

A History of the First Christian Church, Volume 2

(First Christian United Christian Church of Christ, Burlington, NC)

**Compiled by the History Committee for the 130th birthday of the church
on February 18, 2014**

Inserts to Mrs. Clem's book:

1946: Herman Truitt began a Sunday School class for young men including returning veterans from WWII. In the next decade many young men including Pat Sellars, Parker King, Banks Bowland, Max Isley, and Glen Haith, and Jack Sutton were among its members. Buddy Wellons became the teacher after Mr. Truitt.

1947: First Christian Church sponsored the first scouting troop in Burlington, NC. Girl Scout Troop #1 was led by Mrs. Daisy Sutton and Mrs. Louise Sutton. The Boy Scouts were led by Pat Sellars.

1948 Andy Griffith, a music major at UNC, Chapel Hill, is employed as Youth Choir Director

April 8, 1959: An evening service called "Our Church Heritage" was presented in the sanctuary to show appreciation to Reverend John Graves, our Interim Pastor, and to welcome our new pastor, Dr. Robert Kimball, and his wife Mary and children Susie, David, and Rick. The young people who planned and presented the program were Jack Newman, Merle Sutton, Becky Hatch, Eloise Sutton, and Frank Rich, Jr.

September, 1960: The Young Adult Class renamed itself the John S. Graves Sunday School Class in honor of the man who "guided us as teenagers and continues to mentor us as adults". Teachers were Bob Baxter, Bob Glenn, Buddy Wellons, and Esther Kernodle.

July, 1961: FCC Midget Football Team coached by Wiley Haithcock won the City Championship and received trophies from the Burlington Recreation Department.

October, 1961: The Nellie Fleming property adjacent to the church was purchased for \$22,000.00.

1960s

February 1962: Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Sellers and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Gordon purchased "New Pilgrim Hymnals" in honor of John Graves. A copy of our new Statement of Faith was placed on the inside back cover.

March 1962: Mission plays were presented during Lent. Actors were Joan and Bobby Rhodes, Don Purdee, Wiley Haithcock, Pat Sellars, and Harvey Sharpe.

January 9, 1963: The Official Board recommended the church be known as First Christian Church with "United Church of Christ" in parenthesis. Carried with one opposing vote.

March 16, 1963: John Graves Sunday School class held their 1st banquet, served and financed by the Lila B. Sellars Class with Dr. Earl Danieley, President of Elon College, as speaker. Fifty-eight members attended.

April 14, 1963: First Easter Sunrise service was led by Glenda Sutton, Barbara Huffman, and Merle Sharpe.

April, 1964: Mrs. Kimball hired as part-time temporary Director of Christian Education at \$2,225.00 annually.

September, 1964: Melinda Webster hired as organist/choir director from 1964 to 1965 at a salary of \$3,000.00.

August 29, 1965: Miss Betsy Farlow was hired as organist/choir director.

September, 1965: John Graves Sunday School Class renovated a room on the 3rd floor above the sanctuary as their new classroom. Eddie Huffman, Pat Sellars, and Larry Everett organized the job.

May 14, 1967: approval given for the purchase of the Maude Guntle property adjoining the Nellie Fleming property for \$22,000.00.

June, 1967: M.Z. Rhodes became the organist/choir master after having served from 1925-1960.

September, 1968: Richard "Dick" Apperson is hired as church organist/choir director.

October 6, 1968: The recommendation was made and approved by the Board of Education that the church call as full time Minister of Christian Education Mrs. Paul Walasbay, Jr. for \$6,000.00 annually.

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December 26, 1968: Lila Bailey Sellars, the matriarch of the church, dies.

June 20, 1969: The Official Board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Pearl Rhodes as church secretary after 15 years of faithful service.

1970s

1970: The church had its first pictorial directory made of active members and their families. Three hundred members' pictures appeared in the publication.

1970: The Ladies' Parlor was refurbished and renamed the Mary Kimball Room in honor of the pastor's wife.

1971: A Mother's Day Out program was begun by Susie Kimball and Merle Sharpe.

April 2, 1971: The 10th annual Easter Sunrise service and breakfast was prepared by the Graves Class. Specialty cooks were Larry Everett on biscuits and Wiley Haithcock on eggs.

June 1972: The Official Board discussed using contributions given as memorials for deceased member to purchase a new organ. Pearl McLennan Rhodes resigned as Secretary after 18 years of faithful service.

Reverend Winfred Bray was called as pastor.

1973: 25 new members joined the church.

FCUCC joined other churches to establish a Meals on Wheels program.

Barbara Massey was hired to work with the youth groups.

July, 1973: West Davis Street entrance was widened to 20 feet and the dirt part of the parking lot was paved and the paved part re-surfaced and a fence installed.

September, 1973: A department of Christian Recreation, headed by Coach Harvey Sharpe was formed with teams for youth and adult groups formed and a laity Sunday was designated for men and women of the church to conduct the worship service.

December, 1973: The parsonage was sold, the parking lot paved and fenced chair molding put up in the Sanctuary.

January, 1974: A discretionary fund was established by the Deacons for the pastor to use as he comes upon those in need for emergency help.

March, 1974: The Deacons provided a Home Communion Set. The Deacons sponsored cottage prayer meetings held in homes for youth and adults during Lent.

The Women's Fellowship purchased cushions for the pews for \$4830.56 from a bequest given by Mrs. Bessie Clem in 1973. They were dedicated as a memorial to her. The Women's Fellowship purchased an icemaker for the kitchen.

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June, 1974: Christian Education promoted yearly teacher training, beach trips for the youth, day camp at Moonelon Camp, awards for Bible reading and Drama Club involvement.

July, 1974: Six year olds were trained as acolytes with Lesley Sharpe and Charles Everett serving as the first ones.

On returning to Burlington, former pastor, Reverend Millard Stevens donated 300 books from his personal ministerial library to the church library.

A library book tea was held at which 41 new books were received and children were given awards for reading church library books.

The Women's Fellowship planned to host a Choir Banquet each year.

September, 1974: Church activities were limited to Sunday and Wednesday because of the national energy crisis.

The Junior Choir participated in the worship services on a regular basis.

A new boiler was put in the Education Building.

1975: A speaker system was put in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and Nursery.

A burglar alarm system was installed.

April 1975: Mrs. Harold Ingle was asked to be responsible for ordering flowers for deceased members with funds given by Dr. Talbert King for the year 1975.

August 1975: All 24 ground floor windows in the Sanctuary building were bricked up at a cost of \$1,200.00.

18 new members joined the church.

The Ministerial Society began a pulpit exchange for the downtown churches in which we participated.

October, 1975 Ruth Benton was hired as the Pastor's secretary at \$5,000.00 annually.

1976: A Brownie Girl Scout Troop, composed of young girls from the Edgewood Church and First Christian met under the leadership of Merle Sharpe. The Brownie Scout

troop included 17 girls participating with 12 of them from the church. A Junior Girl Scout troop was organized with 8 girls joining. Twenty-nine Juniors attended day camp at Moonelon.

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1976: The constitution was updated to allow the talents of more members of the congregation to be utilized. A buddy system for new members was established. New members were assigned to a church family who would be alert for any needs or problems and be sure they were invited to all church functions.

1977: 29 new members joined the church.

Morning worship services began being typed for the shut-ins.

New choir robes were purchased as was a new piano for the Fellowship Hall. The church name was changed to First Christian United Church of Christ.

1978: 19 new members joined the church.

We welcomed member of our sister church, Edgewood UCC into our church family. The Edgewood property at the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Saddle Club Road became part of the holdings of First Christian UCC.

We purchased the Robinson property on the corner of Fisher Street and Maple Avenue, adjacent to our church property.

The food and clothing closet for the needy was reorganized.

The connecting doors between the Lila B. Sellars classroom, the room above, and the Sanctuary were re-opened to provide extra seating for services.

1979: 27 new members joined the church.

Sherrill Beaston was hired in October as office secretary and administrative assistant.

Dot Jolly was appointed chairperson of the committee to determine what should be placed in a sealed box in the administrative annex cornerstone.

New furniture and office equipment were purchased before dedication of the administrative annex in April 1980.

A church Heritage Room was created to save artifacts of our church. The former pastor's study behind the sanctuary was used for this purpose.

A committee was appointed to plan the 100th anniversary for the church in 1984.

The Acolyte program was reinstated. Young people will light the altar candles before church and extinguish them before the benediction.

Articles in the newsletter and bulletin offered rides to anyone who needed a ride to Sunday School and church.

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Attorney Jim Roberson, a church member, was given approval to design and obtain a corporate seal for our church.

A group of young people were sent to General Synod.

A 2nd pictorial directory with 394 members was published.

1980s

The sanctuary was renovated, the pews refinished and repairs were made to the roof and electrical system.

A committee was appointed by the Official Board to revise the constitution to provide restructure of Boards, and major committees to reduce their size and make them more responsive and efficient.

The long range planning committee was made a permanent committee.

The Edgewood facility began to be used as a Day care Center. The agreement was to run from September 1980 to May 1981. The trustees conducted a feasibility study to see if it should be allowed to continue.

The choir facilities were renovated, as was the education building assembly room, as part of the annex project.

The new administrative annex was dedicated.

24 new members joined the church.

1981: 16 new members joined the church and Reverend Clarence (Curly) Stumb was hired as Minister of Christian Education and Visitation.

The church sponsored a refugee family named Meloids.

Two choirs for the young people of the church were started. They will take part in the worship service twice a month.

1982: 6 new members joined the church and 10 former members were re-instated.

March, 1982: The Southern Conference met at our church. A lease agreement was made for the Southern Conference to use the Edgewood property as a headquarters.

The Robinson house property was leased to David and Nell Allred for a day care center.

Sports were a popular activity at the church. Trophies were displayed for baseball, basketball and bowling teams. A golf tournament was held annually, headed up by Jack Gwyn. Our boys basketball teams, coached by Harvey Sharpe, regularly won the YMCA championships.

A "Time to Share" group of mostly senior citizens was active. They took trips all over the country, including Alaska, Hawaii, Canada and Europe. They visited our church supported institution: Elon College, Elon Home for Children, retirement homes, other

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churches. This group was begun by Mary Kimball, continued by Jolene Bray and taken over by Jeanne Williams for the last decade of its existence. Gladys Truitt supplied the piano accompaniment for their sing-alongs.

The Men's fellowship had rails installed on the outside steps.

A complete inventory was made of the Edgewood church building, our administrative building, the Robinson house, the education building, the sanctuary building (all floors). A list of contents was put in the lock box at the bank, the church safe and with D.R. Fonville, our insurance agent.

1983: 18 new members joined the church.

A van was purchased for church activities.

The constitution was changed to allow the music committee a voting seat on the Official Board.

1985: 10 new members joined the church.

Nancey Simmons became the first female church president.

A third pictorial directory was made of church members. Three hundred and thirty members were pictured.

The mortgage on the administration building was paid off and a mortgage burning ceremony was held.

1986: 8 new members joined the church.

An unbreakable covering was placed over the stained glass windows to protect them. The windows were valued at a million dollars.

The first women took their place on the Board of Deacons at the request of Reverend Bray. Until this time, men and women served on separate boards, Deacons and Deaconesses. Glenna Lewis and Jo Terrell joined the board of Deacons. There was no spoken dissent to this change. The Deaconess Board remained active.

1987: 11 new members joined the church.

Pat Cadle was employed as Director of Christian Education.

Being free of debt, the rest of the parking lot was paved.

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1988: Reverend Bray retired after 15 years of service to First Christian UCC. Reverend Clarence "Curly" Stumb served as interim pastor.

1989: Rev. Richard McBride served as supply pastor.

July, 1989: Reverend Robert K. Barrows, Jr. was called a pastor.
W.B. Simpson received an award for 35 years of perfect attendance.

September, 1989: the Edgewood property was sold to New Mission UCC.

1990s

Reverend Robert “Bob” K. Barrows, Jr. was called as pastor.

1991: Community Epiphany Peace Service was held in the sanctuary in response to the the approaching Gulf War.

Weekly audio tape ministry for shut-ins began.

Staff changes that occurred: Pat Cadle resigned, Tammy Terrell was hired as office secretary, John Rogers and A.C. Richmond were employed as custodians.

June 10, 1991: The 18th General Synod in Norfolk, VA was attended by a busload of FCUCC members.

The Sanctuary dome received a new covering, the education building received a new roof. Mary and Tom Zerbe and the Women’s Fellowship donated two electric stoves and a new air conditioner for the kitchen.

The sale of the Edgewood property to New Mission UCC was finalized for \$384,995.00.

The traditional “floating” Christmas Eve service became a structured service.

1992: Kathleen Miles succeeds Corinne Warren as church historian.
Peter Schmidt arrives from Germany as our Intern Minister.

June, 1992: Bible School includes adults as well as children.

1993: Members of FCUCC built its first Habitat for Humanity home on Fisher Street, Burlington.

The ladies’ lounge in the Fellowship Hall was renovated and redecorated.

January/February 1993: The Pearson Music Company of Raleigh, NC began installing a Rodgers organ, considered to be the ultimate in combining pipes with electronics.

May, 1993: A formal dedication of the Rodgers pipe organ was held. Organist/Choirmaster Richard Apperson presented a recital. The service included a dedicatory prayer for the donations of the choir loft renovation in memory of Evelyn Dickey Tatum, given by her husband Raymond and the new sound system given by Blanche Somers Jeffries in memory of her husband, James Carroll Jefferies.

1994: Reverend Elizabeth P. Kennett was employed as Associate Pastor. New carpet was installed in the Sanctuary and both foyers were painted and new floor coverings installed.

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1995: The Deaconesses and Deacons were combined to form one Board of Deacons.

The church held a series of four very successful blood drives in honor of Mike Smith, a member recently diagnosed with AML.

A new playground was fenced in and new equipment purchased.

The church established a community playschool for 2-4 year olds with Lisa Simmons as the first teacher.

Pastor Barrows is awarded a Doctor of Ministry degree.

1996: A May carnival raised approximately \$4,000.00 for the American Cancer Society.

Fall Cottage fellowship meetings of member cluster groups were led by the Deacons.

1997: FCUCC hosted a Palm Sunday Service for all area UCC churches.

Twenty-three members for the church participated on 3 Relay for Life teams and raised the largest amount of money of any Alamance County organization.

Members helped to build a third Habitat for Humanity house with First Reformed UCC and Holt Manufacturing.

A traditional Christmas pageant was directed by Jeanne Williams and Barbara Massey.

1998: Reverend Mari Bradley was employed as Minister of Children, Youth and Christian Education following the resignation of Associate Pastor Beth Kennett.

An open house was held for the new children's library housing over 600 books, tapes, and other resources with Children's Librarian, Debbie Carlson.

Member Charlie Vitou serves as board member of newly established food ministry Loaves and Fishes. This ministry was established by downtown Burlington churches.

The former Loyal Men's Bible classroom, adjacent to the fellowship hall, was converted into a youth activity room and the adjoining men's bathroom was renovated.

Fifteen round tables were purchased for \$2,800.00 for the fellowship hall and white tablecloths were purchased. The kitchen was painted.

The first Maundy Thursday communion supper was held with each Deacon serving his/her cluster at his/her individual table.

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1999: Brownie Girl Scout Troop 547 was formed in addition to Daisy Troop 1019 with Betty Griffin as leader.

A fish fry was organized by the Deacons to help Mike Smith with his medical bills.

A picture of historic O'Kelly's Chapel was given by Esther Kernodle, matted and framed by the Women's Fellowship to hang in the church's office reception area.

November 7, 1999: The John s. Graves class held a 40th reunion with 50 former and present members attending the worship service and covered dish luncheon at which memories of John Graves were shared, led by Millard and Kathleen Stevens.

2000s

Reverend Dr. Winfred Bray and Reverend Dr. Millard Stevens were recognized as Pastors Emeriti at FCUCC.

The church, in cooperation with Beverly Hills UCC, sponsored a refugee family from war-torn Bosnia. The Milak family included Mike (father), Asja (mother), Zana (daughter, age 10), and Amir (son, age 9). This family worked hard, and in a very short time, were self-sufficient and purchased a house. The children worked hard in learning English. Several former teachers from the congregation tutored the children and the children excelled academically. The family became American citizens. Esther Kernodle, Vera Reeder, Peggy Bolden, and Joe and Stephanie Sells were helpful in preparing the family for life in their new country.

The Sanctuary was painted as well as the elevator lobby. Dover Elevator had a part specially fabricated to repair the elevator. New flooring was installed in the breezeway, hall, and restrooms on the second floor of the education building. New sinks were installed in the restrooms on the same floor.

All the families in the church were invited to make a quilt square to represent their family. These were collected and sewn together to make 5 quilt wall hangings.

The music committee began a search for a new hymn book to replace the Pilgrim Hymnal.

October, 2001: Interim student Pastor Frank Rausch and wife Julianne arrived from Germany. She worked at Elon College while he served FCUCC. They were with FCUCC from October 2000 to September 2001. Some members of FCUCC made a visit to Germany in 2002 to visit Frank's church.

A buzzer was installed at the fellowship hall door.

August 26, 2001: A farewell party was held for Frank and Julianne Rausch at the home of Ray Tatum. They left for Germany on September 3, 2001.

September 2, 2001: New hymnals, The New Century Hymnal, published by the UCC, were placed in the pews. They were purchased by individuals in the church in honor or memory of family and friends. Bookplates with a picture of one of the church's stained glass windows were placed on the inside front cover with the names of the honorees and the names of the givers.

September 11, 2001: FCUCC open its doors to the community for prayer and comfort in response to the terrorist attacks on New York City, NY, Washington, DC and the additional hijacked plane that crashed in rural Pennsylvania. Members gathered in the sanctuary for evening prayers.

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January, 2002: A "Profiles of Faith" column was added to the church newsletter to honor outstanding church workers. Among those recognized were: Nannie Lou and Jack Gwyn, Kathleen and Millard Stevens, Jean and Parker King, Marti and Bob Morton, Esther Kernodle, Jeanne Williams, Leola Loy, Harry Jolly, Coreen Warren and Emily Barrows.

February, 2002: Don Carlson accepted the leadership of the Prayer Chain and held prayer meditation in the conference room on Wednesdays during the noon hour for anyone who wished to participate.

April, 2002: Reverend Barrows visited former intern student pastor Frank Rausch in Germany.

June, 2002: Orders for church mugs were given to Sandy Griffin by the Deacon board. The mugs will be given to shut-ins and visitors.

September 11, 2002: A community-wide Day of Prayer and Remembrance service was held in the Sanctuary to remember the heroes of the national tragedy of the year before. The Deacons welcomed those who came to pray during the day and at the evening service. Area UCC ministers and their choirs joined with Dr. Barrows, Dick Apperson and our musicians to lead the crowded Sanctuary in God's praise.

December, 2002: A new 12 foot lighted Christmas tree, wreaths, garland and other Christmas decorations for the inside and outside of the church were purchased by the Deacons, Spiritual Life chair June Sellars and Deacons chair Merle Sharpe.

Steve Camp was chose as the new conference minister.

A booklet of drawings relating to September 11 was received from a kindergarten class in Germany from Frank Rausch's church. Blanche Jeffries's granddaughter translated the messages into English.

December, 2002: Reverend Dr. Robert K. Barrows, Jr. submitted his resignation in order to accept a call from Congregational UCC in Tryon, NC.

February, 2003: A Search Committee was formed to look for a new pastor .

Judy Westman served as Interim Pastor between the departure of Reverend Barrows and May 2003 when she was called to another church as a full time minister. Reverend William "Bill" Smith filled in for the month of May.

Reverend Ed Rawls served as interim pastor from June until August, 2003.

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June 1, 2003: A congregational meeting was held to consider a recommendation from the Official Board to provide office space for Centre La Comunidad (an outreach to the growing Hispanic community). The third floor of the educational building was used for this purpose.

July 13, 2003: The decision was made to tear down the Robinson house rather than to renovate it.

October 13, 2003: Jordon Tupper, an Elon College student, was approved by the congregation for the position of Coordinator of Children and Youth.

2004

Reverend Mark Nanney was called as pastor. He came from Zion UCC in Lenoir, NC. On November 14, 2004 the Nanney family, Mark, Marcie, Matthew and Erin, became members.

A "Kid's Night Out" was started to reach the un-churched and the de-churched for church ministry and growth. September attendance was 24 to 47.

Discussion was held to begin a Saturday night worship service. The emphasis was to be a "program" church rather than a "pastoral" church to attract a wider audience.

A new Sunday School class, the Breakfast Club, was formed.

A fourth pictorial directory was published with 200 members participating.

Church organist/choirmaster, Dick Apperson, presented a four-part musical festival on four Sunday afternoons in the fall. The series entitled "John Graves Memorial Concerts" marked the 25th anniversary of the death of Reverend Graves and gave tribute for his outstanding life.

September, 2004: Sharon Hammill was accepted into the Pastoral Leadership Program, an alternative route to become a UCC minister.

Reverend Bill Smith and wife Pearl presented a new pulpit Bible to the church. Reverend Smith was made Pastor Emeritus this year.

Jo Walker Terrell donated in memory of her husband Jule Terrell a beautiful brick marquee for the corner of Church Street and Maple Avenue.

2005

May, 13, 2005: The congregation unanimously blessed the endorsement of the Official Board to recommend Sharon McIntyre Hammill to ENCA Church and Ministry Commission for "Student In Care".

July, 2005: The UCC passed the Marriage Equality Resolution at the General Synod. Reverend Nanney suggested that FCUCC have a conversation on Human Sexuality.

FCUCC endorsed the new Vision and Mission statement and confirmed the "God Is Still Speaking" national identity and marketing campaign. Member of the church were invited to participate in a 5 week study and discussion entitled "Feed the Body-Feed the Soul".

Reverend Nanney suggested a Wednesday night "Focus Night" to concentrate church related activities and board meetings on one specific night instead of having them scattered throughout the calendar. A dinner was prepared by Mike Smith for a nominal fee followed by 3 divisions consisting of Board meetings, study groups and music and arts programs.

The playschool operated a summer camp program this year.

August, 2005: Vacation Bible School was held with 60 participants on Friday and 18 on Saturday at Camp Moonelon with First Reformed UCC (youth and adults).

The Kid's Night Out program meets on the 1st and 2nd Saturdays in the fall.

October, 2005: A chicken pie and dessert fundraiser was held for John's River Valley Camp.

October, 2005: A 45 minute worship service was begun on Saturday night in the fellowship hall. The "Mosaic Worship Service" was meant to attract people who want an alternative to traditional services.

November, 2005: The Fall Festival raised \$14,500.00.

Susan Bowen was hired for the position of Designated Pastor of Outreach for one year at a salary of \$22,000.00.

December 5, 2005: Reverend Dr. W. Millard Stevens, former pastor and Pastor Emeritus dies.

December 24, 2005: A Christmas lunch was served to the homeless.

Ray Turner was given a one-time contribution as a student at Hood Seminary in Salisbury, NC.

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Debbie Carlson resigned as secretary and financial officer.

Work on a new library/history center began with painting and remodeling on the large room behind the sanctuary on the north corner. Two dedicated men gave their time and talents in leading this project: Mark Hollander, assisted by Parker King and Peggy Bolden, painting and repairing; and Bob Horne, building bookcases. The Deacon's chest, holding the communion service, was moved to the Archives Room.

January, 2005: A new sub-committee was formed for pastor/staff relations.

Sharon Hammill was named Youth Ministries coordinator.

The sound systems were upgraded in the Sanctuary and fellowship hall.

September 26, 2005: A Family Day celebration was held with a covered dish meal to celebrate the renovation of the fellowship hall. Renovations were spearheaded by Mark Hollander, Ken and Lola Pipes, Anna Gerow and Nannie Lou Gwyn.

October 3, 2005: FCUCC celebrated Reverend Mark Nanney's 25th anniversary in the ministry.

2006

May 14, 2006: Dedication of the new Library/History Center was held with a reception given by the History Committee. Appreciation was given for the custom made 14 foot table donated by the children of Hugh Bolick in memory of their mother Jean. Jean had cataloged the 300 volumes donated by Reverend Millard Stevens. Others who worked shelving, cataloging and preserving were Cathy Andes, Eleanor Lovgren, Hilda Sherard, Mollie Blum, Peggy Johnson, and Jo Terrell. Elsie Bolick, Betty Braxton, Ann Strange, and Merle Sharpe researched files, photographs, and pictures and set up the displays. Cindy Sharpe gave the door plaques and other engraved plates throughout the room.

Kathleen Miles Stevens was made Historian Emeritus for all her work in collecting and preserving the church's historical artifacts and here portrait was displayed in the Center.

August, 2006: The church celebrated Frederick "Scotty" Stevenson's 100th birthday.

September 24, 2006: The church paid tribute to Nell and David Allred for 34 years of service to the children of our church and community.

Julia Woodson was recognized for 25 years as children's choir leader. She painted the picture of Jesus on the second floor of the education building.

2007

January, 2007: An endowment for Music and Christian Education was established by the Gerow family in memory of James A. Gerow.

Reverend Mark Nanney spoke of our church reinventing itself. Possibilities include a multi-racial/multi-cultural church, a more liberal church, or a senior citizen church.

February, 2007: The Vision Study Group talked with St. John's New Mission UCC about a merger with FCUCC.

March, 2007: Talks of merger continue.

April, 2007: The youth sell the UCC's 50th anniversary books.

April 8, 2007: Ken Pipes and Jack Gwyn set up a wooden cross on the front lawn in celebration of Easter.

May 11, 2007: A spaghetti supper fundraiser was held. Entertainment was provided by the "Cornpickers". Profit from this meal was \$1,594.10.

June 16, 2007: Church yard sale/trunk sale profit \$1,660.00.

October, 2007: Eighty-four shoe boxes were sent to the children of Appalachia full of Christmas goodies. Mollie Blue organized this project sponsored by "Feed the Children" organization.

November 1, 2007: Sharon Hammill resigned as Youth Ministries coordinator.

November 3, 2007: FCUCC held a Fall Festival which raised \$10,606.34.

Reverend Mark Nanney takes a leave of absence. Reverend Mark Pickett is our supply pastor.

2008

The church celebrated Dick Apperson's 40th anniversary as the organist/choir director.

The Interim Process begins to merge with First Reformed UCC of Burlington, NC.

Due to the work of Jeanne Williams, the church received a \$20,000.00 grant from the Charles A. Cannon Charitable Trust to use to replace some regular windows and repair the stained glass windows.

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March 2, 2008: Reverend Scott Comrie becomes the new interim pastor.

March, 2008: Reverend Scott Comrie led the congregation in a Maundy Thursday service observing the Passover feast and the Last Supper.

March 13, 2008: Reverend Mark Nanney resigns.

May 18, 2008: The fellowship hall was dedicated as the Henry Winfred Bray Fellowship Hall in honor of his 18 years of service as the minister at FCUCC. Family, friends, and parishioners from former churches in NC and VA, and UCC leaders attended a reception in the hall given in his honor.

Reverend Mark Pickett serves as our supply pastor for 4 months, November 2008 through February 2009.

Sharon Hammill was ordained a minister at Elon Community Church.

Ninety shoe boxes were filled for Shelter Rock Ministries which included personal hygiene items, books, toys and easy craft items.

The Winfred Bray family donated white metal railings for the altar steps in the Sanctuary.

Rally Day was celebrated with the "Service of the Rose" in remembrance of our deceased and the "Star" award was initiated to honor Louise Sutton and Jo Terrell.

2009

January, 2009 Anna Gerow, Merle Sharpe and Pastor Comrie met with representatives of the Preservation and Conservation Committee. They were told first Christian is listed on the National Historic Registry but not on the local one. They said that First Christian should not be demolished but restored. If the property is sold the proper authority should be contacted for consultation. Blessed Sacrament has shown interest in purchasing the property.

The church received \$9,000.00 from the Charles R. Canon Charitable Trust to replace electric panels in the education building and place roof gutters on the Sanctuary building.

March, 2009: For Lent, Lucius Wilson presented a program about the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary.

April 20, 2009: The congregation voted to put the church property on the market for sale. The vote was 55 yes, 20 no, 2 abstentions.

June 11, 2009: In a simultaneous vote following the Sunday worship service, First Christian and First Reform cast secret ballots in their respective churches concerning the issue of merging the two churches. First Christian voted in favor of merger; however, First Reformed voted against the issue by 5 votes.

July 18, 2009: An indoor picnic was held in the Bray Fellowship Hall to honor interim Pastor Scott Comrie and his wife Lois.

July 21, 2009: Reverend Mark Pickett is called as interim pastor.

April 5, 2009: A joint Palm Sunday celebration was held with Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and First Presbyterian Church by processing with palm leaves in the street situated between the three churches. The Burlington Boy's Choir presented a concert for the Palm Sunday worship service at FCUCC.

2010

February, 2010: Reverend Winfred Bray, former pastor and Pastor Emeritus, dies.

April 1, 2010: The Passover Feast and the Last Supper were observed at the Maundy Thursday service.

April 18, 2010: First Christian hosted a joint service and luncheon for St. John's UCC and Grace UCC as a mean of promoting merger of our three congregations.

May 16, 2010: St. John's UCC hosted First Christian UCC and Grace UCC for their Sunday Worship service followed by a picnic at Lake MacIntosh.

June 27, 2010: The three churches hold joint Sunday worship service at Grace UCC in Elon, NC.

The church received \$10,000.00 from the Charles R. Canon Charitable Trust to pave part of the parking lot, replace the air conditioner on the 2nd floor of the education building, and window replacement in the education building.

2011

The church received \$9,000.00 from the Charles R. Canon Charitable Trust to replace the air conditioner on the 3rd floor of the education building and to continue the window replacement in the education building.

2012

The church received \$10,000.00 from the Charles R. Canon Charitable Trust to replace the air conditioner on the first floor of the education building and to paint.

2013

The church received \$10,000.00 from the Charles R. Canon Charitable Trust to replace air conditioning, parking lot project and interior painting.

TO BE CONTINUED

