurses checked the members' blood pressure. The group has also learned the importance of having a will and if there is not a will, how the State, according to laws, will divide the estate.

Other program topics include the history of Lincoln County, safety on the highway, duties of a paramedic, Alzheimers disease and the caring for a person who has the disease, and the history of Catawba Valley Technical College and the programs offered by the College.

The Young at Hearts have gone on a number of one-day trips to points of interest to the group. They are often joined by other members of the church. The Southern Living Show, Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds, Asheboro Zoo, Raleigh where they toured the governor's mansion, Old St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Old Salem in Winston-Salem, Park's Seed Company in Greenwood, South Carolina, and Murphy are some of the sites they have toured.

Although the group stays busy with their meetings and trips, they still find plenty of time to aid in filling the needs of the church. The ladies gather several times a week during the winter months to quilt. At the beginning, the quilts were raffled to raise funds for their trips. However, money received from some of the quilts were contributed to needy individuals and families in the community. Recently the group donated the material, time, and labor so that the Cadette Girl Scouts could raffle the quilt for their trip to Washington, D.C. Another quilt donated by the group will also be sold to help defray the expenses of the one-hundred fiftieth anniversary celebrations.

Membership has continued to increase since the formation of the club. Today the club has forty-nine members.

The Young at Heart Club has not only been, and will continue to be, an asset to the church but also to the community.

* * * * *



Women's Guild Members 1935 or 1936



Early Senior Citizens Christmas Party

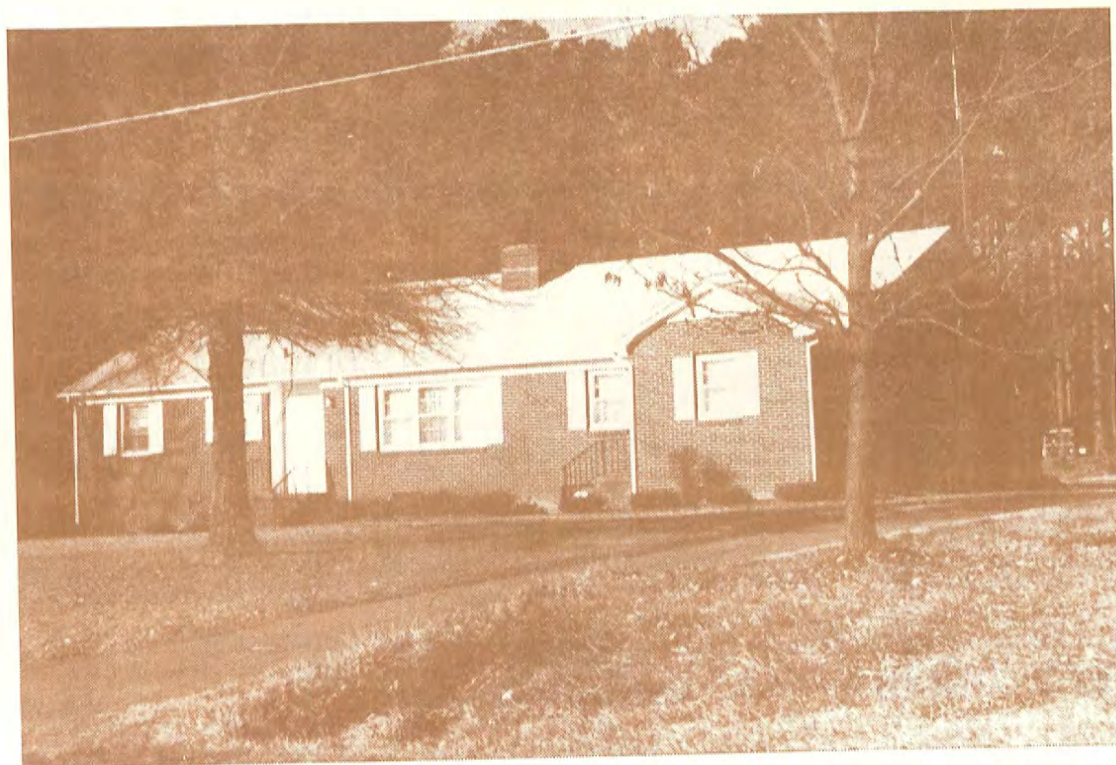


Isidora Mateo Garcia

Since May 17, 1986, the Sunday School class for teenagers has sent \$21.00 per month to Isidora Mateo Garcia, an underprivileged child in Mexico. Their contribution is applied, through the Christian Children's Fund, toward improving her health through the project's care and attention. In addition to the monthly contribution, the group also sends gifts and letters. She in return writes letters to the class.



Ground-breaking Parsonage
July 29, 1956



Parsonage
1957 - 1987



Ordination service of William (Bill) Campbell on June 16, 1968.
(Before renovation of sanctuary)



"Burning of Mortgage"
1968



Sanctuary after renovation
Completed in 1973



The cast of the musical "Shalom" presented during 1975



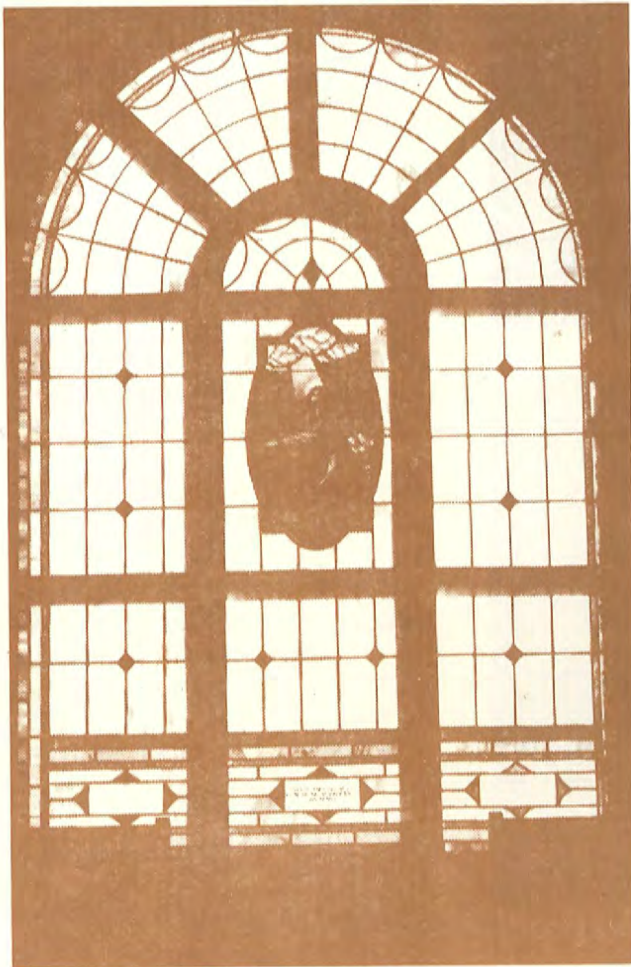
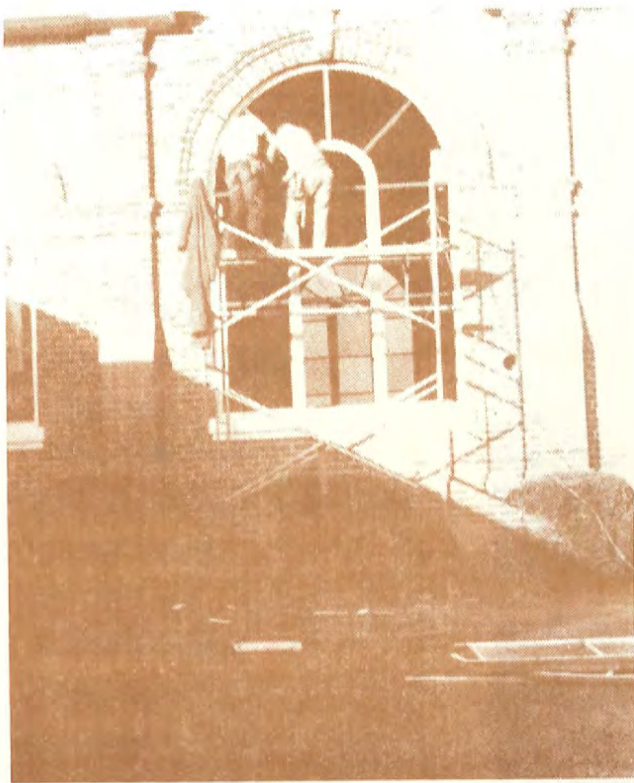
Church Cemetery



I come to the garden
alone,
While the dew is still
on the roses,
And the voice I hear,
Falling on my ear,
The Son of God dis-
closes.

And He walks with me,
And He talks with me,
And He tells me I am
His own,
And the joy we share
as we tarry there,
None other has ever
known.

C. Austin Miles



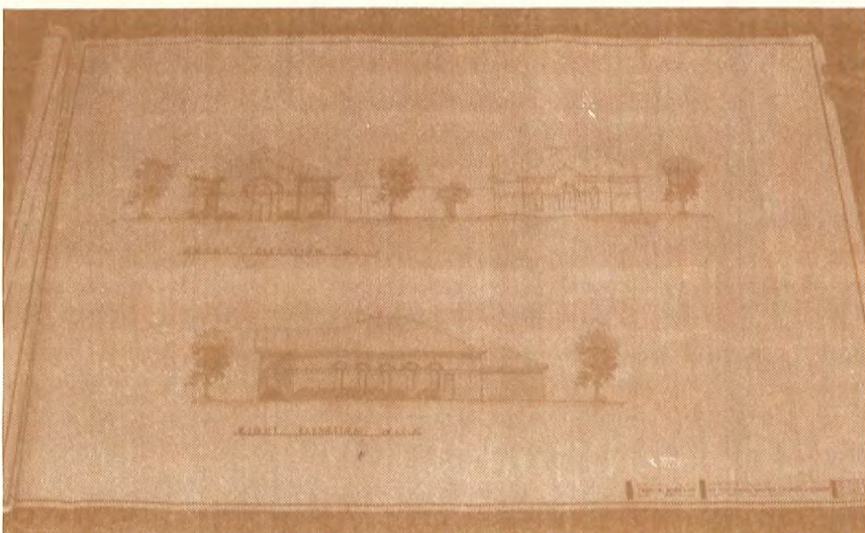
Removing the old to replacing the new
November 1984



Removing cornerstone of church
August 21, 1986



Removing cornerstone of
Sunday School Annex
August 21, 1986



Drawing of the multi-purpose
building

MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES

<u>PERSON</u>	<u>BRANCH OF SERVICE</u>	<u>DATES</u>
Thomas J. Shuford	U.S. Army	1917 - 1919
Banks F. Crooks (Followed by 7 years in the Reserve)	U.S. Army	1929 - 1934
Henry Lee Self, Jr.	U.S. Army	Feb. - Aug. 1941
Charlie Edgar Hartzoge	U.S. Army	1941 - 1945
Howard Bumgarner	U.S. Army	1942 - 1946
Clyde Andrew Hartzoge	U.S. Army	1942 - 1945
Paul Monroe Hartzoge	U.S. Army	1942 - 1945
Aubrey Wilson Isaac	U.S. Navy	1942 - 1968
Loreine Parker	U.S. Navy	1942 - 1945
Joseph A. Bumgarner	U.S. Army	1943 - 1945
Richard Bumgarner	U.S. Navy	1943 - 1945
Wade Bumgarner	U.S. Navy	1943 - 1945
John Wade Hartzoge	U.S. Army	1943 - 1945
Mack Herman	U.S. Navy	1943 - 1946
Joseph Paul Martin	U.S. Army	1943 - 1945
Paul Bumgarner	U.S. Navy	1944 - 1946
Lynwood L. Hubbard	U.S. Army	1944 - 1946
Raymond L. Leonhardt (Killed in Okinawa on May 10, 1945)	U.S. Marines	1944 - 1945
J. Michael Shuford	U.S. Army	1944 - 1946
Ray Campbell	U.S. Army	1945 - 1946
Kenneth Clifton Isaac	U.S. Navy U.S. Army	1945 - 1946 1950 - 1952
Audy B. Campbell	U.S. Army	1949 - 1952
Thomas B. Parker, Jr.	U.S. Army	1950 - 1952
Billy Harold Isaac	U.S. Air Force	1951 - 1980
William H. Roberts		1952 - 1954
Clyde Bumgarner	U.S. Army	1953 - 1955
Lewis Bumgarner	U.S. Army	1953 - 1955
Harry Dean Ritchie	U.S. Army	1953 - 1955
Dwight Theodore Shrum	U.S. Navy	1953 - 1957
Shirley Robertson Pope	U.S. Air Force	1954 - 1955
Joe S. Parker	U.S. Army	1954 - 1956
William Harry Bumgarner	U.S. Army	1955 - 1976

Clyde W. Shuford	U.S. Army	1955 - 1959
Avery Terrell Bumgarner	U.S. Army	1958 - 1960
	U.S. Army	1965 - 1968
James McRee	U.S. Navy	1959 - 1979
John Cephas Smith	U.S. Army	1961 - 1963
Don Bumgarner	U.S. Air Force	1964 - 1971
Billy Joe McAlister	U.S. Army	1965 - 1967
James Everette Wilson, Jr.	U.S. Army	1965 - 1967
Alvin Ned Keever	U.S. Army	1966 - 1968
John Moose		1966 - 1968
Neil Thurman Buff	U.S. Army	1968 - 1970
James Robert Hartzoge	U.S. Army	1968 - 1971
Marcus Vaughn Woodring	U.S. Army	1968 - 1970
Leonard Dale Goodson	U.S. Army	1969 - 1971
Dennis Mack Herman	U.S. Army	1969 - 1971
Kermit Biggerstaff		
Everette Campbell		
Joe Campbell		
Yates Campbell		
Joe Dellinger		
Marshall Finger		
Millard Finger		
Woodrow McRee		
Robert E. Parker		
Rowe E. Piercy		
William B. Propst		
Flint Rhodes		
Lee Rhodes		
Merton Rhodes		
Julius M. Sherrill		
Edison Shrum, Jr.		

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, May 3, 1987, was a beautiful, sunny day for the beginning of the one-hundred fiftieth anniversary of St. Matthew's. Excitement mounted as members and friends gathered around 10:30 a.m. for this memorable occasion. The morning worship service, held under the arbor, was followed by a picnic lunch under the grove. The afternoon service also held under the arbor began at 2 p.m.

Consistory President, J. C. Smith, welcomed each one to the special services. Mrs. Jean Williams chatted with the young children about the importance of building a solid foundation that would last for years to come as our church has. The responsive reading, "Church Anniversary" selection 79, was led by the Reverend Frank Snider who also had the morning prayer. For an offertory special, Wayne Taylor, a former choir director, rendered the song "American Trilogy." The choir, directed by Mrs. Audrey Ritchie, presented the anthem "Our Christian Church." Mrs. Alice Finger accompanied both special selections.

Dr. Rollin Russell, Conference Minister, delivered the anniversary sermon "Keeping God's Covenant" using as his text I Kings 8:1-36;63 and I Corinthians 12:12-27. The selection I Kings 8:63 was the text used for the dedication of the church in 1837, and in 1921, when the present church building was dedicated. The Reverend Lynwood Hubbard led the congregation in a litany of rededication of the church before the closing hymn and the benediction.

Following a picnic lunch and a time of fellowship, everyone gathered under the arbor for the afternoon service. "We Will Walk Together" was the title of the anthem by the choir. The Reverend Frank Snider, a former pastor of St. Matthew's, addressed the topic "Celebrating Our Heritage" emphasizing the rich heritage of St. Matthew's. His text was Psalm 33. A brief history of the church pointing out some of the major events was given by Faye Painter, Anniversary Committee Chairperson.

Approximately 275 to 300 persons attended the inspiring services held that day. On WBTV during the 11 o'clock (p.m.) news, members viewed highlights of the day's celebration and interviews of several church members. Mrs. Cecil Bost of WBTV splendidly covered the history of the church in the few moments she was allowed. As most appropriately

introduced on the news, members of St. Matthew's has a heritage that is worthy of commemoration.

On May 23, 1987, members and friends enjoyed a "pig-pickin." The meal was barbeque pork and trimmings. Entertainment was by the "Kitchen Band" consisting of choir members who used various kitchen utensils for instruments. The choir also sang several gospel songs that are favorites of the choir members and congregation.

The Reverend H. Linn Finger delivered the message for the worship service on June 14, 1987. His message "Memories" stressed the significance of collecting memories that can be treasured for a lifetime. Being a former pastor, he reminisced about the joyous memories he had collected while at St. Matthew's. During the service, the choir rendered two specials, "Precious Memories" and "Come, Thou Almighty King."



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The sources from which this history of St. Matthew's was compiled are the records of the church and the organizations, records of former pastors, old bulletins, information contributed by various members of the congregation, and A Story of the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church by the Reverend Banks J. Peeler, D.D.

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions that you have made toward this History. Special thanks to the History Committee, and Mrs. Chessie Finger and Mrs. Lealta Smith for the history they had previously gathered, Mrs. Pam Philyaw for the cover design, and Mrs. Louise Shrum for many of the photographs used in this booklet.

It would be impossible to list each person individually who has helped in the preparation of this History. To EACH of you, THANKS.

ONE-HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Faye Painter, Chairperson
Lealta Smith, Secretary

Bob Campbell
Jim Hartzoge

Paul Hartzoge
Christine Hubbard

Edna Lankford
Audrey Ritchie

Woodrow Shrum
Marie Van Goor

SUB-COMMITTEES

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Audrey Ritchie and Lealta Smith, Co-Chairpersons
Annette Barkley, Joan Campbell, Linda Gantt,
Carla Goodson, Steve Wilson

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Christine Hubbard, Chairperson
Greg Barkley, Dale Goodson, Susan Goodson,
Libby Herman, Diane McAlister, Joe McAlister,
Louise Shrum

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Marie Van Goor, Chairperson
Neil Buff, Cathy Bumgarner, Lyndell Herman,
Susan Jones

ENGRAVED CHINA PLATES

Edna Lankford, Chairperson
Ethel Funderburk, Mary Louise Hartzoge, Dot Hull,
Darrell Hull, Mildred Triplet

HISTORY COMMITTEE

Paul McRee and Woodrow Shrum, Co-Chairpersons
Jim Hartzoge, Libby Herman, Jane Lemmond,
Marilyn McRee, Elsie Painter, Faye Painter,
Hilda Shrum, Jewel Stiles, Johnnie Stiles

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Bob Campbell and Paul Hartzoge, Co-Chairpersons
Jerry Barkley, Terrell Bumgarner, Bonnie Finger,
La Donna Goodson, Mack Herman, Debbie Richard,
Phyllis Wilson, Catherine Woodring