

HOMECOMING

MATTHEWS-MURKLAND UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday November 1, 1973

2 P. M.



REV. J.A. CUTHBERTSON
...Guest Minister



Site of the present Matthew - Murkland Church



REV. D.O. HENNIGAN
...Host Minister

A Brief History Of Matthews Murkland United Presbyterian Church

The Murkland United Presbyterian Church had its beginning in the year 1864 under the leadership of Reverend Sidney S. Murkland, who along with Dr. S.C. Alexander and Willis L. Miller had withdrawn from Concord, Presbytery in order to minister to the ex-slaves and their children. The Reverend Murkland served as the minister of the Murkland for a number of years. Around 1875 the Reverend Matthew Ijams, a recent graduate of the theological seminary of Biddle University,

became the minister. He served the congregation with increasing effectiveness until 1889 when the Reverend William Hairston became the minister and served nearly forty years. Under his leadership the church increased in membership, effectiveness in the community and in its giving to the boards and agencies of the Church. Dr. J.J. Wilson, who served for a brief period, Dr. C.H. Shute, Dean of the Theological Seminary of Johnson C. Smith University served as interim minister until the Rev. J.H. Gamble was called in 1926.

It is with justifiable pride that the congregation points to the men who left the congregation to go into the ministry and other religious fields namely, Dr. C.H. Shute who became Dean of the Theological Seminary of Johnson C. Smith University, Dr. J.G. Porter who became President of Harbison Institute, Rev. Milton M. Bell who is now ministering John Hall, and Shadyside Presbyterian Churches in Moore County, N.C., Rev. D.G. Burke who is teaching Religious Education at Johnson C. Smith University, Rev. J. Andrew

Cuthbertson who is now ministering to New Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. There are hundreds of others, humble & nameless who received their inspiration in the Murkland church and are now making a significant and definite contribution to the general well being of their respective communities.

The Reverend Gamble served the congregation until his sudden death in June, 1963. Under his inspired leadership the congregation became one of the upstanding congregations in the Synod of Catawba. Its influence in the community increased. More than 200 members were received into the church and over \$25,000 was raised for current expenses and General Missions. The women's association and the men's council became leading organizations in the presbytery.

After the sudden death of Rev. J.H. Gamble, Reverend Daniel O. Hennigan came to serve the congregation. Reverend Hennigan was born in Salisbury, N.C. He received his Bachelor of Science degree (B.S.) in Mathematics, and completed Seminary work at the Theological Seminary at Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, North Carolina. Reverend Hennigan was awarded the Masters Degree from I.T.C. in Atlanta, Georgia, and is now serving as Chair Person for Organizations of the Theological Alumni Association at I.T.C., Atlanta Georgia. In January of 1973 Rev. Hennigan was elected to the office of

Stated Clerk of the Catawba Presbytery. Having been active in activities such as Instructional, Ministerial, and Business Organizations, he has worked in and out of Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

Reverend Hennigan is married to the former Miss Pecolia Marie Kelly of Carthage, North Carolina. They are the parents of three lovely daughters Cynthia Marie, Willette Loretta, and Inez Denise. The Church feels honored to have such an outstanding leader who has contributed so much to its growth.

The former Matthews Chapel Church was founded in 1876. Under the leadership of Rev. D.O. Hennigan these two Churches emerged in March of 1969. Since the merger he has brought to the Church a varied experience in Education and Religious work. The Church membership has increased an effectiveness in the community, and its giving to the Boards and agencies of the Church. The Congregation continues its steady growth in the Community.

Since the merger of Murkland, and Matthews Chapel United Presbyterian Churches, the Church has gained numerical and financial strength, and a new Church facility became a possibility.

The Building Campaign Committee Staff was organized. This Committee along with the Building Fund Committee set out with justifiable pride that they were going to build a new church under the leadership of Reverend D.O. Hennigan.

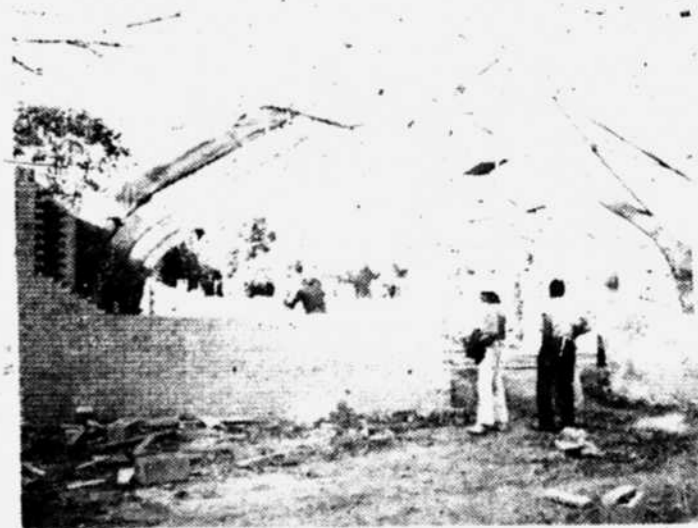
Groundbreaking services were held March 25, 1973, on the fourth Anniversary of the Merged Church. Attending this event were

many Distinguished Citizens, including Mayor John Belk, of Charlotte, N.C., Mayor Query, Matthews, N.C., Mr. W.T. Harris, Chairman of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, Dr. Wilbert Greenfield President of Johnson C. Smith University, Rev. Ezra Moore pastor of First United Presbyterian Church, Rev. T.W. Tucker, pastor of Sardis Presbyterian Church, Rev. F. Schilling, pastor of Providence Presbyterian Church, Rev. H.W. Givens, Pastor of Memorial U.P. Church.

The New Church is now under construction adjoining the present site of the former Murkland Church on Olde Providence Road, with completion scheduled for the latter part of 1974. The Church will consist of a Sanctuary that will seat 300 worshippers, an all purpose unit with complete kitchen facilities, a day care and kindergarten which will accommodate 100 children, eight educational classrooms, complete office and study for the minister, child care rooms, complete office, child care facility for worshippers, five rest rooms and a bell tower.

The equipment for this facility, landscaping, parking area and play ground when added to the cost of the building itself exceed \$200,000 in total cost.

On Sunday, November 11, 1973 the congregation will celebrate its 4th Homecoming at 2:00 P.M. Our guest speaker for the event will be the Inspirational Dynamic Minister of the New Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Rev. J. Andrew Cuthbertson. Music will be rendered by the Pleasant Hill Choirs, and other visiting choirs.



New Church Now Being Constructed

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