

**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/
Church Email: stmatthewsoffice@bellsouth.net

Reverend William Sowers
Phone: 336-687-3815
Email: wmsowers@yahoo.com
Susan Barnette, Office Assistant
Lealta Smith, Editor
Email: smithlea@charter.net



Volume 48 Issue 3

The Grapevine

March 2022



*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come. The
old has gone, the new is here!"
2 Corinthians 5:17*

April is going to be a very important month for us at St. Matthew's Reformed Church. First of all, we will be moving into our newly remodeled sanctuary. As we move into the sanctuary, this will usher us into a new era at the church. Scripture reminds us, that if we are in Christ, a new creation has come. We, as God's people, are a new creation. The changes to the sanctuary should serve as a reminder to us that Christ makes us new. This is the culmination of years of effort on the part of St. Matthew's church. We will better be able to minister to the community that we are called to serve. For 185 years, this church has set an example of Christian leadership to the community.

I have had what has seemed like a huge number of appointments lately, which is what happens when you move to a new

community. It also creates lots of conversation points with people. One might ask, "So what brings you to Maiden?" Quickly, I am able to tell them that I am the new pastor of St. Matthew's church. Most people know the church by name and its reputation. That reputation is so important, and we must keep that up in order to reach new people for the kingdom of God. Let us not forget that *We Are A New Creation In Christ*.

-Rev. William M. Sowers

ANNOUNCEMENTS . . .

Sanctuary Rededication Service and Covered Dish Luncheon

April 3, 2022

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service at 10:30 A.M.
Everyone Welcome!

If you would like to participate in **home communion** during the season of Lent, please contact the church office (828-428-9651) or Rev. Sowers (336-687-3815).

Pastor Sowers is preparing for a **Confirmation Class** soon. If there is anyone who would like to participate in the class, please talk with the pastor.

His Kids Meeting Sunday, March 27th

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Movie Night - church fellowship
Refreshments will be served
Children and adults of all ages
are welcome to come !

Gifts for **One Great Hour of Sharing** will be received on March 27th and April 3rd, 2022. Gifts help when natural disasters strike, love responds. When you give you are working alongside families to help build homes, provide food and water in tragic situations around the world and the United States. Please give if you are able. Special envelopes will be available.

Orders for **Easter Lilies** are being taken now through Sunday, April 3, 2022. Forms are available on the small table as you enter the Fellowship Hall front door. The cost for each is \$12.00.



Let's do good to all people.

Galatians 6:10, NASB



**St. Matthew's Reformed Church
Consistory Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2022**

Consistory Members in attendance:

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

Guest in attendance: Chris Carpenter, Jean Funderburk, Faye Painter

Call to Order and Devotion: Jan Rice

Adjustments to February 13, 2022

Agenda: Under 'New Business' add two reviews for Church Facility Usage forms. Add Sunday Service Greeter's list. Motion to accept amended Agenda made by Susan Stewart, seconded by Ruth Haynes. Approved by all.

Sanctuary Update given by Chris Carpenter. Pay application from Contractor (Hemlock Builders) for \$28,032.41 submitted. Updates on cosmetic items including the addition of two handrails. Committee is requesting changes to both handrails. Electrical outlet added in Christmas Tree corner. Inspection should be conducted within the next 2-3 weeks. Next steps: furniture installation. **Piano needs to be cleaned, tuned, and moved back into Sanctuary, quote from Doug Brady \$250.** Approval for piano clean/place-ment, motion made by Chris Barger, seconded by Lora Rice. **Approved by all.** Make and model of older organ needed to list online for sale. **Pew Plaques received, cost \$300. Choir Chair upholstery purchased \$415.95. Floor mats purchased \$836. Stained Glass repairs were completed at cost \$995.** Request for \$65 of the \$995 of the stained glass repairs to be charged to the Sanctuary Renovation funds, and the remainder be paid out of General for maintenance.

Approval to split funds for stained glass: motion Chris Barger, seconded by Susan Stewart. Approved.

MEVO Camera System presented to be able to record and stream video from Sanctuary to Nursery, Fellowship Hall and live to YouTube/Facebook reviewed by Sanctuary Committee (suggested by Rev. Sowers due to past positive experience), 3 TVs would also be needed (Nursery, Fellowship Hall, and Kitchen) **cost for all components approximately \$1,800.** Approval to purchase all components, motion made by Frank Snider, seconded by Bruce Wray. **Approved.**

Questions raised: Is there a maintenance schedule needed for the Sanctuary hardwood floors? How to handle surplus of funds if there are monies left in the account after Renovation is completed? Answers to be researched/ tabled.

Waterline Update given by Candace Carpenter. Mr. Garrett (contractor at JITOW LLC) has concluded the pressure test for our waterline. Engineer working to provide Certification Request for the permit to operate. **Mr. Garrett will work with Lincoln County and the Inspector to load the pipe, pressure test and chlorinate/clean within next 2-3 weeks** (if all parties are available). Mr. Garrett will coordinate with **John's Pump and Electric to tie into the Church.**

Note: Consistory decided to create a valve system to **supply water to the Parsonage.** The meter located at the Church will account for any water used. Invoices received the week of Feb 7th from **Ferguson Waterworks – due immediately: \$6,379.61. JITOW LLC – agreed final draw will be \$5,500 once project is completed, tested, approved and operational.** First draw was \$18,500 paid in November 2021.

Music Committee Update given by Jean Funderburk. Choir was dismantled due to COVID, requesting to bring back full choir as normal – with practices as well. Motion made by Bruce Wray, seconded by Candace Carpenter. **Approved.**

Request for Dianne McAlister to play

piano and **pre-record for the sound team** to play during services. Motion made by Lora Rice, seconded by Ruth Haynes. **Approved.**

Review of January 2022 Consistory Minutes: Motion to approve, Lora Rice, seconded by Chris Barger. **Approved.**

January 2022 Financial Report given by Faye Painter. Questions raised: Oil bill was received and paid \$2,158.30. Parsonage Rental account holds \$3,800. Received final invoice by contractor, Barry Harbinson for **Parsonage Renovation, total \$41,678.** Motion to approve January 2022 Financial Report made by Frank Snider, seconded by Charles Bumgarner. **Approved.**

Pastor's Report given by Rev Sowers. Reported on number of visitations, meetings attended, and funerals. **Ash Wednesday Service March 2, 2022.** Discussion to hold **Confirmation Classes** during Sunday School hour. **CCL License** for the copyright coverage of music (copies and live streaming) being researched. Approval of Pastor's Report. motion made by Chris Barger, seconded by Jane Lemmond. **Approved.**

Cemetery Report dispersed. This committee met three times and conducted three workdays in 2021.

Maintenance was completed in multiple areas: wood's line, grading and filling areas of concern, footstones were installed on unmarked graves, dates were added to grave markers, and more.

St. Matthew's Church Family **lost 8 members and friends in 2021.** Two grave plots were deeded to members in 2021. Inventory of unassigned vacant gravesites is approx. 383 including 97 deeded sites.

The columbarium has 60 unassigned niches. **All Cemetery Members have agreed to continue serving in 2022.**

All Committee Reports to be approved. Motion made by Charles Bumgarner, seconded by Susan Stewart. **Approved.**

Consistory—Continued from page 2

Old Business:

Personnel/Staff Evaluations are to be conducted by the Consistory. Constitution states these should be held in November each year. These have **not been conducted since 2019.**

Motion was made to conducting staff evaluations now (and not wait until November 2022) made by Lora Rice, seconded by Candace Carpenter. **Approved.** Packets will be distributed and brought back to the Consistory, closed round-table meeting to be held on March 6th at 6pm.

Media Communication Team to be moved forward, Rev. Sowers to lead.

Internal Audit discussion was held. Members stated the Church Constitution did include a clause that an audit was to be conducted every three years, this has been removed. Investigating to see if this edit was made with or without a Congregational vote.

Personnel Committee presented the names of **Judy Hooper, Jacquelyn Barger, Gina Chandler and Deanie Michael to comprise an Internal Audit Committee.**

Motion to ask these individuals to join the Audit Committee made by Frank Snider, seconded by Bruce Wray. Question raised: **This topic and a more detailed discussion needs to be conducted in a closed meeting environment.** Meeting to discuss Internal Audit to be held March 6, 2022 at 6pm.

Shadow/Apprentice Program was suggested by Personnel Committee in previous meeting. Susan Stewart and Jacquelyne Barger presented to **shadow Faye Painter** for the Treasurer position.

Sonya Leonard presented to **shadow Joan Campbell.** Individual to **shadow Susan Barnette still to be determined.** Motion to approve the current individuals for Treasurer and Sexton made by Candace Carpenter, seconded by Chris Barger. **Approved.**

Consistory Minutes—Continued on page 6

Financial Information for February 2022 . . .

General Offering\$ 13,512.15
 Budget 14,754.60
 Benevolence\$ 872.50
 Budget 1,076.92

Year to Date

General Offering\$ 26,718.26
 Budget 33,197.85
 Benevolence\$ 2,302.50
 Budget 2,423.07

Disaster Relief Fund for Severe Storms 2021\$1,210.00



Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 9, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
 also on Easter Sunday, April 17th for children in attendance following the Morning Worship Service.

Candy donations are needed. A table to collect items has been provided in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks you for helping!

...

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, April 10th-10:30am
 Maundy Thursday, April 14th-7pm

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17th

Sunrise Service - 6:30 am
 No Sunday School
 Morning Worship - 10:30 am
 Easter Egg Hunt following service



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
APRIL 14, 2022
7:00 P.M.



MORNING WORSHIP
EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 17, 2022
10:30 A.M.

Sunday School Record

| Date | Attd. 2022 | Offg. 2022 | Attd. 2021 | Offg. 2021 |
|-------|------------|------------|--|------------|
| 2/06 | 37 | 48.00 | No Sunday School Jan. 1 - July 4, due to COVID | |
| 02/13 | 31 | 38.00 | | |
| 02/20 | 35 | 46.00 | | |
| 02/27 | 37 | 36.00 | | |

Perfect attendance for February: 28

Jacquelyn Barger, Wells Carpenter, Aubree McCrary, Annabel Barger, Sonya Leonard, Roger Beard, Greg Barkley, Chris Carpenter, Jan Rice, Cindy Minter, Jerry Minter, Sonya Leonard, Joan Campbell, Susan Goodson, Dale Goodson, Sammy Goodson, LaDonna Goodson, Elsie Painter, Abby Sowers, Terrell Bumgarner, Shirley McRee, Chris Barger, Candace Carpenter, Faye Painter, Walter Rice, Lealta Smith, Jean Funderburk, and Pastor Sowers.





Altar Flowers




Sunday, April 10th is available for a flower sponsor
 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 —



Faith is the assurance
 of things hoped for,
 the conviction
 of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1, NRSV

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|---|---|--|
|  2022 | | |
| | Volunteers for April Greeter Walter Rice Counters Hilda Shrum & Katie Painter Security/Closer Greg Barkley Nursery..... Listed below on Sundays to serve Ushers ♥ Wedding Anniversaries ♦ Birthdays | |
| 3 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT SANCTUARY REDEDICATION SERVICE 9:30 A.M. Sunday School for all ages 10:30 A.M. Morning Worship Service One Great Hour of Sharing gifts received 11:45 A.M. Covered Dish Lunch following service Board of Christian Ed. - Canceled 5:00 P.M. Adult Choir Nursery: <u>No</u> Nursery volunteers ♦ Hilda Shrum | 4 | 5 ♦ Lisa Specht |
| 10 SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT PALM SUNDAY 9:30 A.M. Sunday School for all ages 10:30 A.M. Morning Worship Service 5:00 P.M. Adult Choir 6:00 P.M. Consistory Meeting Nursery: Autumn Arruza & Katie Barnes ♥ M/M Greg Barkley | 11 | 12 ♦ Larry Parker |
| 17 EASTER SUNDAY  6:30 A.M. Easter Vigil Sunrise Service 9:30 A.M. <u>No</u> Sunday School today 10:30 A.M. Morning Worship Service - Communion Easter Egg Hunt for children after service NOON Fellowship Hall Reserved--Wray family Afternoon and evening activities canceled Nursery: <u>No</u> Nursery volunteers ♦ Annette Wray, Linda Hawn | 18 | 19 10:30 A.M. Young at Hearts Meeting Pot Luck Lunch ♦ Grace Herman |
| 24 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 A.M. Sunday School for all ages 10:30 A.M. Morning Worship Service 3:00 P.M. Youth group, 'His Kids' gathering 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. 5:00 P.M. Adult Choir Rehearsal Nursery: Linda Hawn & Jessica Hawn | 25 ♦ Charles Bumgarner | 26 ♦ Tyger McRee Deanie Michael |

| WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|
|  <p>FOOD COLLECTION ... April is Food Collection month for the Christian Ministry of Lincoln County. Items most needed; Popped-topped canned items, (Spam, stew beef, etc) corn, rice, crackers, Mac and cheese. Other items needed: clothes detergent and plastic grocery bags</p> | | <p>1</p> <p>♦ Chris Barger Abby Sowers</p> | <p>2</p> |
| <p>6</p> <p>1:00 Women's Fellowship</p> <p>♦ Morgan Burgess</p> | <p>7</p> <p>♦ Matthew Hawn</p> | <p>8</p> | <p>9</p> <p>10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Community Easter Egg Hunt</p>  |
| <p>13</p> | <p>13 MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>7:00 P.M.</p>  <p>♦ Alisa Herman</p> | <p>15 GOOD FRIDAY</p> | <p>16 HOLY SATURDAY</p> |
| <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22 EARTH DAY</p> <p>Fellowship Hall Reserved by Amanda La Bounty</p> <p>♥ M/M John-Paul LaBounty ♦ Taylor Beard</p> | <p>23</p> <p>Sanctuary reserved Noon until 2 P.M.</p> <p>Fellowship Hall and Arbor reserved for 2:00 p.m. wedding of Amanda LaBounty & Jacob Seiler</p> |
| <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>♥ M/M Dale Goodson</p> | <p>29</p> <p>♦ Sandy Bumgarner</p> | <p>30</p> <p>Fellowship Hall Reserved McRee family gathering</p> <p>♦ Karlee Ann Cook</p> |

Consistory—Continued from page 3

Quotes for Church Office Copier. Rev. Sowers, Susan Stewart and Susan Barnette completed an on-site Toshiba copier demo.

Details: 2,000 black & white copies per month, 260 color copies per month – if over the monthly allotment, cost is 6.5cent per copy for color, 1.5cent per B&W copy.

Monthly rate to lease copier is \$259.96 (down from current copier at \$285/month).

Loaner is supplier if copier is down for 2 business days. Question raised: How long is this new contract? How many bulletins are printed each Sunday? 100 currently (x 4 pages each) is 400 pages per Sunday.

Motion to approve new copier lease made by Burl Shrum, seconded by Bruce Wray. Approved.

Sunday School & Service Worship Times discussion held. Proposed to split difference in time to hold **Sunday School at 9:30am, Worship at 10:30am. Beginning March 13, 2022 with Day Light Savings Time.** Will be announced via multiple communication channels.

Motion to approve made by Frank Snider, seconded by Ruth Haynes. **Approved.**

Checking Account Signers to be updated at Fifth Thirds Bank. Elizabeth 'Libby' Herman and Matthew Hawn to be removed. Lora Rice and Frank Snider to remain on account. Janet Rice and Candace Carpenter to be added.

Filing Cabinets were purchased.

New Business:

Facility Usage Request. Amanda Underdown, March 18 and 19 wedding reception request – denied due to use of Fellowship Hall being used for service. **Amanda LaBounty request for Fellowship Hall** April 22 and 23, 8am - 4pm. Motion for Amanda LaBounty to use facility made by Chris Barger, seconded by Susan Stewart. **Approved.**

Sunday Volunteers.

Lora Rice will work to enroll volunteers for **Greeters,**

Candace Carpenter to call and populate **Counters,** and an **Ushers** signup sheet will be placed on table in Fellowship Hall.

Motion to adjourn Bruce Wray, seconded by Lora Rice.

Next Consistory Meeting(s):

Called Closed Meeting: Sunday March 6, 2022 at 6pm

Monthly Meeting: Sunday March 13, 2022 at 6pm

Minutes submitted by
Candace Carpenter, Secretary

**** **** **** ****

Additional minutes . . .

February 14, 2022: Text: Seeking approval that no accounts be opened or closed during the internal audit time frame." **APPROVED BY ALL.**

February 15, 2022: Text: Request from Sanctuary Committee to approve two stools for the sound system. Price \$345.32. **APPROVED BY ALL.**

February 18, 2022: Text: Candace spoke with Amanda Underdown (denial of Fellowship Hall usage). Ms. Underdown contacted the Church nearly a year

ago and was told she could use the facility for her Son's wedding and to reach out closer to the date for more details. **Asked us to please reconsider** due to invites being dispersed to guest, etc. Jan and Walt will serve as her sponsor if approved." **APPROVED BY ALL.**

February 22, 2022: Text: "The Sanctuary Committee would like to seek approval additions/changes to scope:

- 1) upgrade/changes to ADA hand rails (\$1,215).
- 2) AV cabinet doors (\$260).
- 3) Professional post-construction cleaning service (\$2,181.)
- 4) 2 vintage glass door knobs (147.20).

Sanctuary funds can cover these expenses. **APPROVED BY ALL.**

NEWS for high school seniors, college or graduate students.

Bethel United Church of Christ, Hickory, NC will grant the Whitener Scholarship of a minimum \$1,000.00 for the academic year 2022-2023 to an active UCC church member in Catawba County.

Guidelines and forms are available in the church office and need to be completed and returned by April 30, 2022 to the address provided on the form.

Eligibility: (1) Be an active member of a UCC church. (2) Have a GPA of 2.50 or above and maintain a 2.50 GPA as a full-time student. (3) Be a graduate of a high school. (4) Submit an application and be willing to appear before the selection committee for an interview. (5) Financial needs will be a consideration.

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.