THE 1980s – Continuing Change

The world was an eventful place in the 1980s. In 1980 alone, the Iranian hostage crisis, the assassination of John Lennon, the eruption of Mt. St. Helen's, and the phenomenon of the Rubik's Cube occurred. As the decade progressed, the world would see the end of the Cold War, the collapse of the Berlin Wall, and the introduction of the first personal computers. The population in Bowie was 33,695 persons in households, and the average income was $40,167. What did the 1980s bring for St. Matthew's?

During this decade, the ministry at St. Matthew's was active. Three different ministers and three associate ministers led our congregation. Reverend (Rev.) Theodore Bowen arrived in July of 1980; Reverend (Rev.) William Wyatt arrived in July of 1984; and Reverend (Rev.) Robert Paulen came in July of 1987. We also welcomed three associate ministers during this decade of change: Reverend Nancy Nedwell, Reverend Carol Silbaugh and Reverend Timothy Dissmeyer. Our choirs were led by Harold Sweet, Marilyn DeBrul, and Lorey Hodgson. They were ably accompanied by Margaret Sigafoose, Brenda Jenkins and Tavia Wyatt. Numerous volunteers staffed the Sunday School, which had up to 200 children in attendance on any given Sunday. Other volunteers worked at beautification, both inside and outside, directed mission work, served as the bookkeeper, and ran the youth programs. In fact, everything was run by volunteers except for the position of minister and associate minister with small stipends given to the music staff. St. Matthew's built the Education Wing during this time. The church was in good overall shape, and financially, the church debt was decreasing. The congregation was active, enthusiastic, and caring, but it was a decade of factions within the population of our church.[1]

1980-1989

Rev. Ted Bowen

It was this situation that Rev. Theodore Bowen inherited when he became the churches' fifth pastor in June of 1980. Rev. Bowen, and his wife Lee, came to St. Matthew's from the United Church in Washington, D.C., and were the parents of four daughters: Edith, Naomi, Claire, and Grace. Rev. Bowen had an extensive history of active participation in the civil rights movement. He was an excellent speaker who spoke from the heart. His wife, Lee, an educator, was his biggest fan and supporter. She was a wonderful hostess who held many open houses at the parsonage featuring homemade treats. She also supported him in his civil rights crusades and in the belief that every person is a child of God.

St. Matthew's had well-established committees operating efficiently. The UMW continued to hold its monthly meetings and craft fairs every other year. The funds derived from the fair would pay for their budgeted expenses for the ensuing two years until the next craft fair. The educational programs at St. Matthew's were in full swing with the youth now graduating from high school and new children filling the classrooms. The choir programs and bell choirs operated well with many participants. The value of the church, its furnishings, and other real estate was $1,295,985.

In the fall of 1981, Margaret Sigafoose retired from active duty as church organist. She had served in that position for sixty years at various churches, but she continued as Campanile Bell Choir director. Jeanne Kline served as organist on a temporary basis for approximately two years. By the end of the year, church property was valued at $1,652,615, and the church debt had decreased to $330,000.

St. Matthew's had a quiet year in 1982. Membership was listed at 1,322, which was the largest total to date and provided a solid base of active members. By the end of the year,

[1]As reported at an oral history meeting

another $40,000 had been reduced from the church debt, allowing St. Matthew's to have more financial freedom. In July, Jessie Smith notified the Trustees that it would be her last year to manage the grounds due to lack of volunteer support. James Young, our custodian, added that he had too many responsibilities to haul around hoses and to set out sprinklers! The Trustees told Jessie that they would take the problem under advisement. The youth group was very active, due in large measure to the leadership of Rev. Coveleskie. Some 200 names were on the youth mailing list.

Church indebtedness was $286,477, and the current endowment principal was $482,200 which yielded a $9,000 dividend in this year. The value of the church, its other properties and its furnishings was $1,663,615.

The busy, productive year of 1983 brought big changes thanks to the initiative and dedication of many in a congregation 1,300 people strong. In March 1983, Brenda Jenkins joined the staff as one of our organists and soon became much loved by the 8:30 a.m. congregation.

Gordon Harvey made a presentation to the congregation on May 15, 1983, to renew interest in the building of a new Education Wing for St. Matthew's. Gordon made several telling points in his attempt to convince the congregation of the need for the Education Wing. For example, there was so little room for Sunday school classes that one adult group met in the kitchen, another adult group met in the hallway by the bathrooms near Fellowship Hall, and the junior high class met in the choir room, where they were interrupted by the practicing choir.

Gordon's presentation was a success. A building committee was formed, with Gordon as the Chairman. This new building committee consisted of: Clyde Draughn, Tom Page, Courtney Guerin, Norman and Louise Haiflich, Bob Butler, John Clinton, Loring Dague, Nedra Evans, Bill Lingg, Carol Matthews, Carolyn Crabtree, and Paul Shelby as well as the ministers. At this time, the building fund had $4,513 invested.

The cost to build the Education Wing had greatly escalated during the lapse of seven years since the process began in 1976. The new estimate was $202,000. Gordon designed a Victory Financial Campaign to raise the money needed to build the addition. The Committee wrote letters, prepared bulletin inserts, identified route managers, held fundraisers and offered memorials. By the time Gordon actually applied for the loan, only $30,000 was needed from Citizens National Bank. The rest was funded by our church with memorial donations, room sponsors, cash contributors and faith notes. Gordon told the bank that St. Matthew's had about 1,400 members with 490 families. Clifford Hines was selected as the November, Rev. Bowen led the congregation in the Litany of Groundbreaking.

A Strategic Planning Committee had formed earlier in the year with the blessing of Rev. Bowen with Pete Saderholm as the Chairman. After toiling for many months on this task, their conclusions were presented to the congregation on June 26, 1983, as follows:

1. Revitalize Sunday morning worship (music committee revitalize their part in the service)
2. Provide adequate space to fully support the church's programs
3. Establish and disseminate specific, concrete mission objectives
4. Establish a visitation program
5. Support a mission
6. Provide a new program to local community
7. Support ecumenical organizations (Prince George's County Community Ministries, Maryland Churches United, Council of Churches)
8. Provide for the handicapped in our building
9. Enter the computer era
10. Correct fire and safety code violations

Note: In the report, UMW missions were identified as: Sibley Hospital Guild, Epworth House, Sibley Linens, Camperships, Nursery School Scholarships, and Christmas and Thanksgiving Families. The average worship attendance in 1983 in our church was stated as 400 persons, Sunday school attendance was listed as 200 children, and church membership totaled 1,300 persons! The congregation was viewed as "stable."

As a result of this Strategic Planning Committee's recommendations, John Boyd donated $10,000 to our church to establish a new computer system, the construction of the Education Wing was swiftly begun under Rev. Bowen and dedicated under Rev. Wyatt for the much needed additional Sunday School classroom space, fire and safety codes were corrected, and general maintenance was begun on the church. The goal of supporting a missionary was begun and brought to fruition with the support of the Kimberly and Richard Brown-Wales, missionaries to Anguilla, in the late 1980s. Support for Community Ministries was also begun. The loop system for the hearing impaired was installed in our sanctuary, which is a great assistance to those wearing hearing aids.

Nancy Nedwell and Ted Bowen

In addition, 1983 saw the departure of Rev. Linda Coveleskie as youth minister after five years with the church. She did an amazing job with the church youth program. Rev. Coveleskie started the Camp Hope talent auctions and hunger walks to fund the youth's mission projects, and also took the youth on numerous beach retreats. Under her direction, the youth put on a production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." The purpose of the play was to raise money to help fight hunger, and it played to multiple packed houses, both at the church and elsewhere. Rev. Covelskie left in June 1983 to become pastor of the Calvary United Methodist Church in Gamber, Maryland. Reverend (Rev.) Nancy Nedwell was hired as her replacement beginning July 1. She came from Waynedale UMC in Waynedale, Indiana. She joined our family along with her husband, Kenneth, and year-old daughter, Georgeann, and stayed in our Kirkside parsonage. After two years, Rev. Nedwell was appointed to First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville, Maryland, as assistant pastor.

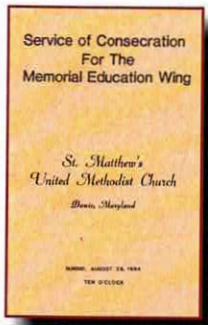
Howard Lem, tenor, with Marilyn DuBrul.

A 20th Anniversary committee was named to find and institute ways to honor our church. There was a 20th Anniversary dinner in July. The year ended with a clothing drive for kindergarten age through senior high school children, and lights were installed in the parking lot. The value of the church, its furnishings and other property was $1,791,000.

Two important resignations occurred in 1984. The first resignation was Margaret Sigafoose, who resigned after ten years as director of the Campanile Choir. Marilyn DuBrul became the music director. Marilyn was a hard-working school music teacher by day and our choir director by afternoon and evening. She was especially proficient with our youth bell choir, taking them to a national competition in Florida.

The second resignation was Rev. Bowen, who retired as senior pastor in June of 1984. After retiring, he and Mrs. Bowen left Bowie in their RV for an extended visit with their daughters and families and a sightseeing tour of the United States and Canada. His retirement caused him to miss the dedication of the Education Wing. His replacement was Reverend (Rev.) William P. Wyatt, who was appointed St. Matthew's sixth minister in July of 1984. Rev. Wyatt and his wife, Linda, and two children, Laura and Joshua, came to St. Matthew's from the Camp Chapel United Methodist Church in Perry Hall, Maryland. Linda sang in our church choir. They had their third child, Andrew, while they were with us. Rev. Wyatt was a thoughtful,

deeply spiritual and insightful young pastor, who gave sermons that were enjoyed by all. He sometimes played off themes that were being taught in other areas of the church program, expanding and explaining ideas presented.


Service of Consecration
For The
Memorial Education Wing

St. Matthew's
United Methodist Church

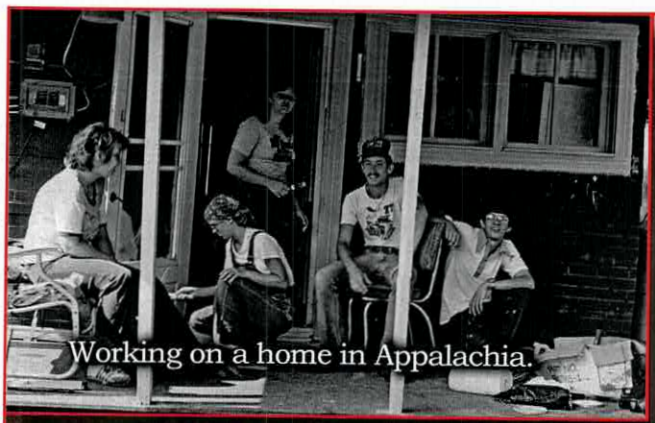
Bowie, Maryland

The Education Wing was consecrated by Rev. Wyatt on August 26, 1984. The occupancy permit for the Education Wing was granted in October, and its use by the church began immediately.

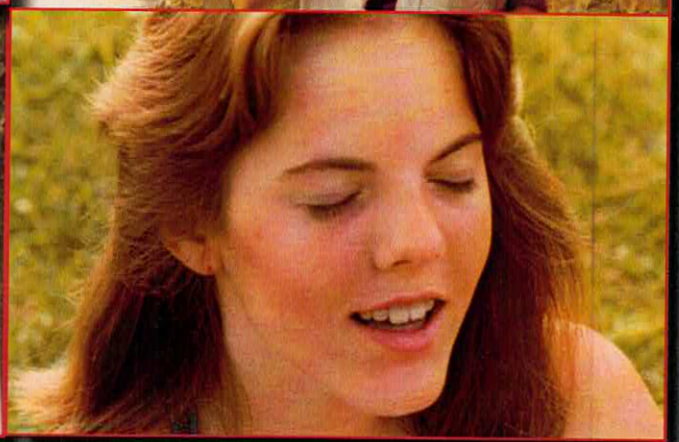
Andrew Harvey & Beth Rehwinkel

On August 15, 1984, the report to the Administrative Board was made regarding the completion of the Education Wing. The final cost was $231,332. The furnishings cost $11,997. It was previously noted that generous memorial gifts helped to pay for parts of the Education Wing. The Administrative Board approved paying all the remaining bills due to the contractor and architect with only a three percent overrun!

This was the sixth year that St. Matthew's had been involved in the Camp Hope project "Christian Appalachian Maryland Project Helping Other People Enthusiastically." This work camp, begun in the summer of 1977, and joined by St. Matthew's in 1979, was sponsored by Frostburg United Methodist Church.



Working on a home in Appalachia.



October brought the second annual Bowie CROP walk. Many in our congregation walked to support this organization which raised funds to combat hunger. Olive did a great job in obtaining sponsors for this event among the congregation. The United Methodist Women's (UMW) craft fair enjoyed great success. It featured handmade items made by the ladies of the UMW and was always well attended within the Bowie community. The value of the church, its furnishings and other property was $2,153,825.

In January of 1985, the Trustees asked Charlotte Conaway, a member of their committee, to prepare a report for the Administrative Board on the operation of the nursery school. Ms. Conaway report noted that the school maintained a budget of approximately $75,000, enrolled 125 to130 students and employed six teachers and five aides. The Monday-Friday operation; however, was restricted to care for no more than 45 students at any given time. By church agreement, the school paid $400 per month to offset the cost of utilities, and maintenance.

On March 26, 1985, Jessie Smith was still attending to our landscaping, but she advised the Trustees that they should hire a "skilled person" for $150 per month to work under her direction. The Trustees again replied that they would take it under advisement. In June, Jessie began to formulate her ideas for the Memory Garden and to calculate the cost.

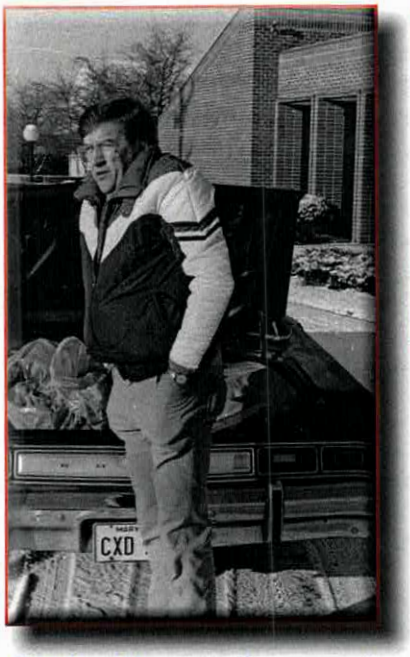
In May of 1985, Mark Clinton and friends from the Peabody Conservatory gave a concert to benefit a newly-created scholarship fund. This year, two people benefitted from the money raised by the efforts of the committee administering the fund. One was Michael Fauconnet, who went on to become a minister. The other was Elaine Hammond, who served the summer of 1985 with the Arctic Mission in Canada. Hm-010-06

In June of 1985, Rev. Nancy Nedwell left St. Mathew's to work as assistant pastor at the First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville. One of the things Rev. Nedwell left behind was the active clown troupe that she helped to create with Barbara Haddock consisting of youth, adults and seniors. This group brought much joy to everyone during church functions and continued its activities for many years after Rev. Nedwell left the church.

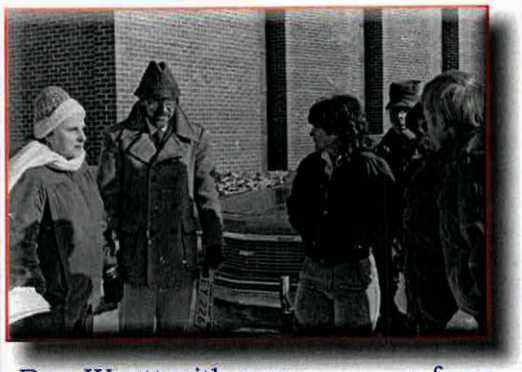
She was replaced by Reverend (Rev.) Carole Silbaugh. Rev. Silbaugh, with her husband Jan, and sons Justin and Jan-Michael, came to us from Mt. Harmony United Methodist Church and Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church in Owings, Maryland. Rev. Silbaugh was known for her sweet nature and was especially attentive to our senior members.

Rev. Carol Silbaugh & husband Jan.

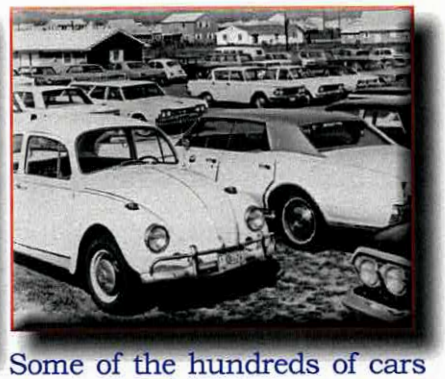
In November of 1985, heavy rains caused severe flooding in West Virginia. The flooding resulted in 47 deaths and several hundred million dollars in damage to the state. The members of St. Matthew's stepped up in response. Through the church's efforts, led by Gordon Harvey, over 100 cars, plus furniture, clothing, household appliances, and other supplies were sent to West Virginia to help those hit the hardest by the flooding. It was a monumental effort by the church and showed yet another dimension of its missionary efforts. This effort was covered by all major media at that time leading to contributions from our community and surrounding areas. Our pastor, Rev. Wyatt and his wife, Linda, donated their first car purchased after they married to the effort. People came from West Virginia to pick up the donated cars and people from our church also drove cars to their destination in a caravan.



Gordon Harvey, the organizer of the car relief drive.



Rev. Wyatt with some persons from West Virginia ready to pick up the cars.



Some of the hundreds of cars donated to the relief drive.

Also in November, the Finance Committee reported to the Administrative Board that the church had spent $326,859 on a budget of $248,604. The Finance Committee had attempted to reduce expenditures by lowering our apportionment amount (the money our church was assigned by the Baltimore-Washington Conference to pay to the Conference), but the motion to do this failed. So the Finance Committee desperately began to cut other expenditures. At this time, the senior pastor's salary was $30,932, excluding housing allowance. The associate pastor's salary was $23,476, excluding housing allowance. The adult choir director received $2,651, the Youth and Children's Choir Director received $3,360, Organist #1 received $1,706 and Organist #2 received $1,416. Our Organist Emeritus was given $1,416. It is unknown from our records how these expenditures were covered. Kirkside was being used for rental income at this time, providing funds for a housing allowance for the associate minister. The value of the church, its furnishings and other property was $2,227,036.

The taping of the Sunday sermons was begun by Denny and Carol Hulen this year. The Hulens continue this wonderful outreach and nurturing mission to the present day for those persons lucky enough to benefit from it. The Hulens also assisted in the installation and maintenance of our new computer system.

During the year 1986, several important events took place. Two of our choir directors resigned at the same time, and asbestos was discovered in our church. The year began with a confirmation retreat held at Ager Road Methodist Church in Hyattsville, Maryland, in January. Connie Fitzkee attended this retreat with Rev. Wyatt. Connie went on to become a Methodist minister.

Retreat with Connie Fitzkee (left top row) and Rev. Wyatt in attendance (right, top row).

In March, the Finance Committee report to the Administrative Board listed the following benevolences: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church donated to the Board of Child Care, Homes for the Aged, One Great Hour of Sharing, Human Relations Day, World Order Sunday, Christian Education Sunday, Board of Child Care Auxiliary, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Bowie Food Pantry, the Maryland Food Committee, West Virginia Relief, FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help) of Greater Bowie, Advance Special Missionary Support, Mothers' Support Group and Vocational Services Institute.

Scenes from the 1980's

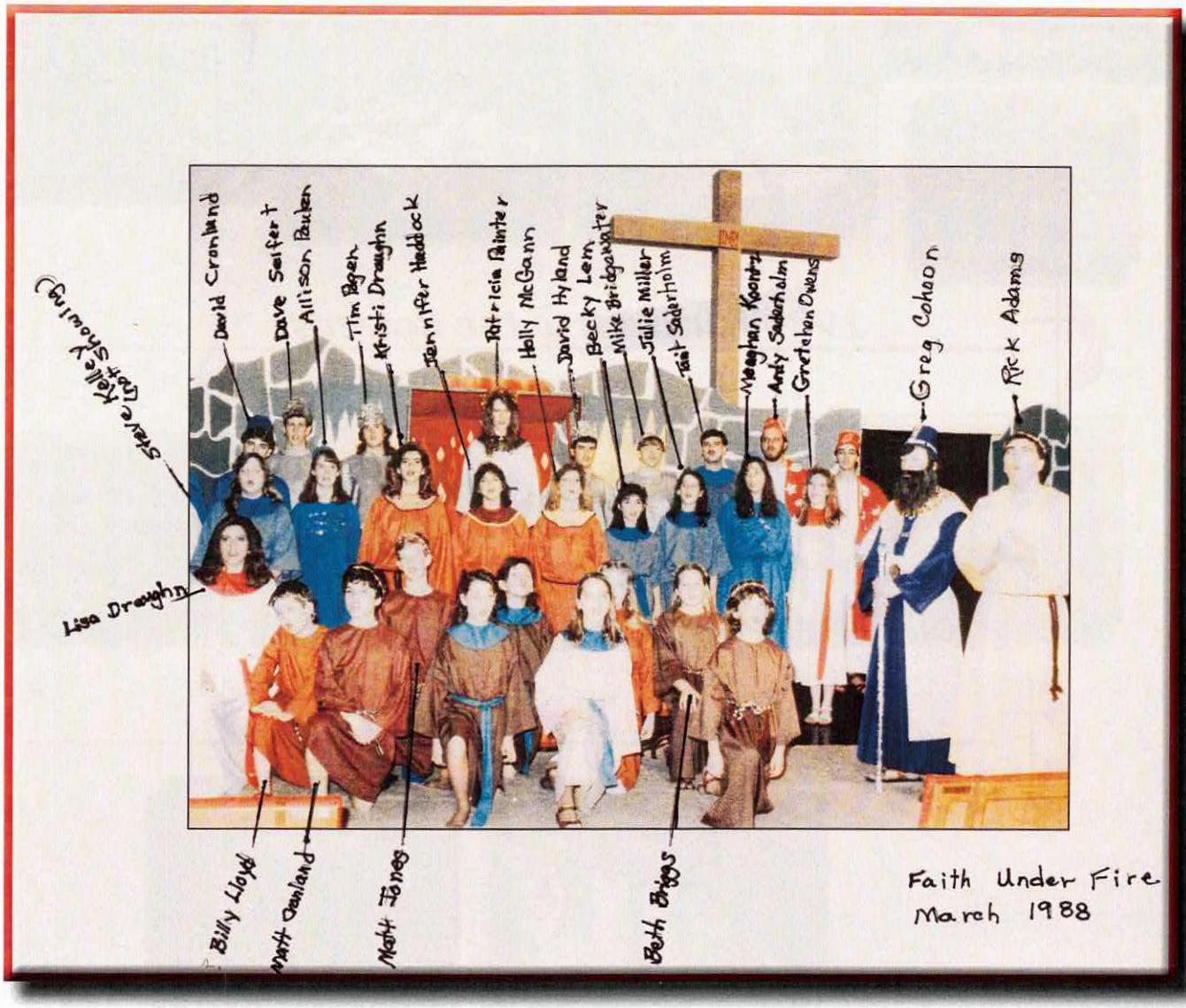
1984 Farewell to the Bowens

Christmas Pageant 1987

Tom Eisinger
Kay League
Research – Alexandra Calloway

Sources;
Trustee minutes
Contributions by Gordon Harvey
UMW records; Pipe organ notes
Contributions from members
Oral History gathering
Education Wing file

Faith under Fire



plant (where pipe organs were manufactured). Several unsolicited proposals were received from organ builders. This year also saw the organization of SpiritMove by Mitch and Susan Reiner. This group was formed to express contemporary music more informally than the Adult Choir.

1989 featured the approval of a new pipe organ, dedication of living memorials and a new church shelter program and mission trip. Also, the Music Director, Lorey Hodgson, resigned and Patti Lewis was hired. In its February 1989 meeting, the Administrative Board took up the issue of a pipe organ for the church. It was suggested by some that the pipe organ be purchased and installed in time for the 30th anniversary in 1993. The Administrative Board approved the project, but asked that the Pipe Organ Committee not begin formal fundraising for about a year. Even with that caveat, the Pipe Organ Committee still raised over $6,000 in 1989 through various activities. Pete Fauconnet led the campaign to finance and install our pipe organ for a grateful congregation.

John Clinton resigned in February after 14 years of teaching the Adult Bible Class. He was given letters, pictures, and a print of Annapolis to commemorate his years of teaching.

On May 29, 1989 a dedication of living memorials was held in the new Memory Garden. Jessie Smith had attached ribbons to the various donated plants to honor the donors. In July, Vacation Bible School was held for our children. (See pictures at the end of this chapter). Rev. Carole Silbaugh was reassigned and Reverend (Rev.) Timothy Dissmeyer was appointed to our church as assistant minister beginning July 1, 1989. He and his wife had two small children, one of whom was enrolled in our nursery school program. An engaging young man, he was only with us for two years before leaving on a new assignment.

In September, the UMM reported that at their first meeting of the 1989-90 year, their speaker would be Elaine Hammond Puhlman. The UMM had been helping to sponsor Elaine for the preceding eight months as she prepared to become a missionary.

There were three items of significant note in mission work this year. First, the church began the mission of caring for homeless families for the first time in 1989. The family St. Matthew's endeavored to take care of consisted of a father, mother, and two teenage children who began their stay in November. They used a large room near Fellowship Hall and remained living there until the end of June 1990. Linda Cooper reported "it is our express desire to help families, and we are learning the scope of this need first-hand. We welcomed the family and have struggled with them in their joys and sorrows, movement both forward and backward, in the time they have been with us. We have learned more of the parameters of similar programs in other churches and are growing in our own wisdom of what helping others in such a program means." Their teenage son camped on our stage in Fellowship Hall, joined the Boy Scouts, and attended Bowie High School, and their daughter attended Sunday School.

The second item was that members of the church went on a mission trip to Grenada from July 14 to 28. The purpose of the trip was to support and maintain some of the dozen properties, including school facilities that were essential to the island's education system. Third, our church began participating in the Prince George's House Shelter program on Addison Road by providing dinner on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Review/Overview

The 1980s was a period of maturing, change, and accomplishment for the church. Church membership leveled off but stayed very active. Mission work in the Bowie area was strong, and our church greatly increased its mission work outside of the Bowie area. Much of the Sanctuary debt was paid off, and the Education Wing was built. Efforts to purchase the pipe organ had just begun. As the 1990s began, St. Matthew's was in excellent shape in all ways, and looking forward to the future.

An important change within the educational program of the church also occurred around this time. The nursery school had originally been created by the church to offer a three-and four-year old nursery program. A kindergarten program was also added, because it was not offered by the county at that time. As the years went by, the nursery school became an independent operation from the church. Reverend Paulen brought the nursery school back under church direction. In October, Eagle Scout candidate Greg Cohoon helped out the school. His Eagle Scout project was to direct the troop in renovating the outdoor playground.

At Christmas, Santa Claus always visited the children with little treats to give to them. There were lots of children for Santa to see in Fellowship Hall. This was a special time for all the parents and children. This particular Christmas, there were second generation St. Matthew's children there to see Santa.

Santa visiting children in Fellowship Hall 1987

In 1988, the spotlight was on St. Matthew's 25th anniversary and activities were in progress to make this event a success in July. But first, there were several important functions that preceded the big celebration. In March of 1988, the youth regaled the congregation with its performances of "Faith Under Fire," an original musical production written, produced and directed by Lorey Hodgson, our Choir Director. Lorey was a young fabulous musician who inspired our youth as well as our young adults to achieve their musical aspirations. The production played to packed houses and was a delight to all. Most importantly, Lorey always displayed her Christian faith and this shone through in her music. See the end of chapter for more pictures.

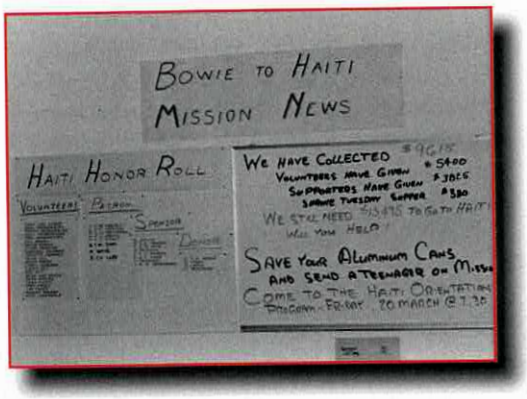
Also in March, the UMW held a fashion show and luncheon. On Pentecost Sunday, 12 youth were confirmed.

Rev. Silbaugh (l) and Rev. Paulen (r) with the 1988 Confirmation class.

The 25th anniversary celebration of St. Matthew's was held July 22 to 24. Friday's activity was a piano concert by Mark Clinton in the sanctuary. On Saturday night, there was a dinner/dance at the Ramada Inn in Annapolis called a "Stroll Down Memory Lane." The tickets were $25. On Sunday, there was a commemorative church service featuring Rev. Paulen's sermon titled "Building for the Future." A family luncheon and celebration was held after the church service to end and crown the weekend. The UMW had sold plates with a picture of St. Matthew's decaled on them to commemorate the 25th Anniversary. The church had indeed come a long way in its first 25 years. (See pictures at the end of this chapter).

Our support of Reeder's Home continued this year with donations filling the office for delivery to the residents at Christmas. On another note, this year the nursery school began offering child care for students enrolled in the nursery school program. Child care for the community was to be offered in 1989. Also, a group of persons from the Chancel Choir and the Worship and Music work area began to informally discuss and investigate the idea of a pipe organ. Churches were visited and their organs heard. The committee also visited the Miller

a native of England, traveled as secretary for coordination and interpretation of the United Methodist Committee on Relief for programs at work in more than 50 countries overseas. He challenged St. Matthew's to be in mission. Twenty-three members of St. Matthew's signed up for a mission trip to Haiti, and efforts were immediately underway to raise money for the trip. The trip never took place because of the political unrest in Haiti at the time, but the money raised for this trip would be used to fund mission work for years to come. The missionary zeal that was awakened from Rev. Dr. Flude's visit was reflected in the heart of our new pastor who set out to change St. Matthew's view of mission work and purpose. One other note, Kimberly and Richard Brown-Wales were serving as missionaries to Anguilla, the northern-most island of the Leeward Islands. After their arrival, the United Methodist church in Anguilla began sponsoring a weekly radio program, started Summer Day camps, and formed a new congregation in the village of Sandy Ground.



In September of 1987, the church held the first intergenerational dinner. This dinner was to raise funds for a scholarship to support a woman in seminary. This scholarship was to be awarded by Wesley Seminary to a woman student for the 1988-89 academic year. The scholarship was named in honor of Dr. Virginia Conley, a member of St. Matthew's UMC, whose career in professional nursing included a great deal of pioneering work on behalf of women in the university setting. Part of the decision to support a scholarship was to recognize the special contributions made by the women who had served as pastors at St. Matthew's by supporting and encouraging other women who also wish to preach God's word.

In the fall, there was a Christian Carnival Rally Day, which was enjoyed by all who attended with their children. There were games and activities for the children to kick off the school year.

Christian Carnival Rally Day Pictures

In June of 1986, Marilyn DuBrul and Harold Sweet resigned from their positions as choir directors. Lorey Hodgson, a graduate of Ithaca College School of Music and Wesley Theological Seminary, was chosen from several applicants to serve as St. Matthew's Director of Music. One of the things that she is remembered for was her huge production one Easter involving all the choirs including the children's choirs. In addition to the choirs, musicians from our church and a three-piece brass assemble were used in this glorious Easter morning celebration of the Resurrection. The entire chancel area was filled with singing voices, bells and brass. Lorey presided over all with supreme confidence.

Another addition to the music department was a set of choir chimes donated by Clara Sigafoose for the main purpose of training future bell ringers–but these were later stolen.

In July of 1986, asbestos was discovered in the older sections of the church. These areas included the older classrooms on the first floor, the entire upstairs hallway, and all classrooms and hallways on the lower level. This was not unusual for the time, but the situation demanded the removal of the asbestos. After carefully monitoring the situation, the Board of Trustees decided in November to begin taking bids for the asbestos removal and for subsequent ceiling replacement in the Fellowship Hall wing of the church.

Efforts were made to try to find ways to fund the expensive work, estimated in the spring of 1987 to cost between $50,000 and $78,000. One option, of course, was to ask the congregation for donations, and a letter was sent to our members in March of 1987 for that purpose. In the end, a refinancing of an existing mortgage netted over $ 67,000 for the church, and this was used to cover the cost of the asbestos removal and ceiling replacement.

This year the church raised and spent over $66,000 on missions and other outreach programs. This was just a continuing example of how the congregation supported mission work and desired to help others in need. The total budget for this year was $310,546. The Senior Minister's salary was around $31,032, excluding a housing allowance because the minister's family lived in the parsonage on Stonehaven Lane. Our apportionment had risen greatly to $57,546.

In November, the UMW held its craft fair. In December, the UMW held a spaghetti dinner with entertainment, singing, an enactment of the Christmas Story and a visit from Santa Claus. The value of the church, its furnishings and other property was $2,340,323. We do not have these values to report after this year until 1995 because they were not available.

The year 1987 was quite a year in our history. One of our ministers was reassigned and another dynamite pastor arrived to dazzle us. A visit was made by a missionary that would change the scope of our mission work forever. In January of 1987, it was reported to the Administrative Board that there were financial shortfalls continuing from the previous year. These shortfalls continued through the next two years, causing concern within our church.

In June of 1987, Rev. Wyatt and his family were assigned a position at Marvin Memorial Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. On July 1, Reverend (Rev.) Robert E. Paulen was appointed the seventh minister of our church. He moved into the parsonage with his family, which consisted of: Chris 20; Sara 17; Jason, 17; Allison, 15; and Raman, 18, an exchange student. As it turned out, Rev. Paulen was the last church minister to live in the Stonehaven parsonage. It was placed on the market in April of 1988 for $154,900. The money from the sale was to be put in a special account to draw interest to help pay for a housing allowance for our pastors. By June 1988, the Stonehaven parsonage was under contract for $150,000.

Red-haired Rev. Paulen immediately grabbed our attention with his unusual approach to delivering sermons. Full of energy and drive, Reverend Paulen set out to meet every member of the 1,400 member congregation on his bicycle. His visits were usually at dinnertime and unannounced. Not long after coming to our church, he was carried into the Sanctuary in a wood coffin which was set upon two sawhorses. He climbed out to conduct the service, declaring that the coffin was being used as a coffee table in his living room until he needed it.

Reverend Doctor David Flude received an enthusiastic response when he came to St. Matthew's this year to discuss his mission work and a possible mission to Haiti. Rev. Dr. Flude,

Bible School 1989

25th Anniversary Celebration

Rick and Mary Adams and Ron and Patti Young

Rev. Starnes and Wave

Linda Cooper & Margie Pekala

Alice Weir

Guernie Hobbs

Rev. Bob Paulen

Amaryllis Price and Gordon Harvey

John & Mary Ann Clinton