

ST. MATTHEW'S  
REFORMED CHURCH  
4575 Maiden HWY.  
P. O. Box 739  
Maiden, NC 28650

"A Faithful and Welcoming Congregation"

Church Phone: 828-428-9651

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

Reverend William Sowers

Phone: 336-687-3815

Email: [wmsowers@yahoo.com](mailto:wmsowers@yahoo.com)

Susan Barnette, Office Assistant

Lealta Smith, Editor

Email: [smithlea@charter.net](mailto:smithlea@charter.net)



Volume 48 Issue 1

## The Grapevine

January 2022



*"Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for you souls."*

Each and every day we have decisions to make, all of which have different levels of importance. Before coming into the office this morning, I decided I wanted a bagel with cream cheese for breakfast. This decision didn't require much in the way of thought, and it didn't have an effect on anyone other than me. Yet, before the day is finished, I will have other decisions that might be of greater importance. Who will I call? How will I spend my time? What will I do or say that might have an impact on other people? Each of you will have all kinds of decisions to make in just a single day that will have varying levels of importance.

This text from Jeremiah's book is a good lesson on decision making. As a church, we are making decisions that will not only have an effect on us, but for generations in the future, as well. Long-term decisions are harder to make and can require longer times of thought and prayer. The daily choice between a bagel, cereal, eggs or bacon, really don't compare to what we do here. Yet, we are not alone in making these types of choices. We are guided both by God and the past Christians who have served here.

When we are at the crossroads, we are given great advice here. First of all, **Look**. When we come to a crossroads, there is no hurry to make decisions, but we should first and foremost look and take stock of what is around us. If we were out driving and arrived at an intersection that we were unsure of, we would first look around to see if we could find a sign to point us in the right direction.

Next, we are told to **Ask**. As man, I often have trouble asking for directions, but I could save a lot of grief if I would

simply take the time to ask. Why risk taking the wrong path when we can ask God which way to take? We are specifically instructed to ask for the good way, the ancient paths that have been walked before.

Finally, we get the point where we must take actions and are told to **Walk**. We must go forward; we cannot dwell at the crossroads forever. Too often, we know the right things to do, yet we remain too long in one place. Some months ago, I brought some chicken to fix for supper, but that night I didn't feel like cooking it, and I didn't freeze it because I was planning to use it the next day, yet, the next day presented the very same scenario. I finally had to throw it out, and although I hated to waste it, I no longer had a choice because I waited too long, the chicken went bad and the opportunity was gone. So let us not miss the opportunity to walk in the ancient paths and find rest for our souls.

-Rev. William M. Sowers

**St. Matthew's Reformed Church  
Consistory Minutes  
December 12, 2021**

**We Assemble in God's Name**

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

**Guest:** Chris Carpenter, Sanctuary  
Candace Carpenter, Waterline and BOCE

President Libby Herman called the meeting to order with prayer and devotion, "Have you invited the Lord to your affairs?"

**Motion** was made by Gina Chandler to approve the agenda with the added adjustments.

Second by Ronnie Bumgarner

Chris Carpenter gave an update on the sanctuary. All exterior doors have to be completed before final inspection. The exterior door (choir room door leading to the handicap ramp) is on backorder. The goal was to be in the sanctuary by January 2, 2022, but the inspection will not be complete. The new goal is to be determined. Pew cushions will be completed by December 22, 2021. The final payment is \$5,252.63 which is due when the cushions are installed. The AV cabinet will be 6 to 7 feet long. It will match the furniture on the altar. It will also be mobile. This cabinet will be used for sound system and videoing.

Candace Carpenter gave an update on the waterline. The 2 inch meter is still on backorder hoping to receive it, January 22, 2022.

**Motion** was made by Susan Stewart to approve the minutes with the appropriate corrections.

Second by Ruth Haynes

Motion carried

Faye Painter gave us an update on the financial report. She let us know possible changes regarding property and liability insurance.

**Motion** was made by Susan Stewart to change the deductible on insurance liability from \$1000.00 to \$5000.00.

Second by Gina Chandler

Motion carried

**Motion** was made by Frank Snider to accept the financial report.

Second by Ronnie Bumgarner

Motion carried

Gina Chandler gave us a report from the personnel and pastoral relations committee. Marilyn McRee and LaDonna Goodson met with each paid staff member. They went over their current job description and concerns that they may have. The committee is currently pursuing placing ads in various newspapers in the area for the position of Music Director. Bud Michael has placed an ad in Handshake.com for this position but has not had any responses as of today. The committee also went over the job description of Music Director and made the change of deleting "playing for the Sunday School opening". The current job description did not include working with the children as earlier suggested.

Candace Carpenter gave us a report from the BOCE. Nursery sign up sheets will continue. The committee will be ordering fruit and other items for the Christmas treat bags. These will be distributed at the candlelight service on Christmas Eve. Items will include apples, oranges, tangerines, gum, raisins, and chocolate bars. They will also be in touch with all Sunday School classes to

see if they have plenty of material to serve, if we need to order more or use what we have. They will extend an invitation to Consistory, Women's Fellowship, and Property committees for their vice presidents to attend our 2022 BOCE meetings. The Board hosted a youth craft night on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a success.

**Motion** was made by Chris Barger to approve the two committee reports.

Second by Ronnie Bumgarner

Motion carried

**Old Business:**

**Motion** was made by Matthew Hawn to put on hold the UV light air purifier system, \$800.00 for the parsonage.

Second by Frank Snider

Motion carried

**New Business:**

JRVC camp fees were \$549.75 and have been paid.

**By consensus**, the consistory will make an announcement to collect donations for the victims of the tornados, and will let the congregation know where money will be sent.

**Motion** was made by Chris Barger to adjourn.

Second by Burl Shrum

Motion carried

Next meeting: January 9, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lora W. Rice Secretary

---

*In* CHRISTIAN  
*Sympathy* **Our**  
Christian sympathy  
to the  
family of Mrs. Ann L. Bost at  
her death on January 8, 2022.  
Our love and prayers  
for her family.

# Lighting the Church

## Part 2: Electricity

By:  
Bud Michael

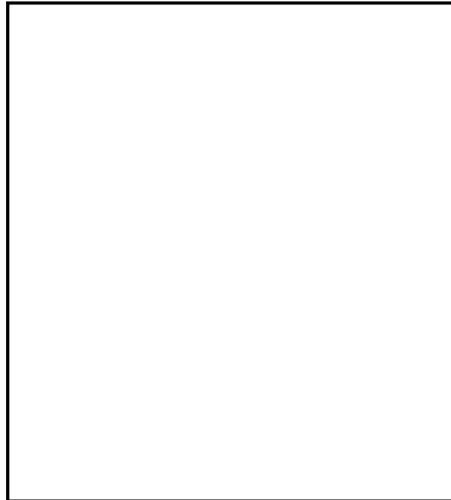


St. Matthew's sanctuary was illuminated by electric lights for the first time on the second Sunday in August 1939. Reverend Koons had held his usual Bible School in the Arbor and likely conducted his confirmation class that afternoon as well. The consistory might have scheduled a meeting. After all it WAS the second Sunday in the month. The pastor had a youthful and enthusiastic audience. The daylight in August lasts till nearly 9 P.M. But why wait? At a brief service to which not everyone attended. Some folks were fearful of a Sanctuary consumed by fire. Others were distrustful of the rural electric co-op, a member owned organization that installed the poles and ran wires to houses, farms, and churches. (The REAs, rural electric co-ops, were funded with guaranteed federal loans.)

Those who attended were delighted to see the entire sanctuary illuminated all at once with the simple turning of a switch. Best of all, no fire, no smoke, not even a spark. Maybe electricity would be a good thing after all.

Until about 1930 electric power distribution was found only in towns and cities includ-

ing in North Carolina. Early power companies were unregulated private businesses. Rural electrification was prohibitively expensive mainly because of the cost of installing power lines beyond densely populated areas. Plus power companies required customers to not only share the cost, but also to purchase a minimum amount of electricity every month. A costly service few could afford.



**Altar Flowers**

The following Sundays are available for sponsors: February 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, & 27<sup>th</sup>. Please confirm or reserve any dates you wish to have during the year. Please call Lealta Smith (828) 428-8327 or email: smithlea@charter.net

— Thank you —

### Sunday School Record

Date	Attd. 2021	Offg. 2021	Attd. 2020	Offg. 2020
12/05	25	\$	No Sunday School Mar-Dec. 2020 due to COVID-19	
12/12	26	\$		
12/19	27	\$		
12/26	18	\$		

Hilda Shrum, Regan Crouse, Jacquelyn Barger, Sonya Leonard, Annabel Barger, LaDonna Goodson, Kaye Crouse, Jerry Minteer, Terrell Bumgarner, Joan Campbell, Roger Beard, Shirley McRee, Chris Barger, & Faye Painter.

Congratulations to our Church Officers for 2022.

President: Jan Rice  
Vice President: Frank Snider  
Secretary: Candace Carpenter

### Nursery Volunteers February 2022

The nursery will be offered during the worship service beginning in February 2022.

Additional volunteers are needed. If you are able to help, please contact Katie Barnes or Candace Carpenter.

Feb. 6 - Katie Barnes  
Annette Wray

Feb, 13 - Brittany Cook  
Joan Campbell

Feb. 20 - Melissa Ingle  
Kaye Crouse

Feb. 27 - Candace Carpenter  
Jessica Hawn

(Please note . . . Volunteers are also listed on the February Calendar on the date assigned for service.)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>February</i> <b>2022</b></p>	<p>Thanks to Chris Carpenter for serving as January Security Volunteer.</p> <p>February Security Volunteer - Walter Rice</p> <p>♥ Wedding Anniversaries ♦ Birthdays</p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>6 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b></p> <p>9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship</p> <p>TBA Board of Christian Education Meeting</p> <p>Nursery: Katie Barnes &amp; Annette Wray</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p><b>13 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b></p> <p>9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship</p> <p>5:00 P.M. Consistory Meeting</p> <p>Nursery: Britany Cook &amp; Joan Campbell</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day</p> <p>♥ M/M Don Baucom M/M Max Bumgarner, Sr.</p>	<p>15</p>
<p><b>20 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b></p> <p>9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship</p> <p>Nursery: Melissa Ingle &amp; Kay Crouse</p> <p style="text-align: right;">♦ Jean-Paul La Bounty</p>	<p>21 President's Day</p>	<p>22</p>
<p><b>27 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY</b></p> <p>9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship</p> <p>Nursery: Candace Carpenter &amp; Jessica Hawn</p>	<p>28</p> <p>♦ Courtney Herman</p>	

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<p><b>2</b> Groundhog Day</p> <p>♦ Ashley Turner Sandy McRee Aven Arruza</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>♦ Joan Campbell</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>♦ Cindy Shrum</p>
<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>♦ Jason Goodson</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>♦ Marilyn McRee Pat Barkley</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>♦ Annabel Barger</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>

**March 2022**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

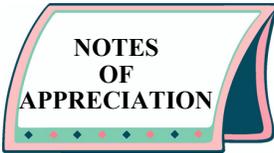
**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Catawba College ..... \$100.00**

(Note from Student, Class of 2022)  
 "Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to follow my dreams and receive a higher education. I could not continue to receive this great honor without your support. My dream of becoming a teacher is in reach and it's all because of you."

**First Baptist Church, Lincolnton**

To acknowledge your gift in memory of Brenda Smith to the Operation Backpack Fund is gratefully accepted.

**American Cancer Society.....**

A Certificate of Appreciation was received in honor of your support of the American Cancer Society and your dedication to creating a world without cancer, I am proud to recognize St. Matthews UCC Brotherhood (Dedicated Supporter) Thank you for your generosity and commitment. You are helping save lives.

**EveryAge Foundation** - (Formerly United Church Homes & Services)

2021 total yearly amount. .. \$1,000.00  
 During last year EveryAge was able to serve over 2,200 individuals and provide unreimbursed healthcare. But most of all THANK YOU for the lives changed by your generous support.

**"Dear Church friends,**

Thank you for the contribution in memory of my sister, Brenda Smith to the BackPack Ministry.

All children, especially those in need, were very dear to her.

Thank you all for your love and support.

Sincerely, Deanie Michael"



**A measure of love**

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

*Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.*

Do not seek **re**\_\_\_\_\_ or bear a grudge against anyone among your \_\_\_\_\_ople, but **love** your **neig**\_\_\_\_\_ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do **right**; seek jus\_\_\_\_\_. Defend the \_\_\_\_\_pressed. Take up the cause of the \_\_\_\_\_less; plead the \_\_\_\_\_e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown **you**, O mortal, what is go\_\_\_\_. ...

To act **justly** and to **love** me\_\_\_\_ and **to** walk \_\_\_\_\_ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

- \_\_\_\_\_ father\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ pe\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_venge
- \_\_\_\_\_od
- \_\_\_\_\_rcy
- \_\_\_\_\_op\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_hbor
- \_\_\_\_\_humb\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_cas\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_tice

So in \_\_\_\_\_ything, do to ot \_\_\_\_\_ what you would \_\_\_\_\_ve them d \_\_\_\_\_ to you, for this s \_\_\_\_\_ms up the \_\_\_\_\_w and the Proph \_\_\_\_\_s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

Answers: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, Law, Prophets

**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.