

CHAPTER 21

THE CROSS AND THE CIRCLE

As the construction of the Worship Center neared completion, the presence of the Celtic cross became more and more evident.

The entire new Worship Center of Christ Covenant was a symbol in itself, the shape and configuration designed to bring man closer to God through the person of Jesus Christ. For throughout the structure, inside and out, was the theme of the Celtic cross — the cross and the circle.

This traditional cross is in the heritage of the Presbyterian Church of America as the Reformation unfolded and came to the Celtic and the Scotch-Irish people. The predominant cross used, it centered on the person and work of Christ. The focus, as Paul stated in the book of Corinthians was, “on Christ, and Him crucified.” That the Son of God went to the Cross to make atonement for mankind’s sin.

“The circle on the cross points to the deity of Christ, the perfection of his life, the eternal life he gives,” explained Pastor Harry Reeder. “This is the eternal relationship we enjoy with Him and with each other in the Covenant of Grace.”

This same cross was depicted in the stained-glass window of the multi-purpose building. The flow of Biblical history was represented in symbols there, all pointing to the Cross. So the motif that began in the former worship area was carried over to the new sanctuary.

“The Celtic cross is theologically appropriate in preaching the centrality of the Gospel,” Harry added.

As you approach the Worship Center, there are three entrances dominated by massive Celtic crosses. The white cross and circle contrast against the red brick façade.

Entering the main doorway (facing Fullwood Lane), the frame above the entry doors to the sanctuary displays the Scripture that clearly states that focus, “... that in all things Christ might have the preeminence” Col.1:18.

Inside the sanctuary, members and guests note the pulpit, designed as a scroll opening with the Celtic cross in the center, because the “Bible properly preached always leads us to the Cross,” explained Pastor Harry.

Behind the pulpit there is a dominant Celtic cross going from floor to towering ceiling. The stained-glass window within the circle draws attention to the cross itself.

Besides this central cross, there are six more Celtic crosses, three on each side of the sanctuary front. With back lighting, they are designed to draw attention to the central, one. Together there are seven crosses — the number of perfection.

On the ceiling of the sanctuary, there is a Celtic cross configured as a cruciform with a circle on the ceiling, and were one to view the Worship Center from the air,

the entire roof line appears as a Celtic cross. So the cross dominates above and below as the major symbol of the Worship Center.

As one of the Elders remarked, "When I came to church this morning, beginning with the moment I drove into the parking lot, everywhere I looked I saw a cross."

The placement of the sanctuary pews forms a symbol of unity with an unbroken relationship. Pews in the balcony and on the lower floor circle around and flow into the choir in a sweeping curve. Thus all people assembled join in one body of worship.

The sloped floor under the pews opens the vista as worshipers look over heads, not around them. There is a clear view throughout for togetherness in the panorama of God-centered worship.

After the service, you leave by one of the seven doors.

All the symbols mentioned function to celebrate worship and the relationship with the living God through his Son, Jesus Christ by Sovereign Grace.

FAMILY HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

On June 10, 1995, the Reeder family had moved into their new home nearby on Lakenheath Lane. They named it "Cherith." After an Open House, Pastor Harry and Cindy were immediately entertaining church newcomers and "shepherding the flock." The first social in their new home was for the College Sunday school class.

Throughout the years, the Reeders hosted Sunday evening fellowships after the worship service. Serving coffee and dessert, they went through the roster, so the entire membership would have an opportunity to visit in their home.

Then for the Sunday visitors who signed the pew cards at the worship services, Harry and Cindy hosted a "Visitors' Dinner" once a month in their residence. This afforded an opportunity to meet, get to know, and welcome them to Christ Covenant.

Those interested in the church attended the 7-week "Pastor's Inquirers" Sunday school class that Harry taught. These were offered twice a quarter. At the conclusion of the class, the Reeders hosted eight 3-D nights for "Dessert, Doctrine, and Dialogue." Questions were answered, followed by prayer about membership at Christ Covenant.

Next, there were fellowship dinners in the Reeder home, one for Elders and their wives, another for Deacons and their wives, one for the Pastoral staff and their wives, in addition to a much-anticipated Christmas party for leadership and staff.

Needless to say, Cindy developed hospitality to a fine art. Harry called it "a hospitality center in God's Kingdom."

SENIOR PASTOR'S OUTREACH

In 1996, Pastor Harry Reeder's outreach ministries steadily expanded and multiplied. Speaking, teaching, preaching, writing, and serving on governing boards, his responsibilities were local, national, and international.

There were myriad responsibilities to organizations, to the Church — here and across the country — as well as other means of outreach that filled Pastor Reeder's schedule at this time. Among other roles, he served as board member and Executive Committee member for Westminster Theological Seminary; board member and teacher of doctoral classes for Reformed Theological Seminary; Chairman of Mission to North America and the Central Carolina Presbytery; committee member of 50 for the Billy Graham Charlotte Crusade. In addition, Pastor Reeder conducted 8 conferences a year and numerous Leadership Training Seminars; led the Christ Covenant Conference on Church Revitalization; pursued his doctorate dissertation; developed materials on the topic of Christian Manhood; presented a three-session video on the Biblical doctrine of Baptism; and wrote a Christian newspaper column to encourage believers to address contemporary issues and to stimulate readers to think "Christianly." Frequently, Pastor Reeder was asked to teach at conferences here and around the world.

As his schedule of writing and appearances increased, Harry developed a Senior Pastor's Team. What he had in mind was a group for prayer support, research on specific topics and texts, and reviews of appropriate articles from journals, magazines, and books.

Throughout the year he called on this team of 15 to 20 persons together to request research or other help as needed.

TEACHING GOES TO THE WELLSPRING

Two of Pastor Reeder's classes involved extended trips. Shortly after his arrival at Christ Covenant, he had included a tour as a part of his Biblical teaching.

This was "Learning the Bible in the Land of the Bible" journey. For 11 days the group traveled in Israel, studying the Word of God, visiting settings that were recorded in Scripture. Vivid memories were made as the Bible came alive.

The other area of focused ministry was in the Christian Manhood (or character) Study Series. This series was built around the Civil War era. The lives of three prominent Christian men of that period were studied, and visits were made to battlegrounds, homesites, and meeting places of note. The men considered were Robert E. Lee, Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson, and Joshua Chamberlain. This men's class looked at Biblical masculinity from two categories: one of strength and courage, the other, sensitivity and compassion. A long-time student of the Civil War, Harry was more than willing to share many insights and little-known facts to his dramatic presentations.

These Christian Character Study tours were always "sold out" and served to "equip men with the Scriptural principles of Biblical masculinity by using these historical examples."

THE BILLY GRAHAM CHARLOTTE CRUSADE

The Carolinas Billy Graham Crusade for Christ of September 27- 29, 1996, began for Christ Covenant in June of that year when Pastor Harry, a member of the Committee of 50 for the Crusade, asked for a commitment to intercessory prayer.

“As a church,” he wrote on the front of the Sunday worship folder, “we want to maximize our use of this opportunity to train people in sharing the Gospel and in reaching the region for Christ. How can we support this effort? The most important element is to pray. The second is to volunteer for ministry positions.”

The call went out for those who could help locally and at the stadium. The Christian Life and Witness training sessions, sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, were held June 3-29 at various locations. Pre-crusade rallies for men, women, and youth were held in May.

As it developed, 600 members of Christ Covenant were involved in various capacities at the Crusade. They were a part of the 6,000-voice choir; among the 5,000 counselors needed each night; serving as ushers; or meeting scores of other volunteer roles needed at pre-crusade events. Many others took guests to the services and participated in the neighborhood visitation for the Crusade.

It was a memorable time for the hundreds in Christ Covenant, and the thousands in the city, who focused upon reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Harry noted.

Among those of Christ Covenant mobilizing members for participation in the Crusade were Mike Miller, Chairman with co-chairpersons Mike Folks and Dave and Marilyn Frucella. The team itself was comprised of Beth Thomas, Anne Stauffer, the Hamiltons, Abners, Paynes, Brocks, Vicki Hall, Donna Belk, Patsy Davis, Anne Tuttle, and as Elder liaison Dick Givens. Then the follow-up and discipleship began.

THE ROLE OF A SERVANT/RESOURCE CHURCH

All of these activities reflected the role of a “resource church,” Pastor Reeder explained. From time to time, Pastor Reeder reiterated the role of the Servant/Resource model. By 1996, there was significant activity to testify to the effectiveness of this approach. He stated the following regarding 10 years of pursuing this model:

“I think there are four major ways that we act as a resource church:

“One, of course, is in resourcing the work of Christ Covenant to reach this community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to equip our members to minister for Christ in their personal lives to their families and the community.

“Second is church planting. In the Charlotte region, we have had the opportunity in the past 13 years to participate in a number of church plants — Uptown Christ

Covenant, University Presbyterian Church, then a Korean Presbyterian Church, and in helping two African-American PCA churches, and assisting in Southern Pines. This is locally and regionally, and then there is planting on a national scale as we helped in California, and now in Stuart, Florida, and internationally on the mission field.

“Then the third thing, as a Servant/Resource church, is church re-vitalization — to revive and renew churches that are in stagnation and decline. Our Elders work as counselors to churches that ask for assistance in this, and we work closely with Archie Parrish, Coordinator of Church Revitalization with Mission to North America.

“A fourth area of focus is in establishing supportive relationships with other churches and para-church organizations that are extending the kingdom of God, and working closely with them. For example, we’ve been working with Wycliffe Bible Translators, JAARS, the Billy Graham Crusade, and Leighton Ford Ministries. Just look on the back of our bulletin at some 75 listings of agencies we’re working with.

“These four activities are done in four spheres. Church plantings, church revitalization, and kingdom extensions are done locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally — all modeled after Acts 1:8, where the early church was said to go from Jerusalem, the local area; to Judea, the region; to Samaria, nationally; and to the ends of the earth.

“All of these things define the Servant/Resource Church.”

THE CHRIST OUR SHEPHERD CENTER

In the Spring of 1996, Christ Covenant had still another opportunity to impact the area’s community life by “resourcing” a growing — and needy — segment of the Matthews population.

One of the most heart-wrenching, soul-searching decisions a working mother or a single parent has to make is where and with whom the children will stay after school or in the summertime.

For many mothers, the choices are less than ideal — either unacceptable or unattainable.

Where would a mother go to find a day care with beautiful surroundings, competent caring teachers, a double-A rating, family counseling, and, most importantly, a Christian foundation? Could there be such a place?

Yes, and Christ Covenant became a part of the solution in a nearby complex of gaily renovated buildings and playgrounds that once housed the Matthews Methodist Church.

For years, Ms. Aana Lisa Whatley had envisioned such a ministry geared especially to serve the single parent, but she needed help — lots of help. So when the location became available to her, she went to her son’s church, Christ

Covenant, with a plan. She would renovate the “empty” church property and make it available to Christ Covenant for its ministries of child development, family counseling, and special needs — such a place as the church itself had prayed about. Yes, it was an answer to prayer.

This was the Christ Our Shepherd Ministries, Christian Family Resource Center.

“It is designed as a community outreach,” Mary Dillon, Executive Director, said, “demonstrating the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ working in the lives of individuals and families who are facing the challenges of life.”

Mary Dillon moved to the Charlotte area from south Florida where for 17 years she had been active in child development at Coral Springs Christian School — 8 years a teacher of 3 and 4-year-olds, and 9 years as Director of Pre-School. She and her husband Jim had always enjoyed Charlotte, and with both of their children on the staff at Covenant Day School (Scott Dillon, Middle School Principal and Amy Wallace, kindergarten teacher) they moved north. The hand of providence was seen in this move and in the leadership Mary gave to Christ Our Shepherd.

Primarily, the ministry served as a Christian Child Care Center for infants and children up to 5 years of age, open from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. With many school scholarships available, tuition was scaled to fit the family’s budget. Carefully and prayerfully, Christian teachers were selected. Initially, there was a class for every age group (later doubling as enrollment increased) with teachers’ schedules overlapping to cover the long day. This was in the main building.

The Counseling Center moved offices and conference rooms into the unoccupied brick house facing Johns Street. David Russ, Pastor of Young Families/Pastoral Ministries, directed parent workshops from there. Parents were counseled in the evening. There were after-work sessions on matters of finance, marriage, divorce recovery, parenting, sibling rivalry, and other subjects especially geared for the single mom.

In the two-story education building, there was a lending library of books and tapes for parent and children. An attractive Christian Media Center was set up in the Chapel building with tapes, books, and CDs available. It was also a center for lectures, workshops, and writers’ conferences.

Another part of this ministry took place on the campus of Christ Covenant where an after-school program was offered. No more latch-key children as Suellen Aucreman directed the after-school fun. From a background of YMCA, Suellen supervised the children in three age groups, providing snacks and activities. The children were safe, supervised, and happily occupied on the first floor of the “B” (education) building.

Another program on the Christ Covenant campus was a part time pre-school for 3 and 4-year-olds. Offered during the morning hours, this was started for stay-at-home mothers. The concept was to benefit mother and child, allowing Mom time away from the house, as well as opportunity for children to play and learn in

preparation for the separation that would come at school-age — all in a nurturing Christian atmosphere.

Also, Joni and Friends (JAF) meetings were held at Christ our Shepherd Ministries with Doug Vinex serving as Director. Founded by the quadriplegic author and international speaker Joni Eareckson Tada, JAF was a disability outreach devoted to raising awareness among churches regarding ways to assist and minister to the handicapped population. On September 25, 1996, when the JAF Ministry Center was dedicated, Joni Eareckson Tada addressed an enthusiastic crowd.

When Pastor Tom Henry met with Aana Lisa Whatley, he recalled hearing her “heart” regarding those facing the challenges of life. This dialogue, combined with the vision of Christ Covenant as a servant/resource church, led to the birth of a day care, an outreach to the disabled, a counseling office, and a child development center.

It was through the generosity and hard work of Mrs. Whatley and Director Mary Dillon, with Jim Mezzanote, the LAND team, Steve Onxley and the Board of Directors that Christ Our Shepherd Ministries became an outreach for evangelism, help, and healing to those in the Charlotte-Matthews area.

The Christian Family Resource Center grew rapidly with over 10,000 books in the library, countless videos, a computer lab, and offering many classes and activities.

COS board members were: Jon Johnson, Chairman; Sid Jacobs, Treasurer; Mary Dillon, Child Care Director; Kenny Norwood, Director of Christian Family Resource Center; David Russ, Pastor of Pastoral Ministries; Steve Onxley, Dana Rucker, Aana Lisa Whatley; staff members: Sandy Lawson, Becky Kornman, and Suzanne Arnett, receptionist.

LAND (Land Acquisition And Development)

A new ministry in 1996 was Land Acquisition And Development (LAND). It was made up of staff, officers, and lay leaders from numerous areas. Deacon Dale Thompson was Chairman, with members Wiley Brown, Pastor of Operations; Elder Scottie Lochhead; Barrett Mosbacker; Julie James; Bernie Lawrence, Pastor of Administration; Hap Welty; Susan Shepherd; Jim Mezzanotte; Jon Johnson; and Charlie Turk.

The LAND team had been charged with overseeing the structural redesign of the Worship Center. Of note is their labor in addressing the parking and traffic flow needs. The result of their many hours of meetings was a plan whereby the parking pavement was doubled and a loop road constructed around the campus to ease traffic congestion.

A busy year continued with another initiative for the LAND team — that of handling the acquisition by Covenant Day School of a tract of land across

Highway 51 from the Funderburk family. The land would be used in the long-term development of the school, SOAR, and other future ministries.

In addition, the LAND team provided oversight for the extensive construction and renovation of the buildings and grounds of the Christ Our Shepherd Ministries.

Wiley described the team as comprised of “a number of tireless and dedicated individuals with competencies in real estate law, construction, engineering, accounting, and resource management.

“As the Lord continues to bless Christ Covenant in so many ways and with so many new people, we will continually be challenged to meet many new needs,” he wrote in *The Courier*. “It is only by God’s grace, the wisdom He grants, and the unified spirit and commitment of this body that we will be allowed to accomplish much in His name. To God be the glory.”

STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

In 1996, the focus of the Youth Ministries turned to students in relation to their families. This followed the adopted church-wide reorganization that emphasized Communities within the church. So the Youth Ministries was restructured to become the Student Families Community.

Bruce Johnson conducted a ministry audit that helped to develop this new vision. The result: junior and senior high students and their families became part of the same Community. It was a family-based approach to youth ministry with Pastor of Student Families, Rod Huckaby, coordinating.

Elders Dale Austin and Sam Wilson, with Deacons Danny Church and Ray Gillis, and the recently added Senior High Director Chad Ellenburg, were members of this Student Families Ministry Management Team. Besides Chad, other youth staff leaders grew the ministry significantly. John Hazlett came on as Junior High Director, and Beth Childress was named Assistant Director of Women’s Youth Ministries.

“These leaders add depth and breadth to ministry to youth,” Rod said. “Also there is a strong support system developing between parents in this Community and those participating in the related adult Sunday Bible school class. This class focuses on the challenging task of raising adolescent children in a world that is competing for their attention and devotion.”

1,000 STRONG AND GROWING

The Christian Education Ministry grew in 1996. Their Congregational Communities expanded with challenging adult, youth, and children’s programs. One Sunday program reported attendance of over 1,000 children. For instance, unique and very popular were the Discipleship Courses that taught “practical holiness” to children in grades 3 through 5. Then there was the junior high focus on “Go Fish” — comprised of three unforgettable focuses: “Milk to Beef”

(teaching and equipping); “Ketchup” (relational evangelism); and “Breakfast Club” (leadership development).

Other changes marked the early part of that year, beginning with the decision of Pastor of Christian Education Chris Hodge and wife Karen to leave to plant a church in Palm City, Florida. Stepping in to manage Chris’ pastoral duties was Ron Coleman, a recent seminary graduate, who became Director of Assimilation and Pastor of the Young Marrieds Community. This was also the time at which Susan Shepherd, who had directed the Pre-School Ministries, assumed the responsibility for the entire Children’s Ministry. Coordinating this rapidly growing department were Colleen Smith and Miriam Londry.

Each Congregational Community developed its own curriculum and planned its own events. The pastors would shepherd and disciple those adults and youths in their own particular life-stage group. These six Communities were: Singles and Singles Again; Young Marrieds; Young Families; Student Families; Adult Families; and the Hosannas Community.

TEAMS CARRIED THE BALL

So in 1996, the church structure was described as Congregational Communities led by lay teams, who benefited from the leadership of Executive and Ministry Management Teams. The Communities were comprised of people who shared a similar life stage. These met together for Sunday Bible school and enjoyed the involvement and communications available to them from leadership teams which included the community pastor, an Elder, and a Deacon.

The Session, the collective body of ordained Elders, was divided into the Executive Ministry Team, the Executive Leadership Team, or the Executive Discipleship Team. The Executive Leadership Team that year included Pastor Harry Reeder; Executive Pastor Tom Henry; Chairman of the Session Larry Kirkman; Elder Paul Joyce; Elder Mike Moore; and Chairman of the Deacons Ed Thorne.

The Diaconate, the collective body of ordained Deacons, also served on teams. The Ministry Management Teams were those of: Worship and Music, Global Outreach, Pastoral Ministries, Administration/Operations, School Ministries, Christian Education, and Student Ministries.

The number and diversity of these ministries and their leadership reflected the growth of the church. The 1995-'96 church membership was now 1,621 communicant and 1,163 non-communicant members, totaling 2,784 members.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

So with three Executive Teams (Discipleship, Leadership, Ministry); six Congregational Community Teams; and seven Ministry Management Teams, the challenge became — how to keep it simple.

Executive Pastor Tom Henry devoted much of his time to developing leaders, focusing on areas of mercy and teaching, and in managing and organizing staff. He met one Monday morning a month with everyone on staff, pastors and directors; he held regular weekly meetings with pastors separately for encouragement and training; and one Tuesday every other month was set aside for a full day of sharing, discipling, staff development and prayer with each pastor.

In his report, Tom mentioned goals to focus on that simplified and streamlined operations and equipped the congregation to serve. He posed five questions to aid in attaining these goals: What is our mission? Whom do we serve? What does the congregation value? What have been our results? and What is our plan?

Thus, committees and teams had a clear mission/purpose — together with pastoral shepherding in all groups. In this way the ministries were streamlined — leaders developed at all levels, evangelism and outreach strategies supported, and discipleship and small groups encouraged and growing.

“As we continue to get larger,” Tom reported, “it becomes increasingly challenging to work together to accomplish our yearly objectives...these goals are not new ones. They are the same objectives we have been working towards for years — but in a simpler form.”

He asked the congregation to pray for them “as we work together to fulfill our calling in this community and in the kingdom of Christ.”

CHAPTER 22

THE NEW WORSHIP CENTER

“A CELEBRATION OF COMMITMENT”

In October of 1996, the excitement began to build at Christ Covenant Church. After numerous delays, the Worship Center was emerging in its final form.

Every now and then a car drove up to one of the doors, and a lone church member or a small family emerged to go up to one of the still-locked doors. Cupping hands around their eyes to cut the reflecting sunlight from the sparkling glass, they peered into the darker interior. What color was the carpeting? How wide was the circle hallway? Was the elevator in yet? Inside, a workman walked by, waved his hand, and smiled a knowing smile.

Then Sunday evening, October 20, was a time of preparation. As Pastor Reeder said, “preparing the family for our new Worship Center home.”

The sermon that evening was on the “10 Steps of Commitment” for the church family. These included a commitment to intercessory prayer, to teaching and preaching, to fellowship and assimilation, to evangelism, and to a God-centered worship. At the conclusion of the sermon, Harry asked the people to form eight groups to walk over to the nearly-finished facility “to pray over the rooms in the new sanctuary.”

Leaders were assigned to lead these groups. Pastor Dick Tevebaugh met with the Seniors and other in the North foyer, which was the entrance nearest the handicapped parking and, inside, the elevator. The South foyer was covered in prayer by a missions-minded group led by Pastor Rod Huckaby. Pastor Tom escorted a group to the main, front foyer. David German gathered with others in the upstairs Choir Room. Pastor Reeder prayed with members in the sanctuary, as well as the nurseries behind the sanctuary and the front classrooms. And out in the extended parking lot, Wiley Brown bowed his head with others.

Prayers of thanksgiving, praise, and devotion were voiced by those able to be a part. Afterwards, as the congregation strolled around, the work mostly finished, there were quiet expressions of wonder at the physical beauty of the building — but also the great anticipation for a future devoted to deepening the spiritual lives of people.

Bernie Lawrence, Pastor of Operations, summarized the happenings leading up to this final time.

“We originally planned occupancy for the new Worship Center for November of 1995, but by God’s grace, just prior to the move-in, a major structural deficiency was discovered. It took an entire year to correct, with enormous effort and time commitments from our team.

“The delay was disappointing, but because of it, the Lord allowed us to remedy two other major concerns: the parking and traffic flow expansion and the added unfinished balcony in the Worship Center.”

So the day finally arrived! November 3, 1996, the first worship service in the new sanctuary!

Pastor Reeder’s letter on the worship folder front read: “What a glorious day! The Lord is faithful. The Lord is good, and the Lord is greatly to be praised.”

At last! The colonial pews were in place, the burgundy carpet down, the hand-carved pulpit installed.

THE CROSS AND THE SCROLL

Bids had been taken, and furniture and cabinet-maker Roger Atkins of his Wood Design company built the larger, wider pulpit.

The architect (Adams Group) specified size and general construction in

proportion to the large curving sanctuary. Pastor Reeder designed the theme.

“It features a scroll,” Harry said, “a scroll that is opening up, with the Celtic cross, the cross and the circle, in the middle. This is because the Bible properly preached, leads us to the Cross. It represents the authority of the Word of God, with a focus upon the Cross of Christ.”

“It was fun to make,” woodcarver Atkins said, “challenging and difficult, following the grain of the wood, carving the tips of the scroll, creating the swirl.”

The scroll curves seem to be unrolling, opening up like papyrus, from either side of the pulpit. The proportioned size was further determined by Harry Reeder’s reach as he put his hand on each side as if he were holding the scroll.

Also, Harry asked that it be built and placed in such a way that he could easily step out from behind the pulpit and continue his sermon as he walked back and forth in front. In his manner of delivery, he occasionally moved back for a sip of water or a glance at his notes.

It took Roger four weeks to complete construction of the pulpit, carving, forming the cross and the circle, the curve of the scroll, gluing, blending mahogany and maple into a beautiful whole.

Then the pulpit was moved into place. The people were ready for the first service in the new Worship Center.

AT HOME AT LAST

There were two Sunday morning services now — 9:00 and 10:30. As they arrived, church members greeted each other in the wide foyer, the gathering place that circled the curved sanctuary. Entering the large worship room, there was a natural, though planned quietness, the acoustics attuned to song and praise yet muffled from bustle and chatter. The choir came down stairways on either side of the altar and filled the loft, 100-strong.

There was awe and praise for “what the Lord had done.”

Just before Pastor Harry Reeder’s Celebration of Commitment sermon, there was the “preparation” by violin and harp duo of Wolfgang and Bette Roth. The Roths, members of Christ Covenant and long-standing instrumentalists with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, played the Mallott “Lord’s Prayer.”

It was a time when hearts and minds were freed, and voices were lifted up “in praise of our God with thanksgiving for this house of worship and all of the opportunities that He will open up to serve Him with this facility,” Pastor Reeder said.

After three years of planning and two years of construction, they had moved from a large sunken room under construction to a building completed and “made sacred” to God.

DAY OF CONSECRATION AND THANKSGIVING

Then on November 24, 1996, the Worship Center was consecrated.

It was an in-house dedication of the new Worship Center with Thanksgiving and Consecration Services.

The morning message, "The Stones Cry Out" focused upon a theological explanation of the building. Pastor Reeder named Five Values in constructing the sanctuary. They were: excellence without extravagance; tradition of the past with the assets of the present; materials of substance without façade or opulence; acknowledging of the transcendence of God and at the same time involving the eminence of God's presence; and dedicating the sanctuary to true worship ("in spirit and in truth"), and the circle foyer to fellowship.

Sunday evening, Dr. Frank Barker, Pastor of Christ Covenant's "mother" church, Briarwood Presbyterian in Birmingham, Alabama, led a Dedication and Consecration Service. His message from Joshua was entitled "What Do These Stones Mean?"

A special issue of *The Courier* was given to each family. It was an attractive 28-page history of Christ Covenant with artist John White's drawing in color of the front entrance, the three-story white Celtic Cross brilliant against the dark red-brick background. On the last page, the booklet ended with the words: "This History is His-Story." A note in the worship folder suggested: "It's an issue that you'll want to keep and treasure as a memento of our special time together this evening — and to thank God for His gracious provision of the Worship Center."

It had been announced that a formal and public dedication service would be Sunday, January 12, 1997, including an Open House with local dignitaries and neighbors in the community invited.

A FORMAL DEDICATION

It was April 27, 1997, before a formal dedication took place. It was decided to delay the event until the parking lot could accommodate the large number of cars expected.

Then at last, Christ Covenant's 46,000-square-foot, \$6.3 million complex with seating for 2,500 was ready!

The events of Dedication Week, leading up to the day itself, were: Dr. Anthony Patterson, who spoke on "Coping With Anxieties in the 90's" at Christ Our Shepherd on Monday; then Tuesday, a Children's Concert featuring Puppeteer Andy Holmes and Gerbert in the gym; a mid-week Youth Coffeehouse with music by Ed Cash; and the Covenant Day School Spring Festival with entertainment, rides, games, food and fun on Saturday.

As the coverage for the events appeared in three local papers, the predominance of the cross in the architecture and the significance of the seating arrangement were explained by Pastor Reeder:

“We chose to use the Celtic Cross as the central symbol of our new building,” he said. “Because it shows not only the cross where Jesus died but a circle of never-ending life which He gave us by His death and resurrection. When you enter this building, you come into the cross and when you leave you go out by way of the cross.

“Then when the architect was drawing plans for the building,” he added, “we asked that the congregation be visually and physically connected to the pulpit area. This was accomplished with the walks leading down from the balcony and the curved seating to left and right of the podium.”

During the open house week of activities and before the service, people could see “one of the area’s most spectacular new houses of worship,” as the Charlotte Observer described it. Articles made mention of well-thought out and state-of-the-art features such as the 25-foot screen for visuals; the electronic paging system to summon worshipping parents to the nursery when needed; and the sloping sanctuary floor, designed so no one’s view is blocked. There was the special North entrance for the handicapped and elderly; sound-enhancing equipment for the hearing impaired; the small prayer chapel room on the right and, on the left, a room designated as the Bride’s Room; the missions-focused South Lobby where church members Bud and Barbara Speck created a wall-sized map of the world (complete with 50 colored tacks indicating Christ Covenant’s missionaries around the globe); brightly painted toddler rooms; infant rooms where each child has a white cradle; and the choir practice room with its baby grand piano.

And on that Sunday, April 27, the evening worship service was the Formal Dedication. The choir sang “How Firm A Foundation,” the Crusaders were on hand and a trumpet solo of “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” was performed by Tim Cool. Then just before the prayer of dedication by Pastor Reeder, the Roth Violin-Harp Duo played “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring.” Dr. Ludor Whitlock, president of Reformed Theological Seminary, gave the dedication sermon.

During that sermon, Dr. Whitlock spoke of Harry Reeder’s seminary years. Then he mentioned the various times he had spoken before this body over the years — from the gymnasium of Charlotte Christian School, to the multi-purpose building on their new 40-acre campus — and now in “this beautiful building.” He mentioned the service Christ Covenant Church had provided in its many ministries — highlighting SOAR and the worldwide missions, all directed from this “magnificent building.” He credited not men — but the power of the Gospel and Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever.

With the benediction, as Pastor Reeder later said, “came the end to a defining moment in our church’s history.”

ANYTHING EXCELLENT

With the new and larger seating, improved acoustics, and “state-of-the-art full spectrum” sound, there came a flow of beautiful music. One outstanding

outgrowth of these enhancements was the concert series, “Anything Excellent.” This was an educational four-concert series where Christian musicians and dancers would explain who they are and what they do — “giving us insight into the beauty and discipline of fine art.” Developed by Anna Brock, the title was inspired by Philippians 4:8: “If there is anything excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.” She urged parents to bring their children to the free 7:00 p.m. performances.

Anna, with her husband Larry and daughters Sarah and Rebecca, had moved to Charlotte and joined Christ Covenant Church. Educated in Piano Performance with a master’s degree in Accompaniment, Anna also played the flute. She was on the faculty at UNCC full-time, teaching Music Appreciation, and was also piano accompanist for the Charlotte Symphony. Generous with her time and talent, Anna stepped in to help various ministries, from Children’s Choirs to special music.

Anna said she had always wanted to introduce music to audiences in a non-threatening manner — to promote the Arts and Art Education in a way that glorified God and brought pure joy to the listener.

At the time of the “Angels in America” controversy,” Anna was serving on the Arts Fund Task Force for Charlotte, representing Harry Reeder at his request. It was then that she felt the immediate need to pursue her long-held passion more than ever. So in 1997, she obtained permission to utilize Christ Covenant facilities to present excellent artists who were believers.

Artists for the first musical program in the series were no strangers to the audience. They had heard “teasers” of the music to come — the Roth Violin-Harp Duo. Even before Wolfgang and Bette Roth joined Christ Covenant Church, they had offered their ministry of music.

Bette met Wolfgang when she was a senior at Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He had traveled from Germany to play a season with the North Carolina Symphony, and Bette had joined the group for a short tour.

Their friendship grew, but then was saddened when the season ended and they had to part as he returned to Germany. However, the Lord answered prayer, Bette said, in a thrilling way. She won a Fulbright Scholarship to study harp near his hometown! A year or so later they were married, and a violin and harp were joined together in beautiful harmony.

At that time, there came openings in the Charlotte Symphony. Wolfgang became Principal Second Violin, and Bette, First Harpist in the Billy Graham chair. Deciding to grow with the Symphony instead of moving to orchestras in larger cities, they stayed and raised their family, son Dieter and daughter Carla, in the Charlotte area.

During the summer, the duo toured in Europe, playing from castles on the Rhine to village concert halls. They were also a favorite at weddings and special events in the southeastern United States.

Their music ranged from the classical to folk songs and hymns. There were 400

people attending the “Anything Excellent” concert that first Monday night, September 22, 1997. After the music, Wolfgang demonstrated his instrument, and Bette explained the harp comparing it to the piano — the strings were the white notes, the foot pedals, the black. Then she invited youngsters to the stage to play a glissando on the harp, tiny fingers strumming up and down the strings.

Other concerts in that first Series were: November 10, the “Simply Sax” saxophones, playing American jazz and the Little Fugue in G Minor by Bach; January 26 (1998), the Banner Brass, which included two trumpets, a French horn, a trombone, and a tuba; and on March 23, the Just Rejoice dancers.

The Series became an annual event. There was jazz and bluegrass, mountain music, then choirs, and the dual pianos of Hilda Ryan and Anna Brock. All glorifying God.

HONORING GOD

The desire to “honor God” was a central theme that characterized the worship times on Sunday at Christ Covenant.

“Using God’s Word as our guide, and the wonderful gift of music and voice as our tool, our goal is to create a corporate atmosphere of worship that pleases God and leads everyone at Christ Covenant to honor Him.”

This was the goal of the Worship and Fine Arts Ministry as expressed by Pastor David German. During 1997, in the new sanctuary, there was more singing in the morning worship. More drama presented in the evening service.

Behind the scenes, there was a new sound and light man, Jim Deal. He and the sound crew brought new techniques into service, improving the sound projection. An increase in the number of ushers came with the enlarged seating. This was managed by Dan Pisano, Head Worship Coordinator.

Jeff Gunderson became the Coordinator of Worship Teams, leading the singing and praise at the Sunday evening service, adding voices and a new dimension to the worship.

There were expanded musical programs year around: the “Living Nativity” with orchestra and choir in three evening performances at Christmas; the new Christmas Celebration with in-house groups including a Men’s Quartet, 4 Praise, the Crusaders, the Men’s Ensemble, Women’s Trio and others; a new Easter Drama; a Spring Choral Concert; and an annual Children’s Concert led by Susan Shepherd.

Team Members in addition to those mentioned were: Tim Cool, Director of Instrumental Music; Sherri Smith, Administrative Assistant/Pianist; Hilda Ryan, Organist; Elder Rob Veerman; Deacon David Harris; and Rebecca Ritchie, Coordinator/Drama Team.

LEAPS AND BOUNDS

How could a church grow rapidly to reach a membership of close to 3,000 and still keep the intimacy and friendliness of the small church? A couple years before, the question was addressed by creating Congregational Communities, groups in similar lifestages, assigning these to the care of pastors and providing the support of one Elder and one Deacon. Was it working?

In 1997, pastors were able to report on the blessings of a shift designed to ensure “shepherding” continued even in an expanding congregation.

THE CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNITY MODEL BEARS FRUIT

As Bernie Lawrence said, “There had been a real need, because of the size of the congregation, to assign ruling Elders still more pastoral responsibilities. So, pastoral staff members were placed with Congregational Communities to pastor these communities in addition to their program responsibilities. Like a coin with two sides.

The plan had been a fruitful one. In the 1997 Annual Report, David Russ, Pastor of the Young Families Community, said: “I am very thankful for our Communities. There are a variety of positive relationships going on in our Communities. These gatherings of people make pastoral ministry more possible with the Elders, Deacons and laymen. At the same time, our pastors take increased ownership and oversight for our growing Communities.”

As for his own Community assignment, he added, “We connect people with people, and socials and special events are held on a regular basis.”

Community families numbered 360 and growing! The Annual Report called them “a church within a church.”

According to a report from Rod Huckaby, Pastor of Student Families Community, the structure was also effective in presenting individuals with opportunities to use their gifts in service.

“I think our 1997 biggest success has been our strategy and actions to carry out a family-based youth ministry. Parents and teens participated together in multiple ministries. We’ve made great progress this past year. A lot of people doing a lot of ministry in a large area!”

Congregational Communities were flourishing and furthering the growth of Covenant Groups as well. Overall, there were nearly 100 Covenant Groups.

In 1997, the Student Families Community staff led by Pastor Rod Huckaby was: Jan Adams, Administrative Assistant; Chad Ellenburg, Senior High Director; Jake Tassy, Junior High Director; Julie Welden, Intern; and Beth Childress, Assistant Director of Young Women. Officers and volunteers were: Elder Mike Moore; Deacon Larry Cothorn; Elder Dale Austin, Youth Community; Elder Sam Wilson, Youth Community; Deacon Danny Church, Youth Community; Deacon Dale

Hazelgrove, Youth Community; Karen Dansberger, Communications; Reed Bryant, Worship Committee; Darnell Manchester, Friendship; Steve Janes, SBS; Bruce Johnson, SBS; Judy Huckaby, Women's Committee; Barb Thorne, Women's Committee; and Roger Paules, Small Groups.

“THE BIG STORY”

It was reported that the big story for Christian Education in 1997 was “growth.”

Moving into the new Worship Center helped relieve congestion.

“We have children in every nook and cranny!” Susan Shepherd, Director of Children's Ministries said. “It has been a blessing to find space and utilize every inch faithfully.”

In the Children's Sunday Bible school classes, there were 56 classes with 130 adult teachers needed weekly. Only seven years before, there had been 17 SBS classes — less than half as many, so staffing had been a real challenge.

There were nine core ministries in the 1997 Children's mission: Sunday Bible school (SBS); Children's choirs; King's Kids (a special needs class); Children's Worship; Missions Minded Kids; Cub Scouts; Boy Scouts; Music, Art, and Drama Days; and Back Yard Bible Clubs.

The Back Yard Bible Clubs were a new and adventurous ministry for children. The emphasis here was on evangelism, providing opportunities for the covenant children to invite their friends and neighbors to hear the Gospel. That first summer over 300 children participated, with 23 professions of faith!” Susan reported. “Our own families were encouraged, and trained too.”

The Clubs were hosted at the homes of members, taught by teams composed of both youth and adults. It was a five-day club during a two-week period, meeting during the summer, with story-telling, music, games, and crafts.

Another innovation for children was the Junior Bible Quiz Ministries. Leaders met with a small group of eight to ten children for a two-week period during the summer. The “Coach” assisted students in memorizing both Scripture and catechism in preparation for in-church and inter-church competitions. This helped to develop within the child a solid foundation built on sound doctrine, learning to assimilate important truths about the Bible.

A new committee was appointed to provide leadership in Christian Education. They were: CDS Headmaster Barrett Mosbacker, Chairman, with committee members Biff Bracy, Chris Williams, Bill Thomas, Dave Auckermann, and Carl Shafer. They were to resource Adult and Youth Sunday Bible school, to plan class curriculum, recruit and train adult teachers, and serve as liaison with Congregational Communities.

In the Children's Ministry Leadership were: Pastor Barrett Mosbacker; Elder Bill Thomas; Deacon Jerry Youngblood; Susan Shepherd, Director/Children's Ministries; Colleen Smith, Manager/Pre-School Sunday Ministries; Miriam

Londry, Manager/Elementary; Gatha Schleicher, Ministry Administrator; Susan Randolph, Attendance Coordinator; Cynthia Carter, Childcare Coordinator; Margie Johnston, Puppet Ministry Coordinator; Sharon Lawing, Cub Scouts Coordinator; Chuck Gallant/Ron Stewart, Boy Scout Coordinators; Lisa Cool, Children's Choirs Ministry Coordinator; and Missions Minded Kids Ministry Coordinator, Nancy Stout.

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY AWARD

An article by Dotsie Coleman in the September 14, 1997 issue of *The Courier* reported that Christ Covenant had received "The Residential Support Award for outstanding and significant contributions and dedication to the community."

The award recognized the Special Needs Ministry's monthly socials for mentally challenged adults. Every third Saturday, some 50 to 70 special guests attended an evening of games, crafts, music, evangelistic Bible stories, followed by dinner. Adults and teenagers from the Student Family Community helped host the gatherings.

Christ Covenant also has provided a "buddy" system for some of the church's special needs children. The buddy accompanied the child to Sunday Bible school or just "hung out" with them. The families of special needs children also gathered quarterly for supper and fellowship, and a mother's support group met regularly.

The article further detailed the addition of a Sunday Bible school class for the mentally challenged persons four years of age and older. With music, hands-on crafts and activities, Bible lessons, and Scripture memorization, this was the King's Kids Class. One of those helping with the program and enlisting other volunteers was Susan Woodall.

SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS, LONG ON APPEAL

"Short Term Missions Trips are probably the most exciting thing we do in our church," Stelle Snyder, Director of Communications/Publications said.

She had seen the reactions of those returning from the three-week mission trips. It was also evident from the letters sent out by team members.

"Romania has become my heart," Hannah Guthman wrote. "It is the highlight of my year."

As high school student, she had spent three weeks in Romania where Christ Covenant church teams had worked with established missionaries in Bucharest, Arad or Vada Crisulu, and at the Children's West Camp.

She described her times there as "being on top of the mountain... It breaks our hearts for joy as we watch our young friends (there) truly understand the Gospel message and dedicate their lives to Christ for the first time! What an awesome, awesome, privilege!"

Tiffany Chin, another student team member, also called it an “awesome experience.”

“This country (Romania) is full of searching people, desperate to find a true meaning to life,” Tiffany wrote, and mentioned the repeat visit she planned. “I will have the opportunity to minister to these people, specifically the children and teenagers, and to share the love of Jesus with them.”

Michael Van Patter also understood the needs he saw in Romania, after the decades of communist rule. “Now as a free society,” he wrote, “the people in Romania are very open to the Gospel and have a hunger that can only be satisfied by the love of Jesus.”

These teams of students and adults, of parents and their children on Short Term Mission Trips, were running a youth summer camp, leading Vacation Bible Schools, Small Groups in Bible Study, performing a puppet team ministry, playing music, leading singing and drama, teaching camp crafts, games and sports, and in their spare time (spare time?) helping with maintenance and construction. Orphanages were visited, teenagers and older women ministered to — an incredible program carefully tailored to fit a three-week visit.

One summer, Short Term Mission Trips included: Puebla, Mexico (near Mexico City); Romania (Western Romania Orphanage, and village); Bucharest (and Arad and West Camp); Kampala, Uganda, and Kenya; and, in the States, a University Campus; then North Miami and Little Haiti in Florida; and Tucson, Arizona. In 1996, over 150 people participated on the teams.

To be a member of such a team, Susie Austin explained, a person must meet certain criteria. It all starts with a request from the missionary in place. The missionary designates the need and describes the type of team needed, i.e. youth or adult, etc. Then the Global Outreach office for Short Term Missions declares the trip.

A team of at least 10 people, more if requested, is selected from a list of those interested.

An application form is completed, and personal information is requested. An interview is scheduled, and it is determined where the applicant is spiritually.

There are several people trained to conduct these interviews. For instance, the Fellowship of Short Term Mission Leaders, who meet all over the nation, offer this training — as do, SIM, Wycliff, and International Missions.

At Christ Covenant, a staff of 15 volunteers handled the paperwork, the classes, and interviews. Each Short Term Team has a leader appointed, and the names of those asking to be a part of the team are passed on to them. Those selected depend on the nature of the trip, such as age and number of persons who can be accommodated at the mission site. Once a team is formed, guidelines are given to each member. These include what is required financially by the team as a whole and by each individual, shots needed, suggested clothing, and the like. Families are encouraged to go, and the parents are then responsible for their children.

Missions training includes a curriculum on international travel, safety, language, spiritual training, evangelism, music, drama, and any other specific skills needed, based on the country and the need.

Since its first Short Term Mission Trip to Jamaica in 1990, the number of teams increased. Several families and members made repeat trips, forming friendships with nationals overseas. The Jeff Gunderson family went annually, leading music, looking forward to renewing these contacts.

Elder Dale Austin and his wife Susie and family were very active in Short Term Missions, making three of these trips. At first, Susie handled the office work and financial books involved. Then the Austins led the teams to St. Vincent for three years.

“When we came back, I just started working in the office, organizing trips, learning more about it,” she said. Then she spoke of the reactions of returning team members.

“It’s a kind of mutual boost,” she said. “Missionaries are encouraged as they find team members have come with a mind-set of supporting them, and team members return spiritually refreshed.”

PROTECTING “A FRAGILE ORGANISM”

In 1997 there was a renewed emphasis at Christ Covenant on the effective administration of church discipline by the Elders. The Annual Report to the people stated that it was not a punitive process, but rather one aimed at restoration and healing, as well as that of “proactive discipling and edification.”

As the church developed, it was necessary to invoke discipline from time to time. Pastor Bernie Lawrence, an Elder from the beginning, elected when Christ Covenant first became a particular church, explained the steps that are taken.

“First, there are a couple of things everyone ought to know about church discipline,” he said. “One, the discipline that is the prerogative of the church is limited to the spiritual.”

The Session does not have the right to discipline people the way the State does. The approach is spiritual only. So the Church is not permitted to “bind anyone’s conscience” beyond what the Scripture allows.

“There’s a whole universe of privileges — “Christian liberties, in other words — that people have that we cannot encroach upon,” Bernie said.

“But where the Scripture does apply, adultery for example, the Scripture clearly states we are not to commit adultery. So when this occurs in the life of a church member, it is the responsibility of the Elders to pursue the person that has crossed that boundary (Matthew 18), and to reprove and correct (Hebrews 12). Or this may start with God’s people and the need to “admonish one another, reprove one another, and then call in the Elders if not listened to.”

In Matthew 18, Scripture instructs that one talks to the person, then if they refuse

to listen, take another person with you. And, finally, if they still do not heed, tell it to the church, the Elders.

“So most of the time when the Session conducts church discipline,” Bernie continued, “it’s the consequence of learning that a member has failed to hear spouse, or brother, or sister in Christ. Then the Elders intervene according to the Book of Church Order.”

Church discipline is conducted for several reasons.

“First, it’s to the glory of God,” Bernie said. “He is a holy God, and we want to rescue that glory when it’s exposed by a sinning Christian. So, it’s for the glory of God.”

“Then it’s for the reclamation of the sinner. Our job is not to punish. But rather, our job is to bring a brother or sister that’s in sin, back into relationship with Christ and His Church. That’s where Hebrews 12 comes in.”

“And third, it’s to preserve the peace and purity of the church. The church, which is the apple of God’s eye, is a fragile organism and is always susceptible to the consequences of sin — the disease of the soul. And the Elders’ job is to preserve the church, the peace, and security, and to be vigilant about that.”

So the Elders come alongside an individual, and with persistent and patient initiatives, speak with them. They investigate to be sure of the circumstances, and then “patiently call that person to account.”

This pursuing may go on for some time, and if finally there is no response, then the formal church discipline would result in ex-communication.

“There are only a few censors that we can impose upon an individual,” Bernie explained, “because it’s a spiritual form of discipline. The Elders can admonish. We can deny the sinner access to the Lord’s Table — the Lord’s Supper, and we can ex-communicate them. If they are an officer in the church, we can remove them from their office.”

The church would keep a person away from the Lord’s Table only for as long as it took for them to repent, and ex-communication basically says that they will be treated as a non-believer, tantamount to saying, “You are not a Christian, and we will put you outside the covenant body until you convince us you are broken and contrite over this matter.”

This happens very rarely — only when the person is incorrigible, very obstinate in their sin, and will not turn from it. The church is left with no choice.

“We either tolerate it, permit it, turn our heads and pretend we don’t see it, in which case it’s an offense to God and contagious in the body, or we deal with it, and that’s the means God has given us.”

CHAPTER 23

THE VISION TAKES ON FORM AND SUBSTANCE

From the 38 steadfast members of that first particular church to the 3,000 moving into the new Worship Center, the vision took form.

The struggles, the answers to prayer, and, yes, the miracles that occurred along the way, told the story of faith and God's covenantal care. The people were thankful in many ways.

As Bernie Lawrence described it, "The people were very pleased to have a formal sanctuary that was reserved primarily for worship — a place designed to create an atmosphere of worship. There had been so many impediments, barriers, or challenges to our worship in schools, modular units, gyms, that a lot of effort went into making this place especially conducive to worship. And folks really appreciated this and the availability of the building."

1997 CONFERENCES HELD

Occupying the New Worship Center opened the door to hosting large gatherings. On Friday, January 24, 1997, one of the first opportunities was that of hosting the annual Central Carolina Presbytery. The purpose of the Presbytery meeting is to review policy and ministry efforts, to encourage, uplift, teach, and to hold each other accountable.

At the worship service on that Friday night, Dr. Douglas Kelly, Professor of Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, spoke. His opening message was on "Brokenness and Glory."

There were 100 pastors and Elders and their wives attending from 40 churches and missions in the local Presbytery.

Saturday morning after doughnuts and coffee (lunch was served later), with decorations and hospitality provided by 17 Women in the Church (led by Renee' Coleman), Pastor Reeder enthusiastically welcomed the delegates. The commissioners from Christ Covenant were Paul Joyce, Bill Thomas, and Larry Kirkman. It is typical for Elders to rotate attendance at these quarterly meetings.

"It's a duty and an opportunity for us to represent Christ Covenant to this larger body," Paul Joyce said. "We discuss the various programs and actions taken in such things as missions, ordaining pastors, and in church discipline. The fellowship with these pastors and Elders is vital to maintaining the spiritual health of our congregation."

Following this gathering, the Revitalization Conference was held at Christ Covenant the first week of February. As RTS Chairman of the ministerial advisory board and Doctoral class instructor, Pastor Reeder led the Revitalization Annual Conferences. This year, pastors and Elders agreed on a common purpose — "to seek to be the Lord's instruments for an effective ministry to the churches which they serve." The Worship Center housed this conference, formally entitled, "From Embers to Flame." About 80 church leaders attended basic and second year seminars.

Then in the following weeks, Christ Covenant's Annual Mission Conference was held. Many missionaries returned from the field for this time of fellowship, personal communication, and re-commitment. Luncheons and dinners were held with a missionary at each table. They met with Sunday Bible school classes and small groups to give and receive encouragement.

The new Worship Center with its wide circular foyer was an adventure in world outreach as booths were decorated for the various countries represented. There was the African hut, the colorful Spanish and South American displays, European, Philippine, inner-city, and other missions featured.

A full week of activities focused on world evangelism from Feb. 22 to March 2 and ended at Sunday Worship services with Dr. Don Patterson, from Mission to the World, speaking.

Another exciting conference was the Fall Theological Conference with R.C. Sproul, pastor, teacher, writer and Chairman of the Board at Ligonier Ministries in Orlando, Florida. The weekend of Sept. 27-29, 1997 saw 1400 people from as far away as New York, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, filling the Worship Center and "Renewing Their Minds."

Dr. Sproul has written over 30 books and conducted the radio program "Renewing Your Mind" which was broadcast nationally five days a week. He was professor of Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando. He also founded Ligonier Ministries, a teaching ministry that "assists the church in nurturing believers."

Seventy tables with display stands interspersed were arranged in the gym, making books, videos, audio tapes and teaching materials available for those attending.

As was reported in *The Courier*, it required two full-time Ligonier staff members and 11 part-time ones to arrange this conference. Organizers traveled from Florida to set up the event. Christ Covenant provided 18 volunteers who served 50 gallons — that's 3,000 cups — of coffee with snacks for all.

Following the conference, Pastor Harry Reeder recalled standing in the balcony looking down on the crowded sanctuary. He was overcome with a deep appreciation for all the folks who had labored, and those who had given to the building program.

"This is why we built this place," he mused, "for just such a gathering."

LOOKING AHEAD: LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Another area of emphasis for 1997 was in long-range planning.

"God has continued to bless us with numerical growth," Dick Osman, Chairman of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), reported. "This necessitated the on-

going expansion of our facilities. So a Master Plan has been developed (by Little and Associates Architects) with sequencing of the highest priority facility needs.”

These were determined by assessing and quantifying the needs of each church ministry. Next steps in the process were synthesizing these needs to reflect the space requirements for the church as a whole, evaluating all options, then coming up with a Master Plan “characterized by flexibility, financial integrity, and consistency.”

The Session agreed to move forward to develop a long-range plan for the church with a 7 to 10 year horizon to help “lead Christ Covenant into the 21st Century.”

In those years, there was a “serious commitment to writing long-range planning for each ministry,” Bernie Lawrence said. “We’ve got a cycle for that that moves through leadership in the course of the year and winds up directing our annual planning for the ministry. Once a year, Harry (Pastor Harry Reeder) proposes changes to our long-range plan. The leadership then reviews it, modifies it, and then adopts it, and that dictates our planning for the up-coming year.

“So long-range planning is in continual flux and reflected in the various ministry reports for a given year. And though we see what was accomplished one year and what is planned to the year ahead, the long-range plan goes a step further and looks beyond that 5 to 10 years.”

IN THE HANDS OF PROVIDENCE

As the church abides in the hands of Providence, the members are reminded of what has gone before. They have learned to have patience — God knows what He is doing — and to be thankful for his guidance in the past and in the days ahead. So, Christ Covenant moves forward with confidence. Her purpose, vision, and philosophy as a Servant/Resource church remain steadfast and fruitful.

Our Church Purpose

“For God’s glory, Christ Covenant is committed to developing disciples in the Charlotte-Metrolina area and throughout the world so that in all things Christ might have the preeminence.”

Our Church Verse

“...that in all things Christ might have the preeminence.”

Colossians 1:18

Our Vision Statement

Christ Covenant desires to be a Servant/Resource church that is committed to excellence and effectiveness for the extension and expansion of the Kingdom of God by:

- Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ here and throughout the world with a commitment to personal evangelism, church-planting and church revitalization ministries.
- Preparing the people of God with the Word of God so that we may live for the

glory of God, empowered by the Spirit of God.

- Penetrating the culture with ministries and members who effectively apply the salt and light of the Biblically-framed lifeview, a Spirit-filled lifestyle, and a Christ-focused lifelove.
- Producing a witness for Christ that is marked by truth (sound doctrine) and grace (sensitive relationships).

“O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.”

Isaiah 25:1 (NIV).

EPILOGUE

Every book has a stopping point. For her wonderfully detailed history of Christ Covenant Church Mary Burke chose to end at a pinnacle moment in 1997. It was a moment that reflected on both exciting and difficult years of faith exercised, patience stretched and goals accomplished by the grace of God.

We already know that Mary’s successors will have much to chronicle as they take up the story from 1998 and publish a history of the recent past and days that have yet to unfold as God directs our steps and determines our length of years.

In our story “so far,” this record of what seems like just yesterday, we can clearly see God’s hand as we faced the challenges of the 1980s and the 1990s. For many of us, these are the roots of blessings we now enjoy — those that have shaped the persons we have become, the families we have raised, and the ministries we pursue. Mary’s account was able to put into the context of history the first 20 years of our “growing up unto Him.”

In the next account of *In the Hands of God*, we will witness the entrance of this

church body into “adulthood.” It will, undoubtedly, detail the construction of more campus buildings; the work of men and women who God called to this ministry and then, later, to other service; the growth of some ministries, dramatic changes in others and new initiatives that could not have been imagined in the last century. And we can be confident that we will then see with clarity the glorious impact of the extended time of challenge that God providentially allowed in the life of our church in our recent past.

Think of it, we are writing history — whether we realize it or not. Before we realize how many years have passed, a new generation will be reading about our years of stewardship of this church. May it please God to allow us to fill the pages that recount our time with good reports about what we did and how we did it. May our story reveal our love for one another and faithfulness to Christ and His Church.

I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. ... Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you. ... For the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance. In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye, like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions. The LORD alone led him ...

From Deuteronomy 32

Stella Snyder, Catherine Plough, December 2006

APPENDIX 1

ADDITIONAL LEADERS AND COMMITTEES

1986-1987

Note: The new Church Purchase Authorization Procedure, (P.O. System), ready for use.

REPORT OF STATED CLERK: Harry Martin.

Total Membership: 337 Communicant, 192 Non-Communicant
(44% growth)

ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY COMMITTEE:

Rick Mosteller; Ed Sweeten; Tom Van Beek

SESSION MINISTRIES:

ASSIMILATION: Mike Terrell, Chairman

SHEPHERDING: Hugh Elder; Ron Gillespie

MEN OF THE COVENANT: Marquis J. Ryan, Peter Stollmack,
Coordinators

Note: This was a small group conversational prayer meeting at Charlotte Christian School cafeteria, held the first Saturday morning of every month to pray for the families and the church.

WORD AND DEED: Elder Mike Couch; Elder Harry Martin; Deacon Edwin Thorne, Jr.

Note: "Seeing God at work, linking word with action to respond to the hurts of this world." The Tape Ministry, the Perspective Radio Ministries, and The Courier, to assist in teaching, evangelism, and fellowship

PULPIT TAPE MINISTRY: Larry Cothorn; Janice Grey, assisting

Note: In 1986, this ministry provided 1,435 tapes (a 30% increase).

EQUIPPING: Elder Harold Driver

DIACONATE MERCY MINISTRIES: Hugh Elder, Jr.

Note: Six of the 12 Deacons were appointed to serve on a Mercy Committee, to develop and train workers and lead the various mercy ministry programs.

DAWN (Discipleship and Weekly Nurture): Pastor Harry Reeder

Note: DAWN expanded from one group of 9-16 men meeting Friday mornings at 6:30 a.m. in an upstairs room at Anderson's Restaurant, to add a second group of 8-12 men meeting in the Park View office building on Wednesday mornings at 6:00 a.m. A third group was organizing for location on Independence Blvd. The same lesson was taught at each for ease in changing locations as needed. Those who were able stayed for breakfast and fellowship.

FBF (Fisherman Bible Fellowships): Pastor Harry Reeder

Note: Two study groups offered — one at Duke Power and the other at Southern Bell meet "in your place of work during lunch hour." This ministry is for the purpose of evangelism, equipping, and challenging people to growth in Christ.

SUNDAY BIBLE SCHOOL

ADULT DIVISION: Larry Kirkman.

Note: In 1986, attendance up 25%.

CHILDREN'S DIVISION: Nora Sherrill

Note: Started a teacher's training class held during the SBS hour "so that we will have a pool of trained and willing individuals to draw from when the Children's Bible school grows in enrollment and needs more workers."

NURSERIES: Susan Underwood; Texie Shelby

YOUTH CHURCH: Cindy Reeder, Coordinator

Teachers: Joann Nabb; Kathy Madsen; Cindy Reeder; Debbie Rucker;
Toni

Couch

Seraph Choir: Kathy Madsen, directing

W.O.V (Welcome Our Visitors): Bob Long, Coordinator

Note: Ministry to provide Greeters for the a.m. and p.m. worship services and for Sunday Bible school. Also, to follow up on evangelism referrals.

SALT SHAKER DINNER FELLOWSHIP: Dick and Melissa Van Halsema.

PIONEER GIRLS: Becky Dornbush, Leader. (10-12 girls meet every week.)

HARVESTERS: William Spiess, Coordinator

Note: First full year of Seniors (50+) meeting. "A new ministry to meet needs and strengthen the faith of Seniors...seeking ways they can make a contribution to the lives of younger members.

LEAD (LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP): Mike Couch

Note: Purpose to introduce new evangelism ministries for Christ Covenant

Steering Committee: Jeff Clayton, teacher; Joe Ed Taylor, instructor and on-the-job trainer; Bob Palmer, neighborhood canvas leader; Chris Madsen; Johnny Adkins; Richard Price; Vickie Reeder; Dot Driver; Frank Newell

MISSIONS: Mike Couch, Coordinator

Note: 1) Faith promises increased 58% — over \$28,000;

2) 3rd mission trip with 10 church members going to Cotin, Haiti, to help MIA in their medical mission and at the home of Chip and Brenda Trigg, our first missionary couple.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH: Miriam Jones, President; Stelle Snyder, Vice President; Vickie Sweeten, Secretary-Treasurer; Carolyn Cousar, Historian
Fellowship, receptions, banquets: Donna Wright, Lou Anne Anderson, Nancy Taylor

Hospitality, meals and transportation: Judy Roberts, Debbie Gillespie

SINGLES I MINISTRY: Dick Givens, Coordinator

Note: Meet every other Friday evening at the home of Harold and Miriam Jones.

SINGLES II MINISTRY: Jocelyn Philpot, Coordinator

Note: This ministry was organized as an outgrowth of the 1986 Divorce Recovery Workshop to provide support and fellowship for the older singles.

1987-1988

YOUTH MINISTRIES: Kathy Woolner, Director of the Junior and Senior Youth Programs

ASSIMILATION: Ken Samuelson, Coordinator

Note: The goal was to involve new members in meaningful worship, fellowship, and ministry.

HARVESTERS; Bill Speiss, Coordinator

Note: The designation was changed to "For 60 years and over." They had found that "50 and over" was too wide a range.

DAWN (Discipleship and Weekly Nurture)

Note: This ministry expanded when a third group was added, meeting at the Venus restaurant in Matthews. The other two groups were meeting at Anderson's restaurant and at the Park View office building. Conducted by Harry Reeder, the purpose was to challenge men for leadership at home, work, and church a leadership that was faithful to the Word.

LEAD (Lifestyle Evangelism And Discipleship): Joe Ed Taylor, Coordinator

Note: The ministry used the Evangelism Explosion training developed by Dr. James Kennedy. In 1987 the church sent Tom Henry, Jeff Clayton, and Joe Ed Taylor to Florida for instruction in this.

ProCLAIM MINISTRY (Christian Life and Issues Ministry): Bob Moore, Coordinator

Note: The Sanctity of Human Life and other social ills such as pornography, drug abuse, homosexuality, etc. were addressed. 1987 was the start-up year with emphasis on abortion and picketing abortion clinics, and providing shepherding homes for women in "crisis pregnancy."

SINGLES II: Jocelyn Philpot, Coordinator

Note: This ministry was to provide a caring environment for Singles inside and outside Christ Covenant Church. There were 35 on the mailing list.

MERCY MINISTRY: Dr. Christian Madsen, Chairman

Note: Barnabas Ministry administered mercy to those outside the church, helping 17 families with financial assistance that year.

Included on the committee were: Ross Dornbush, Barnabas Coordinator; Bob Shuster, Ron Stewart, Mercy Ministry Coordinator, Ed Thorne

SOUND MINISTRY: Ron Miller, Coordinator

Note: Primarily a ministry to the congregation. Recorded the services from which the Perspective radio broadcast and "Christ Covenant Pulpit" tapes were produced. Equipment was added to improve the recording quality.

Sound Technicians: Randy Carter; Jack Coobs; Tim Driver; Steve Musterman; Kris Redwing

ADVERTISING/COMMUNICATION: Coordinator, Chuck Robbins

Note: Purpose was to aid the ministries in advertising and other means of public awareness with brochures, ads, radio-TV, signs, and The Courier. Developed a new ad series, video, and materials on the ministry center, and upgraded The Courier, adding the "Update" communication.

Committee members: Trish Wallin, *The Courier* editor; Stelle Snyder; Bob Veerman; Gary Slavens; Joel Tevebaugh; John White; Dick and Melissa Van Halsema; Ray Cromer

CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE: Grey Dixon, Coordinator

Note: Purpose was "To promote fathering among men by equipping them in their roles as parents, as active Christian influences to youth, and as Christ-like examples to other men."

Grades 1-2: Tree Climbers — (father with son program) 18 boys with 18 dads.

Grades 3-6: Stockade — 20 boys with 4 leaders.

Brigade Chairman: Harold Driver

Stockade Chief Ranger: Grey Dixon

Stockade Rangers: Fred Ely, Bill Stockton, Peter Stollmack

Tree-Climber Coordinator, Ed Wright with Roger Koehler for '89.

PIONEER GIRLS: Elder Harold Driver, in charge of Youth Clubs

Note: Harold met with church members in February 1988 to organize the Pioneer Girls and the Boys Brigade. Purpose: "To help children and youth put Christ in every phase of life, form healthy relationships, and develop positive feelings about themselves."

In May, the leaders' kick-off meeting was held, and in June a training session offered. By October, 50 girls registered and afternoon meetings were held.

The Leaders were: Grade 1 — Jenny DeFreitas, Lori Pierce; Grade 2 — Danielle Benson, Joan Garrett; Grade 3 — Carol Hill, Nancy Hullett; Grade 4 — Vannie Keeling, Patti Brigman; Grades 5 and 6 — Yvonne Moore, Nancy Stockton; and, Assistant Coordinator, Susan Veerman

MISSIONS: Mike Moore, Coordinator

Note: In 1988 Faith Promise giving reached \$76,000, and with the regular percentage from the general fund, the total for missions and benevolences exceeded \$194,000, or 23% of the total general fund income for the year.

Missions outside the US:

Harry Reeder and Ed Wright traveled to the Caribbean to assist MIA; Senior High group spent 2 weeks in Mexico; two groups went to Jamaica to assist after hurricane.

New missionaries from Christ Covenant:

Joy Brown to Niger, Africa with SIM; Beth Hoagland, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staff at NC State; Ron and Lizanne Johnson to train at Columbia, SC, for departure to Spain with MTW (missions board) in 1990.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH (WIC): Amy Hadady, Coordinator

Note: 1988 was a year of growth and change as a reorganization began in April. Purpose: to “provide opportunities for women in the study of the Scriptures, prayer, fellowship, and serve the Lord together; to know Christ and extend His kingdom in her life, home, church community, and throughout the world.”

A Steering Committee divided the group into four different ministry areas: Inreach (church social activities), Outreach (outside WIC), Downreach (included Small Groups with a new women’s DAWN group taught by Tom Henry for working women), and Upreach, accomplished through a monthly gathering for the entire population of church women.

Committee members (1987): Miriam Jones, President; Linda Robbins, Secretary; Carolyn Cousar, Historian. Others, Carrie Fultz, Annie Burnette, Donna Wright, Julie Slocum, and Judy Roberts

WELCOMING MINISTRY: Bob and Ann Grignon, Coordinators

Note: The purpose was “to increase effectiveness as a body of believers by creating an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness that welcomes new visitors to Christ Covenant.

Objectives:

1. Greeters stationed at each door, a.m. and p.m. services and at Sunday school doors to greet and give directions;
2. To give information to visitors;
3. Prepare name tags for members and visitors;
4. Invite new visitors into members’ homes for dinner and fellowship. (Two Hospitality Sundays a year; Salt Shaker Dinners for new couples; and singles each month).

During 1988 there was “tremendous growth.” Since moving into the new building, there was an average of 26 new first time visitors each Sunday in 43 visiting families.

WORSHIP COORDINATOR MINISTRY: Bob Palmer, Coordinator

Note: In 1988, there were 8 teams on a rotational basis with 40 Coordinators (ushers), up from 32 the year before. Dress code: dark jacket, gray trousers, matching necktie, and a boutonniere, easy to identify, for help with worship folders, seating, or emergency situations. Motto: “To God’s glory.”

CHURCH OFFICE: Bob Dyar, Coordinator

Administrative Assistants: M. C. Moshos; Jo Miller; Amy Hadady

Weekly Volunteers:

Susie Austin, Marge Van Genderen, Linda Dixon, Pam Lanning, Melody Paules, Cynthia Carter and Becky Richardson

TREASURER: David Hollingshead

Total Assets Comparison as of Dec. 31, 1988

1986 = \$519,012.62

1987 = 1,659,564.72

1988 = 3,107,924.06

STATED CLERK'S REPORT: Harry Martin, Clerk of Session

526 Communicant Members; 316 Non-Communicant Members

1989

SHEPHERDING COMMITTEE: Bernie Lawrence, Chairman

Note: The Committee of two Elders and two Deacons identified, interviewed, trained, and sent out over 50 men as shepherds to be responsible for 5 church families.

MERCY COMMITTEE and BARNABAS MINISTRY: Rob Schuster, Chairman

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Tom Van Beek, Chairman

Other members: Dana Rucker; Joe Spencer; Ed Thorne; Renee Coleman; Bill Spies with Robert Powell (everyday Manager of Facilities/Sexton).

ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE SCHOOL: Jeffrey Levinson, Coordinator

ASSIMILATION: Ken Samuelson, Coordinator

Note: The goal of this ministry was to ensure that new members were actively involved in ministry, fellowship, and worship.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE: Grey Dixon, Coordinator

Grades 1 and 2 — Tree Climbers, Mike Terrell, Coordinator

Grades 3 to 6 — Stockade, Grey Dixon, Chief Ranger

Stockade Rangers: Fred Ely; Gary Corwin; Andy Rawson; Roger Koehler; Dan Biddell; Don Hilgeman; Bill Hough; Howard Guthman (Assistant).

Grades 7 to 12 — Battalion

PIONEER GIRLS: Carol Bodwell, Coordinator

Leader staff: Kindergarten — Cindy Stack, Laura Walker, Kathy Klein, Linda Thompson; 1st Grade — Lori Pierce, Kathy Bonjour; 2nd Grade — Jean Garrett, Susan Veerman; 3rd Grade — Texie Shelby, Susan Underwood; 4th Grade — Anita Howie, Ann Hilgeman; 5th/6th Grade — Yvonne Moore, Joni Killough

Pioneer Girls Club Committee: Marion Palmer, Debby Kelly, Carol Hill, Carla Alden, Carolyn Cousar, Jenny DeFreitas, Miriam Laundry, Mary Bowles, Laura Bodwell, Alicia Garrett and Lisa Grignon

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY BIBLE SCHOOL: Nora Sherrill, Coordinator

Note: This was a year of building up staff with the goal of making God's truth more real to the children.

CHURCH OFFICE; Bob Dyar, Coordinator

Note: Almost 500 events scheduled each month!

Staff: Sue Carrick, full-time Financial Assistant (handling almost all of the church accounting/financial activities); Trish Wallin, full-time receptionist, then administrative assistant; Geri Ulatowski, administrative assistant; Susie Austin, permanent support staff

Assistance with facility needs: John VanGenderen and Phil Henderson.

COVENANT GROUPS: Dick Osman, Coordinator

Note: Ministry purpose was "to incorporate newcomers to Christ Covenant into groups. Pastor's Class developed, spearheaded by Lynn and Lisa Phillips. Three Covenant Groups were formed from the first Pastor's Class with "excellent results."

Ministry team: Tom Henry; Skip and Nancy Hulett; Dick and Desire' Osman; Lynn and Lisa Phillips; John and Nora Sherrill

THE HARVESTERS: Headed by John and Marge Van Genderen

Note: Ministry grew from 18 to 33 on the membership list.

HOSTING INTERNATIONALS MINISTRY (HIM): David Sewing, Coordinator;
and Alec Epting, Administrator

Note: Begun in July 1988, this ministry served as an outreach to encourage meaningful friendships between internationals in the community and Christians within the church and on local college campuses, in which the Gospel would be shared through lifestyle and verbal witness.

In this first year, six families from Christ Covenant served as host sponsors. In the second year, working with Prosperity PCA church, 21 families were involved.

LEAD (Lifestyle Evangelism and Discipleship): Acting Coordinator, Harry Reeder

Note: LEAD developed to promote evangelism, using the "Evangelism Explosion" material, plus on-the-job training.

Leadership team: Ron Gillespie; Jeff Clayton; Frank Newell; Steve Walker; Ken Buckingham

MEDIA/PERSPECTIVE MINISTRY: John McMurray, Coordinator

Note: Several upgrades to the audio system were added. Now there were four regular sound board operators with three alternates who also helped with equipment maintenance and technical problems. The Perspective radio broadcast now recorded and produced totally by members of Christ Covenant as an outreach ministry.

MEN OF THE COVENANT: Rob Veerman, Coordinator

ProCLAIM, (Pro Christian Life and Issues Ministry): Carson Daves, Coordinator

Note: "The Lord led me," Carson said, "to develop a SBS elective which dealt with issues of pornography, politics, the public school system, medical ethics, the judicial system and abortion...where and how to stand firm...and to make a stand for King Jesus as you speak the truth in love."

PUBLICATIONS: Stelle Snyder, Coordinator

Note: The Courier became a quarterly with less emphasis on events and more on people. The Update section added schedules with meetings and ministry opportunities. A transitional year.

Contributors: Dick and Melissa Van Halsema, Trish Wallin, John Baker and the staff of Baker Designs. Bob Dyar acted as Coordinator much of the year.

SPORTS OUTREACH: Jim Brown, Coordinator

Note: During the last few months of 1989, the sports program changed design and purpose. More emphasis was placed on evangelism within the community. Sports included a basketball league with plans for softball, T-ball, soccer, golf and others — involving men, women, and children.

WORSHIP COORDINATOR MINISTRY: Dan Pisano, Coordinator

Note: Men served as greeters, ushers, with a steward. There were eight teams of seven each (up from four), serving at the 8:30 or 11:00 worship services, and alternating the evening service.

A training manual is provided, and silk flowers are worn on jacket lapels as a means of identification.

COUNSELING: Tom Henry, Associate Pastor

Note: A counseling study committee was commissioned. Permanent Counseling Ministry Team is formed. The Session approves two counselors to work with Christ Covenant: Beth Bareiter and Palmer Trice.

DISCIPLINE:

Note: The Session reported, "As we grow in size and become better known in our community, we have been challenged with people who are at all points in the Christian walk. As a result, we have experienced numerous opportunities and also church discipline needs. These areas can be filled with both joy and sorrow and we have experienced a lot of both over this past year. What a joy it is to see the results of a changed life in one of God's children as they are reclaimed through the process of discipline."

TREASURER: David Hollingshead, Chairman of the Finance Committee

Note: John Sherrill became Church Treasurer in 1989. Sue Carrick came on staff for accounting duties.

STATED CLERK: Harold Driver

Total Membership on December 31, 1989:

652 Communicant Members; 463 Non-Communicant Members

1990

CHURCH MOTTO: "Developing Disciples for God's Glory"

CHURCH VERSE: "...That in all things Christ might have preeminence" Col. 1:18

COUNSELING MINISTRY: Tom Henry, Coordinator

Committee: Steve Halverson, Chairman; Marni Halverson; Harvey and Beth Harrelson; Judy Huckaby, Staff counselor; Gary Rice, lawyer

COVENANT GROUP MINISTRY: Tom Henry, Coordinator

Note: 34 Small Groups reported.

Ministry team: Jim and Loretta Harbin; Harvey and Beth Harrelson; Bruce and Mary Johnson; Dick and Desire' Osman; John and Stelle Snyder

SINGLES MINISTRY: Tom Henry, Coordinator

COLLEGE AGE: (No Coordinator recorded.)

SINGLES ONE: Bruce Kellogg, Ministry Administrator

Note: Leadership was in the process of establishing a permanent ministry.

SINGLES AGAIN: Jerry and Gwen Berry, Facilitators

Note: Ministry began in March of 1990.

CHURCH OFFICE: Bob Dyar, Coordinator

Administrative Support Staff: Sue Carrick; Trish Wallin; Geri Ulatowski; Susie Austin; Alison Bozeman (joined the Support staff in 1990)

Facilities needs: Robert Powell; Paul Yates; John VanGenderen, assisting

CONNECTING MINISTRY: Lynn and Lisa Phillips, Coordinators

Note: Ministry purpose to help those who are seeking to serve at Christ Covenant, enfolding, encouraging, and equipping them.

Team members: Walter and Frankie Hendrix, assisting; Jerry and Sandy Currin; Bob and Marge Long

PUBLICATIONS MINISTRY: Stelle Snyder, Coordinator

Note: Responsible for producing The Courier, worship folder, the Update, the Communicator, and inserts, conference materials, and mailers.

Participants: John Baker, design; Dave Raplee, Bob Dyar; Trish Wallin

ProCLAIM (Pro Christian Life and Issues Ministry): Carson Daves, Coordinator

Note: Primary role this year was leading a group of pro-lifers from Christ Covenant in picketing local abortuaries on Saturdays.

Participants: Tom and Cathy Greene led sidewalk counseling; Carolyn Coursar and Cindy Reeder led two groups of ministering women; Patty Marion coordinated participation in "Rally for Life" held in Washington.

HARVESTERS: Bill Powis, Coordinator

PERSPECTIVE: Bob Dyar, Coordinator

Note: This radio and tape ministry aired the Perspective program on WHVN in Charlotte, WHCB in Bristol, TN, and a national family radio program.

Team members: Kris Redwing, recording, copying, distributing; Diane Patti, sound ministry

WELCOMING: Bob Grignon, Ministry Coordinator; Ruth Samuelson, Coordinator of Greeters

Note: A new Visitor's Center was added, New Visitor Parking, and signs indicating buildings at campus entrances.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Barrett Mosbacker, Director

Note: Average attendance weekly was 550 adults in Adult Sunday Bible Study; 300 Tiny Tots (0-3 years); 320 in Children's Sunday Bible school; 270 in Youth Church. Shortage of teachers, sheer numbers of children and the acute lack of space has been the team's greatest concern in Children's Sunday school.

Participants: Keith DeFreitas, Coordinator Adult SBS; Susan Rice, Coordinator Children's Church

STATED CLERK: Dennis Carter

800 Communicant Members of Christ Covenant Church; 573 Non-communicant members

0 deaths, 74 baptisms, 3 marriages

1991 – 1992

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH: David and Angela Pacey, Ministry Coordinators

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH: Danny Church

COVENANT GROUPS: David Dickson, Ministry Coordinator

Note: Small Groups grew from 34 to 38 in 1991

Covenant Group Expansion Team (developing new groups): Bruce and Mary Johnson; Harvey and Beth Harrelson; Mark and Eva Massi

Covenant Group Support Team (support of existing groups): David Dickson; Dave Forrest; Buddy Cook

COUNSELING MINISTRY: Steve Halvorson, Coordinator

Note: David Russ added for counseling needs with Tom Henry and Judy Huckaby.

Standing Counseling Ministry Team: Steve Halvorson; Harvey and Beth Harrelson; Judy Huckaby

Ministry Development Team: David Dickson; Rod Huckaby; Dave Hollingshead; Tommy Belk; Ken Bodwell; Gayle Bookout; Buddy and Susan Cook; Larry and Elaine Cothorn; David Russ. (This team developed a comprehensive plan for staffing a Counseling Ministry whose mission is to provide Biblical counseling. The concept was for a lay counseling ministry that would team up with ordained church officers, shepherds, and leadership for a pastoral care program and provide an ongoing educational approach.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH: Connie Brown, Coordinator

WIC Small Group Bible Studies: Ann Grigon, Director; Mary Soos; Judy Huckaby

- Inreach Ministry: Ruth Samuelson, Director; Beth Theiling. Church Social Activities/Receptions; Loretta Harbin, Hospitality Meal Ministry; Bonnie

Buckingham, Emergency Care Ministry; Fran Roberts: 24-hour Prayer Chain

- Outreach Ministry: Kathy Klein, Gifts for New Mothers; Susan Pizzuti; Kathy Bonjour
- Reformation Day Party for Covenant Children: Cindy Stack; Linda Thompson
- Shepherdess Ministry: Sally Smith, Coordinator

Note: The new Shepherdess Ministry developed for “a woman to ‘come alongside’ another woman in a tangible way because of need.” The program was already playing a significant role in the lives of women who were paired together.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES:

Note: In 1991, an average of 270 students participated weekly in Children’s Sunday Bible school. Due to crowding, the church leadership began to explore the possibilities of three worship services and two Sunday Bible schools.

Pre-School Ministries: Susan Shepherd, Coordinator

Elementary Age Ministries: Jennie DeFreitas

Children’s Sunday Bible School: Leslie Carmichael, Laura Walker, Coordinators

Children’s Church: Susan Rice, Coordinator

Pioneer Girls: Yvonne Moore, Club Coordinator

Note: In their fourth year, with steady growth, there were 93 girls and 20 guides enrolled.

The staff included: Marion Palmer, Secretary/Treasurer; Carolyn Cousar, Refreshments; Kathy Magee, Camp Cherith Liaison; Lisa Williamson, Jenny Bartscher, nursery

Pioneer Girl Guides were: Karen Drummond, Judy Vander Ploeg,

Kindergarten Scooters: Susan Veerman

First Grade Voyagers: Robbie Johnson, Lori Pierce, Pattie Raplee

Second Grade Voyagers: Joan Garrett, Karen Hearn, Cherry Nyholm, Lori Palamara

Third Grade Pathfinders: Pat Carter, Sharon Fryer, Texie Shelby

Fourth Grade Pathfinders Kimberlie Carrick, Sandy Currin, Betty Witteveen

Fifth Grade Trailblazers: Joni Killough, Barbara Speck

Sixth Grade Trailblazers: Chris Davidson, Sharon Smith

Christian Service Brigade: Mike Terrell, Ministry Coordinator

Vacation Bible School: Jennie DeFreitas, Barb Spencer, Coordinators

VISION 2001: POSITIONING PHASE

Positioning Phase Committee: Robert Dyar, Executive Director, Ministries & Outreach, Chairman

Committee Members: Walter Hendrix; Brad Shelby; John Sherrill; Ken Samuelson; Bernie Lawrence; Max Stallings; Wiley Brown

COMMUNICATION/ PUBLICATIONS: Stelle Snyder, Publications Ministry Coordinator

Note: Responsible for the church brochure, weekly worship folder, the Update, The Communicator, weekly notifications, and the Annual Report, among other publications.

Volunteers: Dave Raplee; Carol McCray, design; Mary Burke, writer; Trish Wallin; John Baker; Bob Dyar

PERSPECTIVE: Kris Redwing, Ministry Coordinator; Dianne Patti, assisting

Note: Perspective was the radio and sermon cassette tape ministry known as "Christ Covenant Pulpit," now averaging 150 tapes per month. The Perspective radio program brought in tape orders from all over the South. Locally it was heard daily on WHVN (AM), and Sundays on WMIT (FM).

ProCLAIM: Carson Daves: Ministry Coordinator

Note: Pro-Christian Life And Issues Ministry educated the congregation as to the spiritual battles in the community. They participated in the first Life Chain formed in Charlotte in January 1991, when 500 from Christ Covenant lined streets to show opposition to abortion.

SPORTS OUTREACH AND RECREATION (SOAR)

Note: 1991 was a year of growth with 600 youth participating in baseball, basketball, and soccer. Many were involved as coaches, scorers, team moms, etc. A SOAR Sunday school class was established, teaching the philosophy behind SOAR, that of a Christian perspective on winning and sports, and of leadership growth.

YOUTH LEAGUES: Chris Mapes, Coordinator

SOAR ADULTS: Max Helton, Coordinator

Team members: Dale and Susie Austin, Women's Softball; Scott Dorsett, Men's Softball; Leila Doughton, Aerobics; Jim Brown, Men's Basketball; Anne Warner, Coed Volleyball; Bob Palmer, Father/Son Camping; Tony Bozeman, Go-Cart Racing (There were six church-wide golf tournaments this year.)

CONNECTING: Tom and Jenny Applegate, Ministry Coordinators

Note: The team grew to over 20 people helping new people at Christ Covenant to connect. The ministry previously called "Welcoming" was folded into the larger ministry, "Connecting."

MISSIONS: Steve Fox, Director of Missions

Note: The former "Mission Committee" became the Foreign Mission Committee, and a new Home Mission Committee was created. Home Missions include church planting, international students, mercy, and campus ministries — those within the US.

The Foreign Missions group was focused on church planting, nationals, and strategic worldwide sites. Emphasis was on 1 to 2 week mission trips: two teams were sent to Ecuador, others to Romania, Haiti, Uganda, and Germany/Denmark. The "Vacation With A Purpose" program also sponsored short-term mission trips to Jamaica, Sweden, and Peru.

Six new missionaries were recruited: Jewitts, Spain (for the Epicenter Program there); Campbells, Spain; Smallings, Ecuador (Epicenter Program); Siebens, Italy; Baldwins, Ireland; Taylors, Philippines.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY: David Sewing, Ministry Coordinator

Note: This ministry began at Christ Covenant in 1988. The purpose was to encourage the development of meaningful friendships between internationals in their community and Christians within the church. This was done on local college campuses through sharing the Gospel in "lifestyle and verbal witness."

SUPPORT STAFF: Sue Carrick, Assistant Dir. Of Administration for Finance; Susie Austin, Sr. Administrative Assistant/Information Specialist; Alison Bozeman, Executive Administrative Assistant; Connie Brown, Executive Administration Assistant; Geri Ulatowski, Executive Administrative Assistant; Peggy Hoyle, Administrative Assistant; Connie Pratt, Administrative Assistant; Rita Maye, Receptionist; Robert Powell, Facilities Assistant

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK: Dr. Thomas Roberts, Clerk of Session

The total membership for Christ Covenant as of December 31, 1991 is:

905 Communicant Members; 677 Non-Communicant Members

1992 – 1993

Note: In 1992, a lack of facilities at Christ Covenant necessitated a third Sunday Morning Worship service.

In December of 1992, the church acquired about 6 acres of adjacent property on the corner of Fullwood and 51 Highway with houses. This property immediately accommodated administrative offices for missions, SOAR, etc.

In April of 1993, the first phase of the Christian Activities Center was completed, and the new building was named the Wilcox Building in honor of Christ Covenant Organizing Pastor Bob Wilcox, who died of cancer in March of 1993.

1993 marked 10 years of Harry Reeder's ministry at Christ Covenant. With "the Lord's affirmation" of his call, and the support of the Elders, friends and colleagues, he concluded and announced in August (to the Session) and in September (to the congregation) that the Lord would leave him here.

The leadership adopted a philosophy of ministry call the "Four Doors of Discipleship," including: Downreach, Upreach, Outreach, and Inreach.

MINISTRY STAFF: Cherry Nyholm, Administrative Assistant, Elementary Age; Connie Pratt, Administrative Assistant, Worship & Music; Gatha Schleicher Administrative Assistant, Pre-School Age; Marianne Lambeth, Financial Assistant; Cathy Plough, Manager of Publications/Communications; Terri Theyson, Publications/Communications Assistant; Robert Powell, Facilities Assistant; Ann Lambrose, Receptionist; Rachel Cannada, Receptionist

SCHOOL MINISTRIES: COVENANT DAY SCHOOL: Barrett Mosbacker, Headmaster Ministry team: Jim Brown; John Heth; Harold Jones

From The REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK:

Total Communicant Membership: 1185; Total Non-Communicant Members: 906

1993 – 1994

Note: Steve Fox prepares to return with his family to the mission field, deciding to locate in the Caribbean Islands where he had served previously, now assisting with Ministries In Action.

Christ Covenant planted a “daughter church,” Uptown Christ Covenant. Tom Hawkes was approved as the first church planter and will pastor Uptown Christ Covenant from the Dilworth Elementary School. Some of the Elders and a core group from Christ Covenant assisted.

PASTORAL MINISTRIES: David Russ, Director

Note: Pastoral Ministries moved offices across Covenant Church Lane to the house next to the Youth Center. Teams developed around four areas: Small Groups, Women’s Ministries, Counseling, and Hospital Visitation.

SMALL GROUPS: There are 75-100 small groups meeting. New facilitators were trained by: Fran Payne; Dick Osman; Paul Joyce; Mark Massi

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES: Betty Tucker, Coordinator

Note: Two new ministries organized: Care Groups and Heart To Heart.

Women’s Ministry team: Danielle Benson; Chris Biddell; Connie Brown; Char Louckes; Jackie Rice; Elder Terry Benson; Deacon Tom Elmore

The Women’s Task Force: Formed to research and give input to begin the process of reviewing the roles and function of women in ministry. Members: Connie Brown; Aynn Gehron; Jeannie Heth; Judy Huckaby; Miriam Jones; Judy Rodgers; Sally Smith; Sharon Smith

MERCY TO MEMBERS: Dale Austin

HOSPITAL VISITATION/ HOSANNAS: Rev. Dick Tevebaugh

SHEPHERDESS: Miriam Jones, Coordinator; Connie Brown, Shepherdess Trainer

Note: There were 20 active Shepherdesses in 1993-’94.

GLOBAL OUTREACH: Steve Fox, Director

S.O.A.R: Hap Welty, Manager

Note: In the 1993-’94 year, 1,150 children from 5 to 14 years participated in soccer, basketball, and baseball where skill development and encouragement, rather than winning, was emphasized.

EVANGELISM EXPLOSION: Lucille Ruths, Coordinator

Note: People were trained to “effectively communicate” the Gospel. Weekly visits were made to the Sunday visitors by two or three-member teams.

BARNABAS MINISTRY: Ken Bodwell, then Hal Jordan, Coordinator

Note: In this Mercy to Non-Members ministry, the Deacons were assisted by many lay people. Eight to 10 families in physical or financial need were visited monthly by the team who shared the Gospel and helped meet the need.

Other GO Team Members: Elder Gary Corwin; Deacon Anthony Pizzuti; Alison Bozeman, Sr. Administrative Assistant; Marilyn King; Bill Powis and David Krausse, Foreign Missions; Dean Draddy, Home Missions Coordinator; Carson Daves, ProCLAIM; David Sewing, Coordinator Friends Worldwide

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & ASSIMILATION: Chris Hodge, Assoc. Director

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY: Sandy Tutton, Asst. Director of Elementary Age Ministries; Susan Shepherd, Asst. Director of Pre-School Age Ministries

Note: M.O.P.S. (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) Ministry was started last year for the support and encouragement of mothers of young children. The response was great as the ministry reached “capacity” in four months.

ASSIMILATION:

Note: Every quarter another 40-75 people join Christ Covenant. At the completion of the new Worship Center, the leadership expected a 30-40% increase in attendance the first year.

Other CE Team members: Elder Joe Spencer; Deacon Joe Connell; Cherry Nyholm; Gatha Schleicher; David Dickson

COVENANT DAY SCHOOL: Barrett Mosbacker, Headmaster

Note: When the school began in the Fall of 1989, there were 145 students. In 1993, there were 465 enrolled.

CDS Team Members: Elder Harold Jones; Deacon Chuck Engstrom; John Heth, Chairman of the School Board; Bob Pierce, Chair of Public School Support Team; Mike Robbins, Chair Home School Support Team

SINGLES/COLLEGE MINISTRIES: Mike Miller, Director
Team Members: Elder Dick Givens; Deacon Breck Bolton

STUDENT MINISTRIES: Rod Huckaby, Director;
Youth Choir: Jeff Gunderson, leader.

Note: Growing to over 60 members, the Youth Choir began leading music at the Evening Worship Service on a regular basis.

Student Ministries Team Members: Elder Frank Newell; Deacon Danny Church; Marie Gathings, Administrator, 1993; Sandy Lavery, Administrator, 1994; Jon Payne, Intern

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS: Bernie Lawrence, Director
Wiley Brown, Director of Operations.

Team Members: Elder Jim Coleman; Deacon Ken Carrick/Chairman of Finance Committee; Julie James, Asst. Director Finance; Dale Thompson, Deacon/Chairman Property Committee; Susie Austin, Asst. Director For MIS (Management Information Services); Cathy Plough, Asst. Director Publications/Communications; Martine Smith, Sr., Administrative Assistant; Rosemarie Hiscock; Marianne Lambeth; Teresa Gillis; Ann Lambrose; Rachel Cannada; Darlene Richardson; Peggy Hoyle; Robert Powell; Clarence Cedarholm

From the Report of the STATED CLERK:

Total Communicant Membership: 1,316; Total Non-Communicant Members: 930

1994 – 1995

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM: Larry Kirkman, Chairman

Note: With the new church structure and the formation of the six Congregational Communities came a shift in responsibility. Directors moved to the role of Pastors and the Assistant Directors moved into the role of Directors of a functional area of Ministry.

PASTORAL MINISTRIES: David Russ, Pastor of Young Families/Pastoral Ministries

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES: Betty Tucker, Coordinator

SENIORS AND VISITATION MINISTRY: Pastor Dick Tevebaugh, Pastor of the Hosannas and Hospital Visitation

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chris Hodge, Pastor of Young Marrieds/Christian Education and Assimilation

CE Team members: Elder Jo Spencer; Deacon Chris Madsen; David Dixon, Ministry Coordinator; Sandy Tutton, Director of Elementary Ministries; Susan Shepherd, Director of Pre-School Ministries; Cherry Nyholm, Administrative Assistant; Gatha Schleicher, Administrative Assistant

STUDENT MINISTRIES: Rod Huckaby, Pastor of Students and their Families

Note: The Youth Choir that started in 1994 with 14 students, in 1995 had over 70 voices. They lead the music at the evening worship services, and this summer went on a summer Youth Choir tour to Pinehurst and Myrtle Beach.

Student Ministries Team members: Elder Norm Petty; Deacon Danny Church; Chad Ellenburg, Jr. High Ministries Intern; Jon Payne, Senior High Ministries Intern; Sandi Lavery, Youth Administrator

ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS: Bernie Lawrence, Pastor

Team members: Wiley Brown, Pastor of Empty Nesters/Operations; Elder Jim Coleman; Ken Carrick, Deacon/Chairman of Finance Committee; John Sherrill, Deacon/Finance Committee; Deacon Dale Thompson, Chairman of Property Committee; Deacon Greg Plough, Chairman of MIS Committee; Deacon Tom Elmore, Chairman of Personnel Committee; Julie James, Director of Finance; Cathy Plough, Director of Publications/Communications; Phil Sanders, Director of MIS; Martine Smith, Sr. Administrative Assistant; Rosemarie Hiscock, MIS Assistant; Marianne Lambeth, Financial Assistant; Suzanne Smith, Publications/Communications Assistant; Rachel Cannada, Receptionist; Darlene Richardson, Receptionist; Clarence Cedarholm, Facilities Assistant

COVENANT DAY SCHOOL: Barrett Mosbacker, Covenant Day Headmaster

Note: Covenant Day School began in the Fall of 1989 with 145 students. In 1994-95 were enrolled 507 students from kindergarten through ninth grade, with enrollment for 1996 expected to reach 550.

Board members: Bill Thomas, School Board Chairman; Elder Mike Terrell; Deacon John Sherrill; Hap Core; Barbara Schuster; Susan Rice; Marni Halvorson; Steve Walker; Mike Olive; Jon Johnson; Robert Rudder; Kevin Parsons; John Cedarholm; Steve Johnson

GLOBAL OUTREACH: Mike Miller, Pastor of Singles/Global Outreach

ProCLAIM: Carson Daves, Ministry Coordinator

Note: This year ProCLAIM teamed up with the Drama Ministry in presenting "Tilly" at several locations. This drama ministered to those contemplating or who have received an abortion.

Also, the ministry began a video lending library of over 100 videos on topics that deal with social issues.

EVANGELISM EXPLOSION: Lucille Ruths, Ministry Coordinator

Note: In addition to weekly visits made to Sunday visitors and their regular training classes, EE began several training programs through Covenant Groups and a women's group.

BARNABAS: John Bay, Ministry Coordinator

Note: Eight to 10 people or families in the community were assisted each month.

FRIENDS WORLDWIDE: Cindy Smith, Ministry Coordinator

Note: Some members enhance friendships made with international students by participating in the Friendship Partner program. Many internationals report that during their two to four years of college here, they never even visited an American home. FRIENDS WORLDWIDE reached out to these young people.

SINGLES & SINGLES AGAIN: Mike Miller, Pastor of Singles/Global Outreach

Note: This year, Singles saw growth in many areas. There are now 11 Singles Covenant Groups. There were many mission opportunities this year such as Ecuador mission trips, inner-city Vacation Bible School, Car Care Saturday, Prison ministry, and single parent assistance.

Team members: Elder Tim Roberts; Deacon Wade Byrum

From the Report of the STATED CLERK:

Total Communicant Membership: 1467; Total Non-Communicant Membership: 1038

1996

SENIOR PASTOR SUPPORT TEAM

ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP: Scotty Lochhead and Larry Kirkman

SENIOR PASTOR'S PRAYER AND RESEARCH TEAM

SUPPORT TEAM: Geri Ulatowski, Executive Administrative Assistant;
Alison Boseman, Administrative Assistant

ADMINISTRATION and OPERATIONS MINISTRY MANAGEMENT TEAM:

Bernie Lawrence, Pastor of Administration

Staff: Wiley Brown, Pastor of Adult Families/Operations; Julie James, Director of Finance; Phil Sanders, Director of MIS; Carl Shafer, Director of Communications/Publications; Charlie Turk, Director of Property and Maintenance; Jackie Rice, Director of Historic Matthews Cemetery

Officers: Jim Coleman, Elder of Administration/Operations; Ken Carrick, Deacon, Chairman of Finance Committee; John Sherrill, Deacon, Finance Committee; Greg Plough, Deacon, Chairman of MIS Committee; Tom Elmore, Deacon, Chairman of Personnel Committee; Tom Driver, Deacon, Chairman of Property Committee; Danny Smith, Deacon, Property Committee; Dana Rucker, Deacon, Property Committee; Dale Thompson, Deacon, Chairman of LAND Committee; Breck Bolton, Deacon, Chairman of Historic Matthews Cemetery Committee

WORSHIP AND FINE ARTS TEAM: David German, Pastor

Note: A new organ, an Allen electric four manual instrument, was ordered for delivery in the spring. The new piano was a nine-foot Concert Grand Steinway.

Team members: Tim Cool, Director of Instrumental Music; Sheri Smith, Administrative Assistant/Pianist; Hilda Ryan, Organist; Elder Rob Veerman, Worship and Fine Arts; Deacon Tom Van Beek, Worship and Fine Arts; Dan Pisano, Head Worship Coordinator

PASTORAL MINISTRIES: Chaired by Elders Jim Mezzanote and Carroll Killough; David Russ, Pastor of Young Families/Pastoral Ministries

Note: HOMEBUILDERS I and II taught by David Russ, Pastor, Young Families/Pastoral Ministries, are new classes this year. Team members "handle worship, outreach and assimilation, physical needs, and special events."

Team 1 members: Larry and Anna Brock; Johnny and Tina Caldwell; Barbara Givens; Terry and Martha Haines; Stan and Lynn Sewell; Deacon Jim Swanger and Julie Swanger; Mike and Peggy Wekall; Elder Tom Sittema, Elder Dick Givens

Team 2 members: Harvey and Beth Harrelson; Paul and Lynn Olson; Rick and Cindy Weatherman; Hal and Susan Owens; Dale and Ann Blackard; Elder Paul Joyce, Elder Tim Roberts

COUNSELING CENTER: Linda McGrew, Director

Note: Counseling moved into the Christ Our Shepherd property early in 1997.

COUNSELORS: Patti McMillan; John Liebner; Judy Huckaby

COUNSELING TEAM MEMBERS: Elder Scotty Lochhead; Elder Jim Mezzanote; Barbara Thorne; Deacon Chuck Engstrom

COUNSELING INTERNS: Sandy Lavery; Richard Shroyer

RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Faith Glaser

SMALL GROUPS: Steve Woody, Intern/Director; Deacon Ken Durham.

Note: Over 100 new people signed up to join a small group. Also, there were over 20 accountability groups for men started from the Men's ministry.

Liaisons (point persons for Communities):

SINGLES: Bruce Kellogg

YOUNG MARRIEDS: Will Ertel

YOUNG FAMILIES: Jim Edahl

STUDENT FAMILIES: Roger Paules

TRAINING COORDINATOR: Hunter Pugh

INFORMATION SYSTEMS COORDINATOR: Dan Biddel

DEACON CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTRY TEAM: Ken Durham

ELDER OVERSEEING MINISTRY: Paul Joyce

SENIORS AND VISITATION: Pastor Dick Tevebaugh, Pastor of Hosannas and Hospital Visitation; Deacon Ken Compton

ADOPT-A-SHUT-IN MINISTRY: Lorrie Spiess and Margaret Johnson, Directors

THE SHEPHERDESS MINISTRY: Connie Brown and Miriam Jones,
Coordinators

Note: There are 38 shepherdesses serving.

Shepherdess Community: Deacon Chuck Engstrom

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH (WIC):

WIC team: Connie Brown; Renee Coleman; Nancy Fortson; Eliza Foster; Darnell Manchester; Connie Miller; Greta Orcutt; Lucille Ruths; Nancy Stout; Liz West

MEN OF COVENANT (MOC) LEADERS:

Note: This ministry also helped set up small groups of Promise Keepers.

Team members: Carroll Killough; Steve Onxley; Ken Bodwell; Chris Stunz;
Deacon Mark Massi

COVENANT DAY SCHOOL: Barrett Mosbacker, Headmaster

1996-97 Board members: Elder Bill Thomas, Chairman; Jon Johnson, Vice
Chairman; Mary Roberts, Secretary; Paul Norris, Treasurer; Deacon Paul Londry

Alternate Board Members: John Heth; Greta Orcutt

Others: Kevin Parsons; Steve Johnson; John Cedarholm; Robert Rudder; Susan
Rice; Ron Infinger; Mike Olive

From the REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK:

Total Communicant Membership: 621; Total Non-Communicant Members: 1163

1997

ADMINISTRATION STAFF: Bernie Lawrence, Pastor of Administration

Tom Applegate, Senior Administrative Assistant; Effie Gerholt, Karen Stewart,
Rachel Cannada, Darlene Richardson, Receptionists; Phil Sanders, Director of
MIS; Rosemarie Hiscock, MIS/Financial Services Assistant; Carl Shafer, Director
of Communications/Publications; Bonnie Prior, Communications/Publications
Assistant; Julie James, Director of Finance; Marianne Lambeth, Senior Financial
Services Assistant; Lisa Williams, Financial Services Assistant

Officers: Elder Jim Coleman; Elder Biff Bracy; John Sherrill, Finance Chairman; Deacons Greg Plough/Daryl Tutton, MIS; Brad Shelby, Human Resources Chairman

OPERATIONS: Wiley Brown, Pastor of Operations/Adult Families Community

Property: Deacons Dana Rucker and Tim Driver

Property Assistant: Deacon Danny Smith

Property and Maintenance: Charlie Turk

Housekeepers: Marilyn Dreier and Team

Administrative Assistant: Sandy Lawson

HISTORIC MATTHEWS CEMETERY:

Note: With a team of volunteers, Jackie Rice restored and rebuilt records of all persons buried there since 1862.

Team members: Deacon Bob Deaver; Jackie Rice, Cemetery Administrator

ADULT FAMILY COMMUNITY:

Team members: Elder Scotty Lochhead; Deacon Dale Thompson; Chris Williams, Barrett Mosbacker, Norm Petty, teachers

LAND (Land Acquisition and Development): Deacon Dale Thompson, Chairman

Team members: Elders Biff Bracey, Jim Coleman

GLOBAL OUTREACH: Mike Miller, Pastor of Singles/Global Outreach

Team members: Lynn Williams, Administrative Assistant/Global Outreach; Scott Cook, Singles-Again Intern; Joe Sullivan, Pastor of Missions; Silvia Crimm, Administrative Assistant/International Missions; Cindy Smith, International Students Ministry Coordinator; Hap Welty, SOAR Director; Margee Keller, Administrative Assistant/SOAR; Neal Gooch, Separate cover for Campus Outreach; Lucille Ruths, Evangelism Explosion Ministry Coordinator; Deacon Don Harding, Barnabas Ministry Coordinator; Carson Daves, ProCLAIM Ministry Coordinator; Deacon Anthony Pizzuti, Prison Ministry Coordinator

CAMPUS OUTREACH STAFF: Neal Gooch, Director; Chris Duncan, Administrative Director/Campus Staff-Wingate; Jack Cunningham, Administrative Assistant/ Christ Covenant Collegiate Staff; Joe Naramore, Campus Director/UNCC; Tracy Thornton, Women's Coordinator, UNCC; Blair Burke, Campus Director/UNCG; Melissa Sargent, Women's Coordinator/UNCG; Kevin

Hudson, Campus Director/Burlington Area; Brannon Rice, Campus Staff/Burlington Area; Tessa Bell, Women's Ministry Coordinator/Burlington Area

ELDER REPORT: Dick Osman, Chairman of Executive Leadership Team (ELT)

The Elders worked together with Deacons, staff, and laypersons in Ministry Management Teams (MMTs). They also work with Congregational Community Teams (CCTs) that focus on different areas of ministry and the Congregational Communities of Christ Covenant.

From the REPORT of the STATED CLERK:

Total Communicant Members: 1743; Total Non-Communicant Members: 1261

APPENDIX 2

ELDERS AND DEACONS

YEAR ORDAINED	ELDERS	DEACONS
1980-81	Bernie Lawrence Harry Martin	

1984, January	Bob Tarte	Hugh Elder, Chairman Mike Terrell, Secretary Larry C. Cothorn Ed Sweeten John Royster Henry (Chip) Trigg
By 1986-1987	Ernie M. Couch Robert H. Dyar Harold E. Driver Harold F. Jones Barrett L. Mosbacker William R. Mosteller Michael S. Terrell Ted Spangler, III	Ross I. Dornbush Ron D. Gillespie Richard M. Givens Charles Hoffecker, III David Hollingshead Richard D. Locke Christian V. Madsen Paul L. Olson Robert W. Schuster Brad M. Shelby John L. Sherrill, Jr. D. Ron Stewart Philip Summa Edwin C. Thorne, Jr. Thomas J. Van Beek Edward L. Wright
1988-1989 (Add:)	Dennis Carter Scotty Lochhead Larry Kirkman Mike Moore Tim Roberts Ed Wright	Dane Hazelgrove Paul Joyce Anthony Pizzuti Dana Rucker Joe Spencer

1989-1990 (Add:)	Steve Halvorson Dick VanHalsema	Ken Bodwell Tim Driver Lynn Phillips Rodney Prichett Garry Rice Ken Samuelson Gary Slavens Max Stallings
1990-'91 (Add:)	Jim Sutton Rob Veerman	Dale Austin Jim Brown Ken Buckingham Mike Crowell Bob Deaver Hal Jordan
1992-1993 (Add:)	Chuck Ledford Terry Benson Frank Newell Gary Corwin Sam Wilson, III Chris Dollar Dick Osman Joe Spencer	John Connell Ken Carrick Jim Swanger Dale Thompson Tom Elmore John Bay
1993-1994 (Add:)	James Coleman Jim Sutton	Breck Bolton Danny Church Mark Massi
1995 (Add:)	Carroll Killough Norman Petty	Wade Byrum Ken Compton Ken Durham

Chuck Engstrom
Don Harding
Greg Plough
Danny Smith

1996 (Add:)

David Dickson
Paul Stack
Bill Thomas

Richard Gaebe
Ray Gillis
Terry Haines
Paul Londry

1997 (Add:)

Biff Bracy
David Dickson
Jim Mezzanotte
Thomas J. Roberts
Tom Sittema
Bill Thomas
Chris Williams

David Harris
Mark Hill
Kenny Norwood
Daryl Tutton
Jerry Youngblood

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: By Mary Burke

Thanks to Cathy Plough for her editorial expertise, to Lisa Burkhart for her proofreading, Stelle Snyder for her support and suggestions, to the long memories for names and dates of pastors Harry Reeder and Bernie Lawrence, and to all of the communications staff of Christ Covenant who had a part in this project. And most of all, thanks to the great God who led and managed not only the development of Christ Covenant Church, but the writing of this account.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary Burke was born in Indiana in 1920. As the daughter of a Methodist minister, Mary moved with her family every two years. These frequent moves undoubtedly contributed to her great curiosity for the world and her interest and love of people. Trained as a Medical Technologist at the University of Missouri, Mary applied her sharp mind and tender heart to her field. Those years included a three-year stint with the Seventh Service Command Medical Laboratory of the US Army. While in the Army, Mary met John Burke, a man with a wit and an infectious smile that matched her own. They were married in 1944 by Mary's father. Two daughters followed. As of this writing, Bette Roth lives in Lake Wylie, South Carolina, and her younger sister Bobbie Pool resides in Key West, Florida.

Mary confesses she has enjoyed a lifetime love of writing. Over the years, Mary wrote various materials for children, including magazine pieces and Sunday school lessons. While living outside Kansas City, she even had her own column called *Toddler Topics* that ran weekly in the local paper. After she retired, Mary devoted even more time to her passion, taking jobs as a feature writer for various newspapers in Florida, including the *Miami Herald*.

Before Christ Covenant had a building of its own, Mary and John Burke decided to come to Matthews and settle near Bette and husband Wolfgang. But as soon as the building went up, the couple found a home at the growing church. And the writing continued there. Around 1993, Pastor Harry Reeder asked Mary to write the history of the church. She began to chronicle that history in the monthly *Courier* newsletter. Ten years later, she had accumulated an astounding number of files and audio cassettes that detailed the early years of Christ Covenant – the church and its people. For this we are indebted to her. “I found something special at Christ Covenant,” she stated in early 2007. “I’ll always remember the friendliness of Sunday mornings and the devotion to the Lord I saw in the people.”

Mary continues to bless others from her home at Plantation Estates in Matthews with her smile, her love of people – and her stories.