Matthews Baptist observes church music weekend

On May 18-19 Matthews Baptist Church will accent its music ministry with guests Charles Gatwood and Charles Storey from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

During this emphasis the children’s choirs, youth choir, youth handbell ensemble, adult choir, and children’s choir leaders will receive workshop instructions culminating in a workshop experience Sunday at 11 am.

Mr. Gatwood, director of the church music department for North Carolina Baptists, has held this position since 1977. He holds degrees from Indiana University, and has served as minister of music at First Baptist, Bloomington, Ind.; First Baptist, Greer, S.C.; and Snyder Memorial, Fayetteville.

The Indiana native is the former chairman of the music department at North Greenville Jr. College, Tigerville, S.C. Mr. Gatwood is past vice-president of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.

He directs the Cary Community chorus. Mr. Gatwood and his wife Carolyn live in Cary, where he serves as deacon at the First Baptist Church.

Charles Storey, associate director of the church music department for North Carolina Baptists since 1977 is a native North Carolinian, growing up in Blowing Rock and Graham.

He is a graduate of Mars Hill College, Furman University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served Ardmore Baptist, Winston Salem; First Baptist, Kannapolis; and Temple Baptist, Wilmington, as minister of music.

Storey has been a member of the Centurymen, the general board of the Baptist State Convention, and the hymnal committee for the 1975 Southern Baptist Hymnal.

Matthews Baptist Church began this special weekend last year by hosting the University of Georgia concert choir, under the direction of Dr. Pierce Arant.

This event concludes the graded choir year and is followed by the annual choir commencement service. This year the commencement will be at 7:30 pm in the church sanctuary.

The Matthews Community is invited to attend these special services of music.
A concert will be held during the week with parents invited.

Dan Ridley, minister of youth and music, hosted the youth from the church at an outing Sunday evening, May 25. The youth enjoyed the Girl Scout treat of S’mores and listened to beautiful singing by Tripp Rogers from the United Methodist church.

Matthews Baptist News

The poor boy supper May 30 was a success. The youth-sponsored event raised $400 for Mission Trip ’80 and the Myrtle Beach trips.

Upcoming for the youth of Matthews Baptist Church on June 14 is a canoe trip.

On June 30 the youth team up with youth from Mt. Harmony and go to Carowinds. Then the Mission Trip will be July 11-19.

Natural Bridge, Va., Washington, DC, southern Maryland, river cruising, and Virginia beach are on the agenda.

The youth will teach backyard Bible clubs as the main project and present the drama “The Game”.

Children's choir camp is June 23-28. Youngsters from the Cherub and Carol choirs will attend. The schedule includes worship, concerts, rehearsals, inspirational fun time and recreation.

Vacation Bible School is June 16-20.
Matthews Baptist calls new pastor

Matthews Baptist Church is pleased to announce the calling of Reverend Steven A. Rumley as its new pastor.

Rev. Rumley comes to Matthews from First Baptist Church of Burlington, N.C. where he served as associate pastor.

During his eight years at Burlington First Baptist, Rev. Rumley also served as the youth minister. He is a native of Burlington and prior to joining First Baptist he was associated with the YMCA as its youth director.

Rev. Rumley attended Elon College at Elon, N.C. and graduated from International College, Hawaii with a major in Christian education. He is a 1984 graduate from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest.

Rev. Rumley is married to the former Lynn Cole of Burlington and they have three children, Camilla, Steven and Chastity. They will reside in Matthews on Freemont Street and the children will attend local schools.
Matthews Baptist Church dedicates family center

Sunday, February 6, will be an exciting day in the life of Matthews Baptist Church. Rev. John Lucas, pastor, and Dr. Lawrence Childs, director of missions for the Mecklenburg Baptist Association, will lead the 11 am dedication service of the new family life center and Christian ministries buildings. A dramatic presentation, “The Last Night,” at 7 pm will conclude the day’s activities.

Five years of planning by committee members Ed Ball, Bill Little, Bill Cathey and Frank Williams; architectural design by Abernathy-Poetzch, P.A., and construction by T.R. Tucker Construction Co., have led to the completion of the half-million dollar facilities.

The Christian ministries building houses classrooms, an audio-visual area and music department, while a full kitchen with work area and a gymnasium complete with lighted scoreboard and retractable basketball goals complete the family life center.

Written especially for the occasion, the drama “The Last Night” portrays Jesus’ last night on earth. Told entirely through the eyes of Peter in living pictures, accompanied by music and narration, it is the creation of W.J. “Bill” Grubbs, chief engineer of Precision Control and MBC member.
Ken Powers ordained by Matthews Baptist

Kenneth E. Powers, minister of music and youth at Matthews Baptist Church, will be ordained to the gospel ministry this Sunday, October 7, during the morning worship hour at the church.

Powers has been on the staff at the church since last October. A native of Toccoa, Ga., Powers is a graduate of the University of Georgia and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served the following churches on a part-time basis before coming to Matthews:
- Carnes Creek Baptist, Athens First Presbyterian, Chapelwood Methodist, Wesley Foundation Center (all in Georgia);
- St. Matthews Methodist, Crescent Hill Baptist, and Lee’s Lane Baptist in Kentucky.

He was licensed to ministry by his home congregation, First Baptist, Toccoa, in May, 1983. The council for the ordination was chaired by John W. Lucas, pastor of Matthews Baptist Church.

Other members were Gerald J. Bearden, pastor of Durham Memorial, Charlotte; Lowell Dotson, minister of music of Providence, Charlotte; Z. Warren Mallard, church development director, Mecklenburg Baptist Association; and James D. Reich, minister of music of First Baptist, Monroe.

This service will mark the first time in the church’s 107 year history that a minister has been ordained while on the church staff. Everyone is welcome to attend.
Scarlet Antonie Rorie and Dr. Jeffrey Angilly Nystrom were married Dec. 2 at First Baptist Church in Matthews. The Rev. Steven Rumley officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Charlotte and Ralph Rorie of Matthews. She is a graduate of East Mecklenburg High School and is a student at Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in Charlotte.

The groom is the son of Shirley and Charles Nystrom of Winston-Salem. He is a graduate of R.J. Reynolds High School, N.C. State University and UNC-Chapel Hill, where he earned a doctor of philosophy in analytical chemistry. He is a manufacturing engineer with Juno Tool and Plastics Corp. in Rock Hill.

Music was provided by harpist Elizabeth Clark, and vocalists, Traci Burgess, Douglas Burgess Jr. and Barbara Wilson.

Maid of honor was Julia Leeper. Bridesmaids were Natalie Flynn, Lori Nicholls, Kathleen Schacherrer, Dargin Wilson and the bride’s cousins, Claudia Hein and Gretchen Seyfert.

Best man was the groom’s father. Groomsmen were Robert Finley, Brandon Williams, Robert Vogel, Maj. James Naudain, Eric Seyfert, the bride’s brother, Patrick Rorie and the groom’s brother, Charles Nystrom Jr.

A reception was held at the church.

After a trip to Jamaica and Williamsburg, Va., the couple will live in Charlotte.
Matthews Baptist News

Among East Mecklenburg graduates from the Matthews Baptist Church are Damon Culpepper, Errol Ernsberger, Jimmy Gulley, Donald Honeycutt, Donna Mater, Frank Williams.

Vacation Bible School is June 16-23. A meeting for the school was held June 1. Appreciation goes to Pamela Carr, Julie Hollar, Amy McAteer and Donna Newton for representing the church at the associational tournament for Children’s Bible drill.

It was held at Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church on May 18 with Amy and Donna advancing to the state tournament.

Mrs. Patsy Knight and Mrs. Rhonda Thomas are the leaders.
Matthews Baptist News

The youth at Matthews Baptist Church are always a busy group, and the month of April is no exception.

Upcoming on the 26th is a Bible study to be held at the home of Tom and Bob Carr. The youth council will meet prior to the Bible study, followed by supper for all youth at 6 pm and the study period at 7 pm.

Topic of the study is “Sex and Dating: The Biblical View”.

The hardworking youth of the church are under the direction of Dan Ridley, the minister of youth and music.

Training session number three will be Sunday at 4:25 pm for Mission Trip 80 to Maryland, held in July, the mission trip promises to be a teaching and learning experience for all involved. Also on Sunday, a youth outing after the evening worship service.

The Charlotte Boys Choir will perform at the church on Sunday, May 4, at 7:30 pm. The community is invited to attend.

The second annual Youth Talent Night, originally scheduled for April 20, has been postponed until April 27 at 7:30 pm. The tremendous response by the talented youth of the church caused the delay.

JOAN CARR
First Baptist of Matthews and Matthews Presbyterian provide a home

By SAMANTHA STARLING
Managing Writer

First Baptist Church of Matthews and Matthews Presbyterian Church have come together to provide a family with a home. The two congregations began work on the 19th house in the Fullwood Trace neighborhood in Matthews July 9. All of the homes in this neighborhood were built through Habitat for Humanity.

The newest addition to the community will be the home for Connie Livingston and her two children Reggie, who is 14 and Alexis, 11. The family is eager to start its new home.

"I've been on a cloud. I need someone to pinch me to make sure I'm not dreaming," said Livingston. Livingston is a school bus driver for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. She has held this position since 1985. She said she has driven all age groups throughout the years and loves the children.

Don Smith, the project coordinator for Matthews Presbyterian said things are running smoothly.

"We cosponsored the house with Matthews Baptist and split the cost 50/50. Matthews Baptist has more manpower, about 4-1 since its congregation has about 1,000 and we only have 250, but everything is running smoothly," he said.

Matthews Presbyterian began thinking about this project in June. In July, it contacted First Baptist and the two congregations came together. According to Smith, the obligation to Habitat for Humanity has already been paid off, and the amount of volunteers has been a great response.

"The turnout of volunteers has been very wonderful. It was more than we anticipated," said Smith.

Walt Tappan, volunteer coordinator for Matthews Presbyterian, has been very busy getting the house ready for specialists. Once the roof is finished, the volunteers will be able to take a break for these specialists to do their part.

"After this weekend, we will break until Aug. 27. The plumbing, electrical and air conditioning people will come in before we can put up the siding and insulation," said Tappan.

Completion of the home is slated for early October. However, due to the large amounts of rain recently, the date may be pushed back until November.

Livingston has taken the time spent in the neighborhood working on other homes to meet her neighbors. She has worked on quite a few of the other homes in Fullwood Trace earning the required hours needed before her family is allowed to move into its home.

Photo by SAMANTHA STARLING
Livingston hammers in the sign to let everyone know who's building her new home.
Matthews Baptist Church has begun a bond sale to finance its proposed Christian ministries building.

There are two types of bonds in the issue — coupon bonds with maturity dates from six months to five years in which interest is paid by coupon attached to the bond each October 1 and April 1 until the bond matures, and compound interest bonds with interest compounded semiannually and paid along with the principal at the maturity date of the bond.

Depending on the maturity period, coupon bonds pay from 12 to 15 percent semiannually. Compound interest bonds bear interest at the rate of 13 percent per annum, compounded semiannually.

These bonds are a good way to provide for a child's education or to provide funds for retirement years. The Internal Revenue code allows parents or grandparents to make a gift to their children or grandchildren without paying gift taxes.

The child declares the interest on his or her tax return and in most cases, the child would have no tax liability.

Under certain circumstances, church bonds can stand in for an IRA or other retirement account while you put away a nest egg for your golden years and help build a church in your community. Both coupon and compound interest bonds are available in $500 and $1,000 amounts.

If you are interested in helping Matthews Baptist Church and making some money at the same time, contact Matthews Baptist Church for more information.

Plans for the new building, which the bonds will finance, include a fellowship hall with a basketball court, eight classrooms, music rehearsal and robing rooms for the church choirs, a covered drive through and kitchen facilities.

Half of $350,000 bond issue have already been reserved by church members and friends.
Matthews Baptist Church reveals building plans

Matthews Baptist Church is planning a major renovation and building project next year. Members will vote on the plans designed by the church building committee in cooperation with the architectural firm McMurry, Abernethy and Poetzsh on October 12.

Sketches submitted to the membership last week call for a large fellowship hall plus a kitchen to be built on property behind the present church facility. A new two-story addition will also be built towards Sadie Drive connecting with the present educational wing.

This building will contain the church offices and library on one floor and an assembly hall plus three classrooms on the upper floor. An elevator will be built in this area to serve handicapped members.

The former fellowship hall under the sanctuary will be renovated for classrooms and a ladies parlor plus four classrooms will be added between the sanctuary and present educational wing.

New construction will contain 16,700 square feet of space while the renovation will open an addition 1,500 square feet for classrooms.

The total project cost is estimated at $690,000.
Contemporary gospel trio mix pastorates, music

By TERRY DEBOER
Special to The Observer

“Right now is a very stressful time for me personally,” said singer-songwriter Randy Phillips.

The artist wasn’t speaking of his music career. He was wearing his other hat as an associate pastor of a large Austin, Texas church.

“Right now is a very stressful time for me personally,” said singer-songwriter Randy Phillips.

Their most recent album, “Trust,” is in the top 15 of the Billboard Magazine Contemporary Christian listings. The current hit “Mercy Came Running” has now topped the charts.

The next single is the Lenten-themed big ballad, “Crucified With Christ,” to be released in time for the Easter season.

Since the artists live in different cities, they rarely write music together. Instead, they co-write with others.

“Actually we tried writing together a few times, but it just hasn’t clicked,” Phillips confessed.

“I think one of the reasons is we’re all too good of friends. When we all get in a closed room, none of us can get serious. It turns into a big laugh fest.”

None of the three artists shows any inclination to give up either their ministerial or musical roles.

“Yes sir,” drawled the Louisiana native. “We feel like God has opened this door and we’re gonna try to walk through it.”

Phillips, along with fellow artists Shawn Craig and Dan Dean, make up the contemporary Christian music trio Phillips, Craig & Dean. They perform at 7:30 p.m. tonight at First Baptist Church, 185 S. Trade St. in Matthews.

The threesome has released three successive albums which have placed nine songs on the top of Christian radio inspirational and contemporary music charts.

But all three also have professional pastoral duties at their home churches.

“We have our concert schedule set up so they’re every other week and we miss only one Sunday a month,” noted Phillips. “But the touring is a little different because you’re gone for extended periods of time.”

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Matthews Baptist mission tour

On Sunday, July 8, Matthews Baptist Church commissioned eight students and four adults to be missionaries in Beckley, West Virginia for MISSION TOUR '84. The North Carolina Baptist State Convention in alliance with West Virginia’s Baptist Convention is promoting work with West Virginian Southern Baptist Missionaries and Mission Churches. Matthews Baptist responded by sending these youth and adults to lead Backyard Bible Clubs and worship services in the greater Beckley area.

Participating in this mission endeavor were: Elizabeth Byrum, a senior at East Mecklenburg High School; Amy Grubbs, a senior at Independence High School; Rick Helms, a senior at Sun Valley High School; Jeff Knight a freshman at Mars Hill College; Amy McAteer, a freshman at Sun Valley; Tiffany Raley, a sophomore at East Mecklenburg; Wendi Thomas, a junior at East Mecklenburg; Chandos Williams, a senior at East Mecklenburg; Andrew Williams, a junior at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Rhonda Thomas, Food Services Director at Matthews Baptist Church; Larry Thomson, Truck Driver, Sunday School Teacher and Deacon; Kenneth Powers, Minister of Music and Youth at the church.

The theme of the tour was "Share His Love." Five months of preparation went into the making of the trip. Each youth was required to attend training sessions which enabled them to teach the Bible Stories, to articulate their faith, and to share their Christianity with others.

Prior to the trip the church congregation was involved in saving labels from Campbell soups, Prego spaghetti sauce, and Swanson and Van Camp products. These companies give a few cents cash for each label returned. Money from the labels will be used to purchase equipment — filmstrips, chairs, desks and chalkboards for churches in Beckley. Matthews Baptist plans to continue saving labels throughout the year and welcomes the participation of other members of the community. Labels may be taken by the church office from 9 am to 5 pm weekdays.

Sponsoring missionaries, Lawrence and Barbara Stewart helped the Matthews group locate strategic places in Beckley for the clubs, through the Stewarts' preliminary efforts the youth missionaries were able to reach more than one hundred people with the good news of Jesus Christ.

"Home base" for the mission team was The First Southern Baptist Church of Grandview-Beckley, the only Southern Baptist Church in the area. While the people of Matthews Baptist were there, work groups of youth and adults from Marshville, Hickory, and Weaverville, North Carolina were on hand to do needed construction work. Their efforts, along with the activities of other North Carolina Baptists, have resulted in First Southern Baptist, Grandview-Beckley more than doubling its church facility in the last five months.

While conducting the backyard clubs, the Matthews group used games, costumes and songs to teach Bible truths to children of all ages.

There was more in store for the workers than evangelistic work. Trips were taken to: Little Beaver State Park for paddle-boat fun; Grandview State Park and Pipestem Resort, for indoor swimming. This is the third time that Matthews Baptist Church has produced a mission tour (the others were in '80 and '82). Because of the success of these excursions, plans are already underway for future involvement.

"This was my first encounter with the ministry rendered through our Home Mission Board," said Kenneth Power, tour coordinator. "These projects are possible when there is a supportive pastor and congregation behind you. When Christians see needs and respond to them with sensitivity and love the result is beautiful. God richly blessed us all."

Send us news of your church activities and events. We are happy to publish these free of charge. Include pictures if possible.

The Southeast News
P.O. Box 1175
Matthews, N.C. 28106
Groundbreaking

Sunday was a big day at Matthews Baptist Church.

Ground was broken for the new 14,000 square foot educational building which will house a large fellowship hall, eight classrooms, an audio-visual and music room combination and kitchen.

Architect for the project is Williams & Associates with the construction contract being awarded to T.R. "Tommy" Tucker construction of Matthews. The new facility is financed through contributions and a $350,000 church bond issue.

There are still about $15,000 worth of 13% interest bond available. Contact the church if you are interested in purchasing bonds.

Shown turning the first spade of earth is Stan Field, chairman of the church deacon board; Frank Williams, chairman of the building committee; Fred Funderburk and Joe Caldwell, church trustees; and pastor John Lucas.
The Rev. Nathan Ray Wheeler, associate minister at Bethel Presbyterian Church, talks with the children on a recent Sunday morning. The church is one of many on Charlotte’s flanks that find themselves coping with rapid growth as suburbanites move in.

**Suburban churches not so little anymore**

Rapid growth brings blessings, hardships to onetime rural congregations

BY ALLEN NORWOOD
Suburban Editor

Bethel Presbyterian Church was organized in 1828 by farmers who worked the rich Catawba River bottomland north of Charlotte and, for more than a century, served mostly the same two dozen extended families.

Today, the church’s membership is 900. It has doubled in the past decade and a new $1.5 million family life center opened last year.

In the early 1960s, Duke Power began filling Lake Norman and pushing farmers off their land.

“When the lake came, it was a right despondent time,” said the Rev. Ed Wayland, Bethel’s pastor for 43 years. “It drove some of the farmers to their graves. They had nothing left to live for.”

Then, Charlotte’s suburbs crept up toward the lake and out the ridge to Bethel.

“Today something’s happening every minute, and it’s picking up steam,” Wayland says.

Bethel Presbyterian is an example of the dozens of small town and farming community churches on Charlotte’s flanks that find themselves coping with rapid growth as suburbanites move in.

The newcomers say they’re lured by the same things that brought church founders together. It’s faith and worship, not fancy facilities, that cement allegiance.

But longtime members are having to get used to the accents of newcomers from outside the South. Ministers are having to manage gyms and day-care centers and all sorts of things smaller churches don’t usually offer.
Growth
Suburban churches not so little anymore

In Matthews, the United Method- 
ist congregation last year moved 
everything out of its 1966
church and 1,300 show up now at 
the new building.

The difference: People have 
been moving to Matthews from 
Matthews United Methodist -
where the church began work in 
1960. "It's a blessing, but it's also 
a bit of a hardship when a church 
has been here a long time and 
then grows overnight," said 
the Rev. Steve Rumley of 
Matthews First Baptist.

The growth of some suburban 
churches has doubled local 
churches to about 1,350 members.

"We used to be way out in the 
dirt," said Leak, who 
joined the church 27 years 
ago. "Now, they just 
reached on humor and religion: 
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Churches work like small towns 
and faith 'handles the big 
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executive direc-
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The success of any church, Pink-
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The success of any church, Pink-
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"This is not just a story about 
the growth of suburban churches. 
There's something going on in the church now that's more than 
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churches." 

Chapel Hill. "It's a blessing, 
but it's also a little more 
prepared." 

The growth of some suburban 
churches has doubled local 
churches to about 1,350 members.

"We used to be way out in the 
dirt," said Leak, who 
joined the church 27 years 
ago. "Now, they just 
reached on humor and religion: 
And the Protestant denomina-

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Matthews Baptist Church

By DOT AUSTIN
Special to The News

In October 1877 a group of interested persons met to organize a Baptist church in Matthews. Rev. James Braisington was called as pastor.

It was decided there would be two services held each month, one on Saturday at noon and another the following Sunday morning.

Salaries varied. In 1879 the pastor was promised $25 for his year's work and from that time forward it increased or diminished as members gave or withheld.

The first small church building had a wooden fish atop the steeple. Later a new brick building was built. This structure was also used as a school, fostered by the Baptist Association until 1903. It was later used as a parsonage.

Like most Baptist in the early days, the Matthews church believed in stern discipline. Business relating to church affairs was conducted at the Saturday conference which followed worship services.

In 1880 each male member was assessed ten cents per month and females five cents. Money was used for current expenses.

For lack of funds progress on the new church was slow, but in 1894 the building was completed and the congregation worshiped in the finished building and had a ten-day revival.

Over the years as membership grew once again, a larger church had to be built. Services were held in the new church in 1929.

The church began having services each Sunday instead of twice each month in 1941.

With the help of the Mecklenburg association and Matthews Baptist, the mother church, a brick edifice was erected. Operating as a mission for three years, it became a fully organized church in 1949. The mission is now Mint Hill Baptist Church.

Again with the help of the Mecklenburg association, Matthews Baptist sponsored Wallace Lane Mission for more than 10 years. It is now called Sharon Forest Baptist Church.

Periodically many additions and improvements have been made to the church. Chimes were installed, a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Rube M. Houston and family; new pews, carpet and light fixtures were also installed.

A complete renovation throughout the church was completed in 1953 and the Baptistry scene was painted by the church artist, Walter Kuel, in 1954.

The church has recently completed a half million dollar Christian ministry building with educational space, family life center, a junior high school size gym and kitchen facilities.

Many enrichment programs are offered. There are eight active missionary circles and the church has eight choirs. Dan Ridley is music director. A marriage enrichment seminar was held recently.

On Sunday nights the church has what is called "Dessert Dialogue." Members bring their favorite dessert. They break up into groups and are given subjects on Christian relationships, discovering the will of God, what the greatest needs of our world are today and how they can be met. Also, subjects on social problems, such as drinking, are discussed. These groups are given fifteen to twenty minutes per discussion and the leader of the group gives a synopsis of the discussion in each group.

A kindergarten was begun in 1964. Enrollment at Matthews Baptist is over 600.

The church is proud of the fact that Charles K. Gardner, a member who was brought up in Matthews Baptist and is married to the former Betty Little who was also brought up in the church, was ordained into the ministry in 1966.

North Carolina Telephone Company is presently located where the original church stood.

Matthews Baptist Church is located at 185 South Trade Street. Rev. John W. Lucas is pastor.

He says that Christian faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the church is the most important thing in the world. "If people want happiness and peace and want meaning in life they can find it in Jesus Christ and involvement in the church."

Rev. Lucas and his wife, Nancy, have one son, Stephenson, who is a first-year student at Southeastern Seminary.
MATTHEWS BAPTIST CHURCH
MATTHEWS, NORTH CAROLINA

JOHN W. LUCAS, PASTOR
STEVE BUNKER, MUSIC AND YOUTH

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

CHURCH HISTORY
1877 - 1977

HOMECOMING DAY
October 9, 1977
In compiling the history of any institution or organization, the hardest task is that of separating written facts from tradition. In the beginning of the present Matthews Baptist Church only brief records were kept, and these are recorded within the following chronicle. Both written facts and tradition are used in this paper, but will be clearly designated when necessary.

Found on the faded ink pages of a time-worn ledger is the following record:

State of North Carolina, Mecklenburg County, this the Lord's day in October, 1877. The following members of the Baptist Church met at Rev. E. C. Williams' residence to organize a Baptist Church to be located at Matthews Station. To wit: William P. Williams, James Ferguson and wife, Martha Ferguson, Emily Segars, Jane Segars, Sutton Williams, E. J. Funderburk, Taylor Sustare, William R. Massey, sister of E. N. Massey, Rev. Evander David, Rev. E. C. Williams and wife, Mary Williams. Rev. E. C. Williams was called to the chair. The Presbytery consisted of Evander David, W. R. Massey, Secretary. Evander David led in prayer after which he delivered a charge setting forth the faith and practice of a Baptist Church. The above named members are received and recognized as members of the church which was agreed should be called the Matthews Baptist Church.

E. C. Williams, Moderator
W. R. Massey, Secretary

At the second meeting (undated) held at the Grange Hall the Rev. James Braisington was called as pastor of the new church, two services to be held each month, one on Saturday at noon and the other the following Sunday morning. E. J. Funderburk and William P. Williams were the first elected deacons, and W. R. Massey the first clerk. The next meeting (undated) shows that plans were made to erect a house of worship. Minutes written on August 24, 1878, show that the congregation met for the first time in the new building, which evidently had not been completed. Records a year later tell of a warm discussion as to whether the church should be ceiled or plastered, the former being decided upon. A nine-day revival followed, and the pastor Rev. Braisington being assisted by Rev. William M. Johnson.

The following is a copy of the original deed to the property upon which the first church was built, and the second one of brick, which is still standing:

This indenture made the 10th day of July in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-eight. F. S. DeWolfe and J. E. Brown assignees of W. H. H. Hunter in Bankruptcy of the County of Mecklenburg and the State of North Carolina of the one part, and E. J. Funderburk, W. R. Massey and William Williams of the County of Mecklenburg and the State Of North Carolina, trustees of the Baptist Church at Matthews of the other part; Witnesseth: That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of forty-five dollars to the said party of the first part in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged; have bargained, sold and conveyed, and
do hereby bargain, sell and convey to the said party of the second part, successors in office or assignees, all that track or parcel of land lying in the County of Mecklenburg and State of North Carolina bounded as follows: It being lot No. 4 in the Town of Matthews. Beginning at the intersection of Matthews and Fremont Streets and running with Matthews Street 200 feet to an alley, thence with said alley 200 feet to the E. J. Funderburk line, thence with his line 200 feet to Fremont Street to the beginning. To have and to hold the same with the appurtenances thereunto belonging to the same E. J. Funderburk, W. R. Massey and William Williams the party of the second part, their successors and assignees forever. And the said party of the first part for the consideration aforesaid, do hereby covenant and agree to warrant and defend the promises of the aforesaid to the party of the second part, their successors and assignees, as far as they may do as assignees, and no further. In witness whereof, the said party of the first part have hereunto set and seal the day and year above written.

F. S. DeWolfe (Seal)
John E. Brown (Seal)
Assignees of W. H. H. Hunter in Bankruptcy.

It seems to be conceded by many of the older members of the Matthews church that the lot upon which the first church stood was given by the late E. J. Funderburk, but no written record has been found to substantiate this belief despite a careful and painstaking search. It might be that he donated the money to pay for the property in question, but we can find nothing written to prove this. We do know, however, that as one of the founders of the church he gave much of his time and substance, and led out in many of its activities.

The salary of the pastor seemingly fluctuated. In 1879 it is recorded that the pastor was promised $25.00 for his year's work, and from that time forward it increased or diminished, apparently as the members gave or withheld.

According to some of the older members, the first church building was a small one with a steeple and a wooden fish on top of the steeple. The original pulpit Bible is in the possession of E. H. Massey who bought it from a negro to whom it had been given when the church was torn down. The first communion set is being kept at the home of Miss Carrie Renfrow.

After the second brick church was built, the first one was used as a school fostered by the Baptist Association until 1903. Later on it was remodeled and used for a parsonage, and still later it was rented as a private residence.

In the September, 1879 conference, L. C. Morton and J. C. Helms were elected as delegates to the Rocky River Association, ("Union Meeting" seems to have been used for the Association meeting in many of these old records.)
It is interesting to note that all the business relating to church affairs, including the reception of new members, was conducted at the Saturday conferences which always followed the preaching service on that day.

These early Baptists believed in and practiced stern discipline as the records show exclusions at many of these Saturday conferences. The offending brother or sister was first reported by a spiritual committee, then ordered to appear at the next conference, and woe to the poor sinner who dared to disregard the summons. He was cast into outer darkness by having his name stricken from the church roll. In justice to the church leaders, however, it must be said that the erring member was restored when he acknowledged his transgression and showed proper repentance.

In 1880 an entry states that each male member was assessed ten cents per month and each female five cents. The money was to be used for current expenses. (1898 must have been a boom year, for the assessment was increased to one dollar for each male and fifty cents for each female).

In 1882 the church voted to have three services each month, second and fourth Sundays, with a Saturday service to precede the fourth Sunday meeting. In December of this year the Rev. A. L. Stough of Shelby was called as pastor, no mention being made of the resignation of Rev. Braisington. At the time, Mr. Stough also served the church at Pineville which today bears his name, Stough Memorial. In 1883 delegates to attend the Brown Creek Association or Union Meeting were appointed. In 1885 Rev. J. B. Richardson became pastor and according to the records, held the longest term of office in the church's history, that of thirteen years. In 1886 the women succeeded in raising enough money to buy a communion set, some furniture and some carpeting for the building.

In August of 1890 it was decided to build an addition to the church, and a committee was appointed to make plans for the project. At the next conference this committee brought in the recommendation that instead of adding to the present house, a new building should be erected, to be of brick and not to cost over $2,500.00. The church accepted the recommendation, and a new committee was appointed as follows: T. J. Renfrow, W. M. Johnson, E. J. Funderburk, Louis McLendon and W. T. Carpenter. March, 1871, was set for the beginning of the work and the new building was to be on the Northwest side of the old one. An interesting little item here is that the church ordered one dozen copies of "The Baptist Hymn Book" which were to be sold to any member wanting one.

Progress on the new brick church seems to have been slow, as a report in July of 1894 stated that the work was held up for lack of funds. It was decided then and there to borrow the money raised by the children to buy a bell, the following Sunday's church collection, all the money in the Sunday School treasury, and all the money the Ladies Aid had on hand. (This is the first mention of the Ladies Aid, although it must have been in existence long before this date). A later record states that the children were repaid, but no mention is made of other reimbursements.

In August, 1894, the congregation worshipped in the finished building and had a ten-day revival, converts being baptized in the Mt. Harmony pool. In the conference of March, 1896, report was made that the last subscription to the building fund had been paid. The quaint comment follows: "And the best of feelings prevailed."
The Rev. J. B. Richardson resigned in 1898 and the Rev. J. S. Snider was called for half his time. In 1889 piping was laid to convey water from a well to the church pool which evidently had been constructed for some time. Mention is made of a committee appointed to confer with the Meadow Branch Church with a view to calling a joint pastor. Nothing else is written about this, but older members said it was done and for several years the two churches were served by the same pastor. The Rev. Snider held the pastorate for one year and was followed by Rev. S. W. Bennett, who apparently served for the same length of time.

The Rev. D. M. Austin bears the distinction of serving the church for three different terms, his first pastorate beginning in 1902 and ending in 1904. After the resignation of Mr. Austin, William R. Renfrow acted as supply for one year, he being ordained for the ministry during that time. The Rev. P. H. Purnell was called as the regular pastor in 1905, but served only one year. Special mention is made at this time of handsome new lamps bought by the Ladies Aid and placed in the church. The Rev. Purnell was followed by Rev. D. M. Austin who served for the second time, beginning in 1906. In 1908 Rev. W. L. Barr became pastor and he was followed by Rev. J. E. M. Davenport in 1909. In 1910 the church went back to one Sunday a month with a Saturday conference every three months. The Rev. J. W. Whitley was called as pastor in 1912, but no records are available until 1916 when Rev. R. D. Cross became pastor.

No records are given from 1916 to 1919 when Rev. D. M. Austin become pastor for the third time, this pastorate terminating with his death in 1925. The only entry of this year is an account of a very successful revival meeting held with Rev. T. L. Cashwell in charge. Twenty-six members were received and sixteen were baptized by Mr. Cashwell, as the church then was without a pastor.

The records are very scattered and incomplete about this time, but it is indicated that the first move for a larger and better church building was taken in 1923. With the exception of two small rooms on either side of the pulpit and pool which were used for small children, the church had no class-rooms for Sunday School work. All classes were held in the auditorium and on Sunday mornings when lessons got under way, the mingled voices from various parts of the one room resembled the hum of a well organized hive of industrious bees. When weather permitted, some teachers seated their children on the grass beneath a large spreading elm to hear the lesson. Despite the drawback, however, the Sunday School was well attended and did good work.

The church felt the need for an up-to-date, well-equipment plant and the members were strongly united on this one point, but they seemed unable to decide whether the building then occupied should be remodeled or a new one built; they finally decided on a new one. Then the selection of a new site remained to be settled; part wanted to build on the property then in use, while others wanted to move to a new location; the building progress lagged. In the meantime, the church was without a pastor until 1926 when Dr. L. R. Pruette of Charlotte was called. He accepted but with the distinct understanding that he was only to supply until a regular pastor could be secured. The church owes much to Dr. Pruette during his three years pastorate, especially in regard to the building of the present edifice. During this time, he quietly but persistently urged the beginning of the work until at last it was begun and carried on to completion; the first service was held in August of 1929. The land that the present main building stands on today was given by the late Mr. Frank Griffin.
From the time of the first movement for the new plant in 1923, various committees were appointed. The final building committee selected composed of: T. J. Renfrow, Dr. H. F. McManus, John M. Paxton, J. G. Baucom, Mrs. M. B. Hood (now Mrs. S. L. Hoover), S. L. Forbis, and Mrs. T. J. Presson.

"Captain" Renfrow gave much of his time and energy in this new project. As the personality of E. J. Funderburk dominated the life of the first church, so "Captain" Renfrow took a similar position in our present church until his death in 1935.

Following the resignation of Dr. Pruette, Rev. J. A. Snow of Marshville was called in September of 1929. He served until 1934, when the church again was without a shepherd. For some time the need of a resident pastor had been felt, and in June, 1934, Rev. George L. Hocutt was called and took up his residence in Matthews. He faced the task with determination and began at once to lift the church debt. It was a time of discouragement for many, as some had grown indifferent and it seemed almost an impossibility to raise the money needed.

Mr. Hocutt, in addition to a number of other important things, proceeded to inaugurate regular financial reports to the congregation which enabled each member to understand exactly where the church stood financially. An Ingathering Day was instituted in November of each year when every member was encouraged and expected to give a special offering for the lifting of the indebtedness. Mr. Hocutt called for tithers, and started the Daily Vacation Bible School, the Lord's acre plan, and reorganized the B. Y. P. U., as it was then called. He sought in every way to enrich the spiritual lives of his flock. It was with the deepest regret that the church accepted his resignation in 1941.

The work of paying off the church debt had begun, and it only remained to find a young man with courage and determination to build on the foundation already laid. Such a young man was Rev. Hubert S. Mumford, who came to Matthews in July, 1941, and he built worthily. From the beginning of his pastorate he gave preaching services each Sunday instead of two Sundays a month, although he had only been called for the latter. Under his leadership the church debt was completely erased; all money-making schemes were done away with; the church began giving an indefinite call to the pastor instead of an annual one; the Ladies Aid Society and Woman's Missionary Society were combined, and $1,000.00 placed in the budget for the cooperative Program. Mr. Mumford placed special emphasis on evangelism; eighty-one members were added to the church and tithing increased. Every resident member was urged to take a job and persistent effort was made to have a well informed progressive membership. Visual education was stressed; many additions and improvements were made in the physical equipment of the church plant.

Those in service of our country were the objects of special attention through a Roll of Honor. Service flags and correspondence, especially in a weekly newspaper, went to every boy and girl in the armed forces and to their families.

The Matthews Baptist Church faced the future with more confidence than ever before. Through consecration and faith on the part of the members, it went forward in cooperation and faith with the pastor, and greater things
were brought to pass. The Lord's work and will moved onward and upward through the years, and progress was seen in every phase of the church work as Rev. Mumford led the flock in Matthews.

Written by Mrs. H. F. McManus (Ula)

Rev. Mumford was filled with enthusiasm, initiative, and perseverance. During his pastorate, the church voted that a rotating deacon board would be put into effect.

The church library was officially opened while Mr. Mumford was pastor. An amplifier system was installed in order that workers in the nursery may hear the sermons. A new gas stove was purchased for the kitchen; a new heating plant was installed. The Baptist Brotherhood was organized and many men joined. Mr. Mumford brought inspiring messages in music to the congregation with his talented voice.

The great need of a Baptist Church was realized in the Mint Hill area, which burdened our pastor's heart. In the spring of 1947 a census was taken of that vicinity, and two hundred prospective members expressed a desire to become Baptist. Rev. Mumford conducted Sunday School and church services were held regularly. Mr. Lonnie Baker acted as Chairman of the Missions Committee, and performed a splendid service of faithfulness and loyalty, as well as others from our church whose assistance proved invaluable. Besides financial aid that was given from the Matthews church, the Mecklenburg Baptist Association allocated necessary funds. Soon a modern brick edifice was erected, operating as a mission for three years. They became fully organized as a church on December 4, 1949. Our Mother Church received unmeasured blessings from having such a vital part in the founding and organization of Mint Hill Baptist Church.

Homecoming Day was an important Sunday never to be forgotten on May 20, 1945. One of the main features of the dedication of the church was the burning of the mortgage, symbolizing the final payment of indebtedness. Rev. L. R. Pruette and Rev. George L. Hocutt were present to assist Rev. Mumford in applying alighted candles to the document. (We have a picture of this)

Beautiful chimes were installed as an aid to the worship of the Lord by Mr. and Mrs. Rube M. Houston and family in memory of Mr. Houston's father and in honor of his mother. To the Glory of God, these chimes were dedicated. Four nice offering plates were given in memory of the late George Knowles by his family.

Recognition is given to Mr. Charles L. Pearce for his zeal and faithfulness to the church. He was an ordained Baptist preacher and occupied the pulpit on many occasions. Mr. Pearce was principal of Matthews High School.

On February 24, 1946, the church authorized the purchase of a house adjoining the church property from Mr. Frank Griffin for the price of $5,000.00 for a parsonage. Necessary repairs were made to make it comfortable for the Mumford family. Mr. Mumford resigned from the pastorate on July 31, 1949.

Rev. Richard A. Kelly assumed his duties as our next pastor on March 15, 1950. He had previously preached in revivals here. A marvelous spirit was
shown among members and pastor. Mr. Kelly was a sincere and conscientious leader; he was a gifted pianist and several hymns were composed and printed in the Baptist hymnal by Mr. and Mrs. Kelly. Before they moved into the pastorium, the church voted to redecorate it.

Due to concern and willingness of members, a complete renovation throughout the church was completed in August of 1953. A luxurious new carpet was placed on the floor of the auditorium. A gift of $600.00 was donated for new light fixtures; pulpit chairs were reconditioned and a gift of a pulpit stand, communion table, and two flower stands were graciously accepted. New pews were purchased by the church, many being paid for by individuals who wished to honor or memorialize a loved one or friend; donations were also contributed. Bronze markers were attached to the end of the pews. Our church designated one in honor of Rev. Kelly.

The baptistry scene was painted by church artist Walter Kuel of Shelby in November of 1954. For several years a leaky pool became unsatisfactory, so a kind member donated $300.00 for having it tiled.

A Baby Grand piano was bought and refinished to match the other furniture at a total of $445.00. A Wurlitzer electric organ was purchased at a cost of $3,600.00. Later $270.00 was spent for having a sound screen installed in the choir loft; now the music sounds more subdued and angelic. The Brotherhood sponsored the redecoration of the basement. All of these improvements necessitated an increase in adequate insurance coverage. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Abernathy sold a lot one hundred feet deep across the back of the church to Matthews Baptist Church for $1,100.00.

On October 16, 1949, the church resolved to participate in the support of the Ministers' Retirement Fund, which is administered by the Relief and Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention; that the church adopt as a policy the plan of paying into this fund monthly an amount equivalent to four percent of the pastor's salary.

During the summer of 1951, a plea was made to our church by the people of Wallace Lane Mission that we take them under our sponsorship. Rev. Kelly agreed to present it to our Missions Committee. After thorough investigation, the church launched forward, with the assistance of the Mecklenburg Baptist Association. Mr. Grady Alexander was sent as their superintendent and led them in a most satisfactory manner, rendering a memorable service. Others from our church family have been very helpful also. The Woman's Missionary Society of the Mission and the W. M. S. of Matthews Baptist Church bought the communion set for Wallace Lane. We sponsored this work as a mission for more than ten years. It is our hope that this will mean a new day in the progress of God's work as they are organized into a church.

Due to foresight, Mr. Kelly eagerly sought to raise money by setting up a Building Fund for the necessary expansion and better facilities. An Ingathering proved fruitful and plenteous. Another Homecoming Day was observed August 30, 1953. We rejoiced to have had Rev. George L. Hocutt preach at the morning service, and regretted exceedingly that Rev. Hubert S. Mumford was prevented from being here because of previous commitments.

Mr. Kelly asked to be relieved of his duties as our shepherd on May 16, 1954, because of declining health. Sadness hovered over the entire church when news reached us of his death in August of 1956.
Supply pastors were used for three and one-half months until a call was extended to Rev. W. Bryant Carr on September 5, 1954. Mr. Carr has shown capability and a fervent desire for progress.

Another Homecoming Day was observed August 28, 1955, with Rev. Hubert S. Mumford preaching.

A lock box was secured in 1955 from Wachovia Bank and Trust Company of Charlotte for all important papers. A key was given to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and one to the Chairman of the Board of Deacons.

Seeing the urgent need of expansion to accommodate newcomers into the community and church, Rev. Carr soon led the members to the realization of the necessity of added Sunday School rooms. The response was most encouraging, and after prayerful consideration, the church voted to start a new building program. Architect R. Edwin Wilson was employed; bids were submitted for an educational building. John V. Barger and Company of Mooresville was authorized to begin work. Groundbreaking service took place on May 5, 1957, with a large attendance. We have a picture of this occasion which includes the following: Sanford Forbis, George Head, Dr. H. F. McManus, Boyce Talbert, Yates Hood, O. L. Phillips, Mrs. H. F. McManus, Carrol Taylor, Mrs. Amos M. Boyette, J. N. Yandell, Jr., Grady Alexander, Rev. Carr and the visiting preacher, Rev. Walter Long of Belmont, (who had just completed a weeks revival), Miss Carrie Renfrow, daughter of "Captain Renfrow", and Mrs. Barnum Sustare, who was honored this day as the oldest member of the church.

The planning committee of the new educational building consisted of: G. T. Alexander, Mrs. Amos Boyette, George Head, Mrs. H. F. McManus and J. N. Yandell, Jr. Others were called in for consultation and advice. Those serving on the construction committee were: G. T. Alexander, S. L. Forbis, George Head, O. L. Phillips and Carrol Taylor.

The building is 52 feet by 78 feet, two stories high, fireproof and air conditioned. The structure is steel, blocks and brick to match the present erection, with a connecting link which joins the two buildings together. There are 10,700 square feet in the new addition.

The building program was financed through the Building Fund reserve and through the sale of church bonds. The Bond Resolution was approved and adopted by the church, issuing a series of building bonds under the Broadway plan to be sold to any individual, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, payable semi-annually at the Bank of Matthews. The church treasurer deposited proceeds of the same in a separate fund known as "Building Fund of Matthews Baptist Church". The response was overwhelming. Total cost of the educational building was $189,922.00, including architect's fee. Insurance coverage is $100,000.00. Concrete walks were poured and crushed stone was hauled for extra parking space. Inclement weather prevented our moving into the new building addition as early as anticipated, but we were permitted to occupy it January 26, 1958. Dr. M. A. Huggins, General Secretary of the Baptist State Convention, was the guest speaker. Open house was observed that afternoon. Two hundred and fifty hymnals were purchased for the Sanctuary; twenty-four old ones were given to Wallace Lane Church.

The following October a lot 150 feet by 160 feet on the corner of Fremont Street and College Street was bought for $2,000.00 from Mr. E. M. Renfrow for the new pastorium location. (Note that we do not say "parsonage" any more; emerging from our cocoon has helped tremendously.) This spacious house was completed in November of 1958 at the cost of $20,500.00, with a $20,000.00
$100.00 was spent for shrubbery to beautify the lawn. The old parsonage beside the church is being rented.

In June of 1960 the church purchased a lot consisting of 1.23 acres for the sum of $2,000.00 from Mrs. Frank Abernathy. A 30 foot strip of land at the north end of the Educational Building was later given to Matthews Baptist Church by Mrs. Frank Abernathy. After her death, the church bought 3.08 acres, originally owned by the Abernathys, from Rushing Electric Company for the sum of $7,500.00.

During Rev. Carr's ministry, a part-time music director was employed, and an office secretary has worked regularly since January 18, 1959.

Many repairs were made on the inside and outside of the Sanctuary in 1959. Improvements have been made to the grounds; a new bulletin board was recently placed on the front lawn.

The Biblical Recorder is mailed to every member's home. The organization of the church have grown as membership increased. There are eight Missionary Circles that are very active. Simultaneous revivals have been held for a number of years, one in the spring and one in the fall. Quite a number of faithful workers derived a blessing conducting Daily Vacation Bible School at Mt. Moriah Church in Matthews for the colored children. The number of deacons has been increased from nine to fifteen.

Two new offering plates and a flower vase were given to the church in memory of the late George Head by his family. The Emma Chambers Circle donated lovely candle holders to match the vase in memory of the late Mrs. Chambers. Mrs. E. V. Lanford gave a beautiful crystal punch bowl and plates to the church in 1958. Crystal cups and additional plates were donated by Miss Margaret Phillips. A $1,000.00 church bond was accepted with sincere gratitude on June of 1960. Numbers of individuals have generously given gifts of money through the years of which there is no record; many preferred to remain anonymous. It is impossible to enumerate all of these donations, but the church is most appreciative. The present enrollment is 470.

Air conditioning was installed in the auditorium while Rev. Carr was at Matthews. A new Rogers electric organ was bought for $7,000.00. A custodian (no longer "janitor") is hired regularly to maintain the church and grounds.

In September of 1964 a kindergarten was started and continues to operate successfully under the leadership of efficient teachers. The Safety Deposit Box was moved from Wachovia Bank to Peoples Savings and Loan Association in Matthews on February 28, 1968. The work of our people continues to move progressively for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God.

Throughout the years we have been fortunate to have gifted pianists, organists and choir directors in our midst, to whom we are most grateful. Beautiful Easter and Christmas cantatas are presented each year by our loyal choir. The Young Woman's Auxiliary, Girl's Auxiliary and Sunbeams are to be commended, due to interest and knowledgeable guidance. The Training Union has 93 on roll.

We take pride in recording that Charles K. Gardner, who was born and reared in our church family, was ordained into the ministry May 29, 1966. He is held in high esteem and has our continued prayers and concern. He is married to the former Betty Little, who was also brought up in our midst.
Incidentally, the North Carolina Telephone Company is presently located where the original church stood. Also, the Wallace Lane Church has been called Sharon Forest Baptist Church in recent years.

A large metal barrel was placed in front of the church on November 9, 1969, and all church bonds were burned in celebration of our being unencumbered once more. Pictures of the occasion feature Rev. Carr, Mr. A. M. Culp, Mr. Grady Alexander, and Sunday School Superintendent, Joe Caldwell.

Rev. Carr was given a trip to the Holy Land at Christmas of 1969 by various church members. He retired from the pastorate the last Sunday of February, 1970.

Even though the enrollment has reached 521, the church is still conscious of many souls in surrounding areas that need to be reached. Through the years we must labor until "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters that cover the sea", remembering that God is our refuge and strength.

My cup runneth over as an attempt is made to describe our next pastor, Rev. William J. Thompson. He began his ministry with Matthews Baptist Church on March 1, 1970, with the auditorium and balcony filled to capacity; chairs were even placed in the aisle to accommodate the overflow of worshippers. He is the epitome of an enterprising and dynamic go-getter. With his magnetic personality and friendly ways he has won the hearts and admiration of the people. We believe this warm feeling is a mutual one.

Soon after Mr. Thompson's arrival he preferred to do the preaching himself at the scheduled revival with the assistance of a chalk artist, Rev. Larry Maddox of Missouri. There was strong evidence that truly the Holy Spirit was at work as he earnestly delivered messages in his evangelistic manner, and the response was testimony of a spiritual uplifting. Mr. Maddox intrigued us with unique chalk drawings illustrating each sermon. The person responsible for having the largest number of visitors present at the service was the recipient of the picture drawn the previous night.

Immediately there was a spiraling upsurge in Sunday School, preaching and Training Union attendance. Thanks to an aggressive Training Union Director, an obvious revitalization is in the making. "Involvement" is his urgent plea. There is a continuity of progressiveness in every direction.

Another successful revival was held and Homecoming Day was observed in the fall of 1970. Fellowship with old friends and the abundance of delicious food climaxed the occasion.

For the safety and protection of the kindergarten children, the playground was enclosed with a steel fence in the autumn of 1970 for the price of $684.00.

Special emphasis is focused on the library as a new spark of interest has kindled under the supervision of a competent librarian and her assistants. Many hours have been spent working diligently for the opening the last Sunday of February. It has been given a new face-lifting, and additional books are being purchased. Requirements have been met to open as an accredited library. By October we anticipate reaching merited achievement, which is the highest standard of a church library.
Mrs. Oscar Benton, a devout lady in our midst, has excelled in Sunday School attendance, a forty-two year perfect record; congratulations are in order. Unfortunately, she is hospitalized for a while due to a recent automobile accident, and it is said that having to be absent from Sunday School and preaching hurts "Mrs. Minnie" much worse than her broken leg. A good example was set before her by consecrated parents, Mr. and Mrs. Barnum A. Sustare. "Mr. Barnum", as he was affectionately called, was a handsome man with a long white beard. He has been fondly remembered for his ardent prayers.

In late December of 1970 Rev. Thompson, with the church's approval, used the allocated 1971 convention funds for a ten-day trip to the Holy Land which he reports will be extremely beneficial throughout the coming years.

Since the old parsonage had deteriorated into such a deplorable condition, the church voted to dispose of it. Each member was allowed to salvage any usable materials for himself. The skeleton was then demolished in January of 1971 at a cost of $400.00. A hint of nostalgia seems to pervade in the mind and heart of the older member as he catches himself reminiscing.

Mr. Woodrow Funderburk assumed his duties as Minister of Music and Youth Director the first of February, 1971. He made a good impression when he led the music at the Autumn revival with his trained voice.

Time marches on. One year has rapidly flown by since Rev. Thompson came to Matthews. He still personifies God-given wisdom and determination, and constantly there is a manifestation of his interest and concern. Apparently he had begun to awaken the members regarding their tithing responsibility, for the budget has swollen to $80,260.00. The salary of $10,000.00 per year for Mr. Woodrow Funderburk is included in that amount, also $75.00 for Boy Scouts as a community project.

The church enrollment has soared to 696 (95 are non-resident).

After two years of tranquility, Rev. Thompson was the instigator of a busing ministry, was voted on by the church, but proved unsatisfactory and lasted only a few months.

Gray and somber days followed as controversial issues began presenting themselves through his ministry. An accumulation of problems arose. Despite the adversities, with verve and earnestness staunch deacons displayed inconceivable composure and squelched his effort to bring about a radical change in church policy which would have been incompatible with the practices set forth by the Southern Baptist Convention.

The situation grew more crucial. At the peak of oppression Rev. Thompson finally resigned. He delivered his last sermon on January 28, 1973. This resulted in a church split with about seventy-five members pulling out, most of whom were relatively new.

Various supply preachers occupied the pulpit for a very short time until Dr. George Moore of Charlotte was called as interim pastor. He was an eloquent speaker and the Word of God literally tumbled from his mouth in profusion. He held preeminence in the hearts of the people. After going through such a traumatic experience in the history of the church, Dr. Moore's six-month tenure was significantly rewarding.
Rev. John W. Lucas of Cliffside assumed the pastorate on November 4, 1974. He courageously and vigorously plunged into the task of serving with a willing heart. His sterling qualities are exemplified in his everyday life, and his personable manner of friendliness and love permeate the entire church and community. Watching a beloved church take on new life and zest under his capable leadership has been a source of untold satisfaction, ever moving in a forward direction. Ingenious triumphs portrayed a dedicated pastor and consistent workers.

A handsome new Steinway piano was purchased for the sanctuary the summer of 1974 at the price of $5,824.00 and was paid for with love gifts.

Current membership on May 15, 1975 was 774.

The Charles Gardner family left the last of May, 1975 as missionaries to Taiwan. We pray that Charles and Betty shall be granted wisdom and courage to face each new tomorrow as they spread the Gospel of Christ to those who have never heard.

Periodically numerous improvements have been made to enhance the facilities, but never before as during the summer of 1975. Amid a resurgence of interest, the majority voted to give the entire interior a complete face-lifting. With savings amassed in the Building Fund, $70,000.00 was allocated for the renovation and refurbishing. This savings was soon partially supplemented with donations, some of which were memorials. Each proud member looks upon this transformation of resplendence with pride and benevolence. Only recently the writer learned from a beloved member that Rev. J. W. Whitley bought the three pulpit chairs in 1914 for $25.00 from a Lutheran church in New Jersey.

Woodrow Funderburk resigned as Minister of Music and Youth Director the last of August, 1975. He was highly praised for his meaningful service.

The first of October, 1975, an elegant new activity bus was purchased for $15,275.55. Later, the teenagers sponsored a car wash to make money to equip the bus with an eight-track stereo.

A fine young member, Paul Smith, has dedicated his life to Christian service. Our prayers and blessings are with Paul as he teaches and ministers to the lost in New Zealand.

Happiness through the years has been hearing Mrs. L. H. Yandle, Jr. play the piano. Out of the goodness of her heart, Mary has graciously shared her talent for our delight. From the depths of our hearts, we express sincere appreciation.

For five months a choir member, Hugh Freeze, zealously supplied as Choir Director. Phillip Duncan was given the position of Youth Leader and Choir Director on January 26, 1976. Moving about in his vivacious manner, the choirs perform with exuberance under his apt leadership. Phil commands admiration and respect from each church member. The choir loft is filled to capacity with the growing youth choir on Sunday nights, whose voices ring out with vigor.
Attention, all members! Our Centennial year has approached a time for affirmation and action. Baptist History and Heritage will be a key factor in the commemoration of these momentous events. Plans are being made for special celebrations for each season of the year. May Matthews Baptist Church be truly grateful for those early founders who sacrificially paved the way for our freedom of worship. With humility and reverence, a righteous man declared, "Certainly the Holy Spirit has been at work these many years in Matthews Baptist Church".

Just as it was in 1877 when a group of Christian men huddled together to plan and organize the church, so it seemed perfectly fitting for the Baptist Men’s Club to sound off in a glorious way the first Sunday of the Centennial. President Stan Fields read the scripture from the aged original Bible and lead in prayer. Ben Walters, who has been a member for fifty years, spoke on: "One Hundred Years Of Progress", divulging highlights of the history. Reflecting on the past century, we treasure a rich reservoir of mellow experiences. Of course, there have been a few stormy incidents, but the pleasant ones surpass the bitter by far. Ed Ball's topic was: "Now, And The Future", telling of the church's tremendous potential. The population of the town and surrounding area has almost mushroomed, and housing developments have zeroed into every nook and cranny. There are still many, many unchurched people; the outreach challenge is great. In order to reap rewards, work must be carried on effectually. Future growth is optimistically envisioned, but it is each Christian's duty to go into the highways and hedges and bring them in. Witnessing and winning souls to Christ should take priority over striving for numbers. There is a warm, sweet spirit of togetherness among the members; may it remain so. Hearing the all-male choir peal forth with hymns of praise was indeed a rare privilege. Both morning speakers did a superb job with an obvious degree of relaxation and control.

In the evening after preaching on this initial Centennial day, the congregation gathered in the Fellowship Hall to partake of the most unusual morsels of food. Never underestimate the limitations of a man. They discovered their culinary skills by baking twenty-two luscious cakes, attractive to the eye and satisfying to the palate. Hot beverages were served with the delightful treat.

The last Sunday of January was designated "Bryant Carr Day". Rev. Carr preached a sensational sermon to a packed sanctuary of family and friends. William Bryant Carr, Jr. read the scripture and prayed a beautiful prayer. Bob Bullard read a Resolution in honor of Mr. Carr to be published in the Biblical Recorder, praising him for fifty years in the ministry. Cecil Hodqe presented him with a set of golf clubs and a check to Mrs. Carr from the church. A nice reception was given in the afternoon at the church by the Carr family. After deciding to establish permanent roots here, they settled on Ridge Road in the Matthews community. Concluding this eventful day, Rev. Lucas baptized ten candidates at the evening service, which was a very impressive observance.

We remember William Bryant Carr, Jr. with endearment when he lived with his family in the pastorium for fifteen years. Bill is a Presbyterian minister in Rock Hill, South Carolina; he formerly served a church in Pine Bluff,
Arkansas. Bill demonstrates dignity and competence, and has a strong delivery. We sincerely wish him many gratifying years as he continues to proclaim the Good News.

It is said that each individual is born with at least one talent; Phil Duncan has more. He has preached in several services as well as leading in the music and youth ministry. We are fortunate to have such a gifted young man on the staff who typifies willingness and readiness when called upon.

It seemed just like old times to have had Rev. and Mrs. Hubert S. Mumford back in town for a weekend. The last Sunday of February Rev. Mumford delivered a stimulating sermon on "Love". He enlightened us about his Mission work for twenty-five years with the Yates Baptist Association in Durham, certainly an outstanding success. Mr. Mumford still epitomizes aggressiveness in his winsome ways, and is characteristic of the same vibrant personality. Mrs. Mumford positively beams with radiance.

Since Baptists have such a yen for eating, a bountiful covered-dish lunch was relished after preaching.

Naturally, the Mumfords simply could not return to Durham without visiting Mr. O. L. Phillips who is ill at her home. In his opening remarks in the pulpit, Mr. Mumford told about the Phillips family being so hospitable and opening their home to them for many months without one cent of pay before we were financially able to obtain a parsonage. Another regular worshipper and staunch member for a long time, Miss Velma Houston who is in a Rest Home in Charlotte, was overjoyed to have had the Mumfords visit her.

Youth Day was the third Sunday in March. Sunday School classes were taught by the young people. Jill Grubbs had "Centennial Emphasis" as her topic. She gave a refreshing talk, telling about the group preparing and filling a time capsule to be opened in one-hundred years. The Youth Ensemble made their debut by singing "Let Our Joys Be Known", which was a lovely rendition. Jeff Goodman, Donald Honeycutt, Jr. and Susan Bacon talked on the theme: "A Youthful World". All speakers and participants in the entire service were fantastic.

Without a doubt, our church has the most enterprising teenagers anywhere, truly a kaleidoscope of charm and promise. These jubilant young people are a marvelous credit to the fellowship.

The Easter Cantata, "Behold Your King", was presented April 10, at the morning worship hour. Many hours of preparation had been put into this delightful performance.

Rev. Henry Crouch of Charlotte was the guest speaker at four nights of revival services the last of April. Each sermon was meaningful and revitalized the faith of the individual. Splendid music by the choir added much to the worship.

We were honored to have had Rev. and Mrs. George L. Hocutt in our midst on May 15. Rev. Hocutt occupied the pulpit at eleven o'clock and
preached an excellent sermon. During the depression years precarious circumstances existed and the church was struggling along in arrears. A mammoth task confronted this youthful preacher. With quietness and fortitude, Mr. Hocutt confidently steered us through the rough to a haven of self-reliance. We shall be forever grateful for his steadfast faith and wise counsel in preserving honor and integrity. Mrs. Hocutt remains the same charming lady as always. Rev. Hocutt is now retired at Rocky Point, North Carolina.

Phil Duncan resigned from his position June 5, 1977. With regret and reluctance, the congregation relieved him of his duties. In order to have a continuity of activities, Steve Bunker of Charlotte was immediately called as Interim Minister of Music and Youth. Steve came highly recommended. He has an exceptional voice, and his smile is contagious. His gentle leadership is a striking success.

October was the big month for Jubilee festivities. It seemed coincidental that the Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists all became aware of the need of a church in the Matthews vicinity in 1877, thus putting visions into reality. Hence, the reason for invitations extended to the two denominations to join us in breaking bread together the first day of October. A sumptuous picnic lunch was devoured by two-hundred-fifty people. Old hymns were sung, and a special music program conducted by Steve Bunker was most enjoyable.

The best was yet to come. The ninth of October was the culmination of a memorable celebration marking the anniversary of the birth of our church. What an exhilarating experience! We reveled in Mr. and Mrs. Marse Grant's presence. They have long been a Hallmark in Baptist realms. Mr. Grant was guest speaker, his topic being "From The Cradle To The Grave ". He was articulate, captivating and projected an aura of sincerity and humility.

Dr. Cecil Ray, better known as " Number One Mr. Baptist " filled the pulpit at the evening service November thirteenth. His visit concluded the year of Centennial activities.

Dan Ridley was hired as Minister Of Music & Education February 20, 1979. He did an outstanding job, and contributed greatly to the music program. He resigned August 7, 1983.

Ken Powers assumed the position of Minister Of Music & Education October October 2, 1983. There is no way to measure the influence he had on the entire church family, going about his duties in an exuberant manner.

Sparkling sounds afford pleasure as handbells are used in many services.

A " Together We Build " plan was voted on in 1982. Eight additional Sunday School rooms, an assembly area, choir robe and storage rooms were built to the back of the church. A Fellowship Hall one-hundred-foot by fifty-five-feet with kitchen and restrooms was constructed behind the church with a connecting walkway. A ramp was built at the front of the church. Tucker Construction Company contracted the entire job for the price of $432,561.00, completing the new building in November of 1982. These facilities were occupied February 6, 1983.

Rev. Warren Mallard accepted the position of Minister Of Education February 2, 1986.


As an evaluation is taken, Matthews Baptist Church cherishes vast nuggets of golden memories of the illustrious past. We shall always treasure the precious heritage that has been handed down through the Century. May it remain a Mighty Fortress to all who choose to enter and worship.

Church Historian,

Ruth B. Head
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Pastors</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. J. B. Braisington</td>
<td>1877-1882</td>
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<td>Rev. A. L. Stough</td>
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<td>Rev. J. B. Richardson</td>
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<td>Rev. J. S. Snider</td>
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<td>Rev. S. W. Bennett</td>
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<td>Rev. D. M. Austin</td>
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<td>Rev. W. B. Renfrow</td>
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<td>(Supply) Rev. P. H. Purnell</td>
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<td>Rev. D. M. Austin</td>
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<td>Rev. W. L. Barr</td>
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<td>Rev. J. E. M. Davenport</td>
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<td>Rev. J. W. Whitley</td>
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<td>Rev. R. D. Cross</td>
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<td>Rev. D. M. Austin</td>
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<td>Dr. L. R. Pruette</td>
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<td>Rev. J. A. Snow</td>
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<td>Rev. George L. Hocutt</td>
<td>1934-1941</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Hubert S. Mumford</td>
<td>1941-1949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. W. Bryant Carr</td>
<td>1954-1970</td>
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MATTHEWS BAPTIST CHURCH

NAME: Matthews Baptist Church
ADDRESS: 185 S. Trade Street, Matthews, N. C. 28105

ORGANIZATION:
Matthews Baptist Church was organized October 21, 1877 at the residence of the Reverend E. C. Williams. The presbytery consisted of the Reverends E. C. Williams, Evander David, and W. R. Massey, Secretary.

NAME CHANGES: None

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP:
- Rocky River [E] 1877-1880
- Brown Creek [E] 1881-1883
- Union 1884-1887
- Mecklenburg [Cabarrus] 1887-

PASTORS:
- James T. Brassington 1877-1882
- Albert Lewis Stough 1882-1883
- James B. Richardson 1885-1897
- Joel S. Snider 1898-1899
- S. W. Bennett 1900-1901
- Daniel Monroe Austin 1902-1904
- W. B. Renfrow 1904-1905
- Daniel Monroe Austin 1906-1907
- William Loman Barrs 1908
- J. E. M. Davenport 1909-1911
- Julius Wesley Whitley 1912-1913
- R. D. Cross 1914-1916
- Daniel Monroe Austin 1917-1924
- Leonard Rowland Pruett 1924-1929
- James Abner Snow 1930-1933
- George L. Hocutt 1934-1940
- Hubert Simon Mumford 1941-1949?
- R. A. Kelly 1950?-1953
- William Bryant Carr 1954-1969
- William J. Thompson 1970-

CEMETERY/RECORDS/DATES:

HISTORIES:
MAIN ENTRY: Matthews Baptist Church (1877), Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

TYPE OF PAPERS; DATES: Church minutes, 1877-1942; a roll book, ca 1878-1891; and miscellaneous loose papers, 1890-1940; treasurer's records, 1890-1949.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5 volumes; 121 items.

ORIGINAL FORM OF MATERIAL: Manuscript.

HISTORY-SCOPE AND CONTENT (ABOUT AUTHOR AND MATERIALS):
Matthews Baptist Church (1877), Mecklenburg Co., N. C.
Minutes of church conferences, 1877-1942 and other church records including an associational letter, church letters, church loan correspondence, membership records and miscellaneous items.
See finding aid in BHC Loan, 1949

1. Mecklenburg County, N. C.

NCCF: Matthews Baptist Church
Matthews Baptist Church
Matthews Baptist Church
Matthews Baptist Church

Union
Brown Creek [E]
Rocky River [E]
Mecklenburg

Shelf list.

REFERENCE TO A DESCRIPTION IN A GUIDE, OR WHERE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED:
ORIGINAL LOCATION OF MANUSCRIPTS:
Southern Baptist Historical Commission
has microfilm #1299-26 @ $14.56.

COPY IN BHC IF NOT ORIGINAL:

PROVENANCE/DONOR, CITY AND STATE, DATE OF RECEIPT/RESTRICTIONS:
Loan from the Matthews Baptist Church by the Rev. Hubert S. Mumford, 14 July 1949. NO restrictions.

LOCATION IN BHC: CR 32

BHC DESCRIPTIVE LIST

Matthews Baptist Church (1877), Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

CHURCH MINUTES:


Minutes of church conferences from 21 October 1877 to 25 June 1892; rules of decorum; and a church membership roll in the back of the volume. These minutes were revised and transcribed into this book by a church committee appointed for the task in 1883. There are some missing pages.

Church minute book, Vol. II, 1892-1906

Minutes of church conferences from 25 June 1892 to 20 June 1906; an alphabetical membership roll; another membership roll; and an attendance roll. Ordination of J. N. Toler on page 74 and W. B. Renfrow page 141.


Minutes of church conferences from 1 April 1906 to 14 September 1923. Minutes are missing for 1913-1915 and 1918. After 1919 the minutes are not as full.

Church minute book, Vol. IV, 1922-1942

Minutes of church conferences from 12 Feb. 1922 to April 1942. The dates overlap the preceeding volume but the minutes are not duplicated. The minutes for 1925-1927 and 1930-1933 are missing. The minutes in this volume are not as full or complete as the preceeding volume.

CHURCH RECORDS:

Associational letter, 1901. 2 items (1 copy)

Copy of the associational letter to the Mecklenburg and Cabarrus Baptist Association, 3 August 1901.

Church letters, 1891-1907. 21 items

Letters and dismissal certificates for Matthews church members and those from other churches to enable them to rejoin the church and move their membership.

Church Loan correspondence, 1935-1940. 63 items

Letters and copies of correspondence with the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company, Greensboro, N. C., relative to the payment of the church loan; and receipts for payments made.
Membership records, ca1878-1891, undated. 1 vol. 6 items.

This volume is a printed roll book with the information filled in by ink and pencil giving information on the individual church members; when and how received into the church and dismissed; and remarks on the reason for dismissal. Some pages are blank. Also there are some undated and unidentified lists of church members.

Miscellaneous, 1891-1905, undated. 13 items.

Loose church minutes, 1891-1901; two reports of a membership committee, 1905; regulations for the church conferences; an undated Sunday School lesson; and a sheet of church statistics.

Treasurer's records, 1890-1949. 16 items.

Lists of receipts and disbursements; collections; statements; church budget lists; reports to the church; and Finance Committee reports.
1877 - Admit to Rocky River (E) by additions James T. Brassington &

1878 -

1879 - J.P. Brassington p. ass. with

1880 - (witnessed) letter from Dunn & Peck (witnesses Rocky River (E))

1881 - Notice from Brassington. Admit to B. Brown's Creek (E) for City River

1882 - Notice from Brassington

1883 - Notice from Brassington

1884 - Notice from Brassington. Brown Creek (E) became Union

1885 - J.B. Richardson

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