

10/17/70

ANNOUNCING

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INTEREST COMPOUNDED SEMI-ANNUALLY

**\$300,000.00 Church Building Bonds Dated
January 1, 1971. Maturity Dates 1 year to
15½ years.**

(EVERY SIX MONTHS)

(Double your money before 11 years)

SALES CAMPAIGN NOW UNDERWAY

**Inquire early ... make reservations for delivery
January 1, 1971. Call or write today for prospectus
and sales brochure.**

St. Stephen United Methodist Church
(to be built on Sardis Road)
Reverend James M. Armstrong, Jr., Minister
6330 Owenby Court Charlotte, N. C. 28211
Phone 364-1791

Let Us Send You Our Free Brochure on Bonds

CLIP AND MAIL

St. Stephen United Methodist Church-6330 Owenby Court, Charlotte, N.C. 28211

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

Just over two years after being established the leadership and membership voted. To build on the corner of Lutoma & Sardis Roads. They sold \$363,000 in bonds to fund the project.

9/30/70

Methodist Church Opens Bond Drive

By RITA SIMPSON
News Staff Writer

St. Stephen United Methodist Church, a two-year-old congregation, will launch a \$300,000 bond drive for a new church building Oct. 11.

The church, which has been meeting at Sardis Presbyterian Church, will locate its first permanent building at the corner of Sardis Rd. and Lutoma Rd.

The 11-acre tract was acquired in two parcels, eight acres purchased by the denomination's district mission society and three acres by the St. Stephen congregation.

MONEY derived from the sale of bonds will be used to build and furnish a new plant,

which includes a sanctuary-fellowship hall and educational rooms.

The bond campaign will begin with a kick-off dinner at Sharon United Methodist Church and, according to the new church's pastor, the Rev. James M. Armstrong Jr., it will continue for two to three weeks.

Bonds will be sold to members and non-members, in varying denominations in multiples of \$100.

The building plans, drawn by the architectural firm of Wilbur, Kendrick, Workman and Warren, will be presented to the 312-member congregation for approval Sunday.

The building includes a hall large enough to seat 450 persons for worship services, an education section that has 14 rooms and a seating capacity of 500, an infant nursery, a toddler's nursery, a pre-school kindergarten, banquet facilities for 250 persons and administrative offices.

The church was organized two years ago by Rev. Armstrong, who has served 16 years as a pastor in Durham, Greensboro and Charlotte.

Mr. Armstrong attended Pfeiffer Junior College and was graduated from Wofford College. His bachelor of divinity degree is from Duke University. He was appointed to organize a new United Methodist Church in June, 1968.

The church's constituting service was held in September, 1968, with 69 charter members. For six months the congregation met at Lansdowne School, then moved its meetings to Sardis Presbyterian.

ITS PROGRAM includes Sunday services, a Scouting program for boys and girls, youth fellowship groups for teens, vacation church school, junior choir, a fellowship club for men, family night suppers and a Women's Society of Christian Service.

H. Eugene Gray is chairman of the campaign steering committee, and Bob Bean is heading up the sales committee. Steering committee members are Gray, Edwin R. Castle, Cecil Curtis, Clayton Selvey, H. C. Covington and Karl M. Shelton.

Every member of the congregation is serving on the campaign staff. Assisting the church in the bond sales is the

The Charlotte Observer & The Charlotte News (the City's now closed evening paper) ran numerous articles about our young church's ambitious plans.

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St. Stephen Methodists Break Ground

Stones, the symbol of the martyred apostle Stephen, became the sign of hope and happiness yesterday when the congregation of St. Stephen United Methodist Church broke ground for a new building.

During a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the new church, teenager Chris Walker dug up a small "treasure chest" filled with polished, semi-precious stones.

Two of the church members, Curtis Walker and Dr. William Bean, then explained the symbolism. Ushers gave the stones away as souvenirs to the congregation.

ST. STEPHENS Church named for the apostle who was stoned to death, is building a \$363,000 building at the intersection of Sardis Rd. and Lutoma Circle.

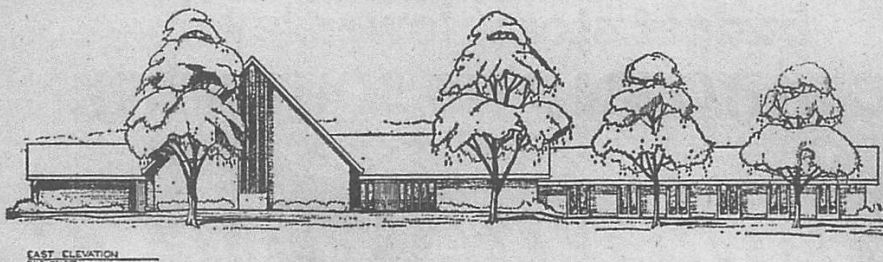
The contemporary building was designed by the architectural firm of Wilbur, Kendrick, Workman and Warren. The general contract was let to Butler and Sidbury.

The church was established two and a half years ago and has grown to a membership of 343. The founding minister is the Rev. James M. Armstrong, who officiated at yesterday's service.

For more than a year the congregation has been meeting and carrying on a full program at Sardis Presbyterian Church, where services will continue to be held until the new church is completed.

Dr. C. C. Herbert, an official of the Western North Carolina United Methodist Conference, preached for the morning worship service yesterday. After the service some 250 members of the congregation left for the site of the new building and the groundbreaking ceremony.

Most of the people brought their shovels with them, and they dug into the ground simultaneously, signifying, according to Mr. Armstrong, "that this has all been a joint effort."



St. Stephen Plans New Building

St. Stephen United Methodist Church has announced tentative plans to break ground for a new building this month.

Members of the two-and-a-half year church will open bids and very likely let the contract for construction tomorrow. The next step will be a groundbreaking ceremony, "and we hope that will be immediately," the Rev. James M. Armstrong Jr. said today.

St. Stephen will be located at the intersection of Sardis and Latoma roads, on an 11-acre tract. The new building

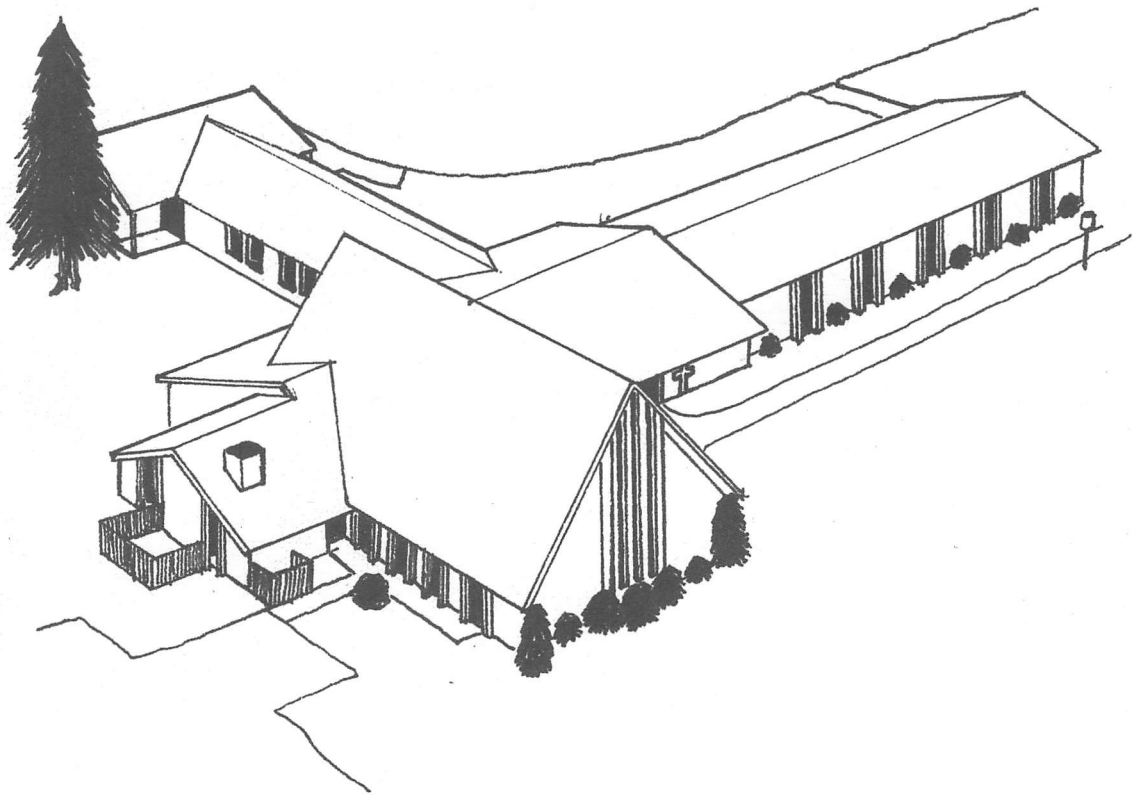
will include a sanctuary-fellowship hall that will seat close to 500 persons, educational facilities for 500, banquet facilities, library, administrative offices, pastor's study, youth lounge, kitchen and a chapel.

THE CONTEMPORARY, one-story building was designed by Wilbur, Kendrick, Workman and Warren, architects.

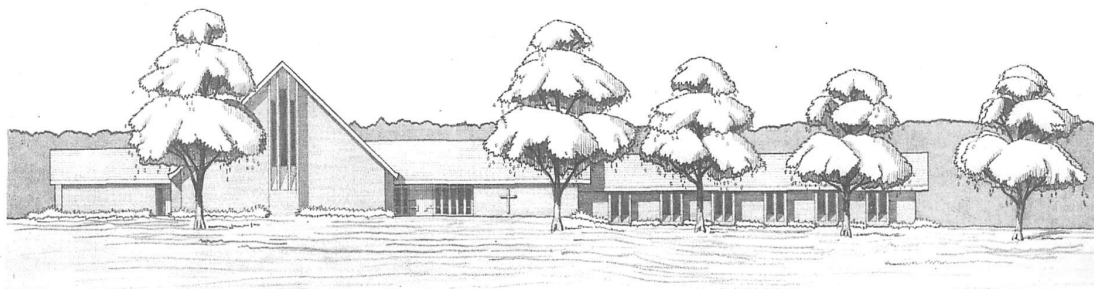
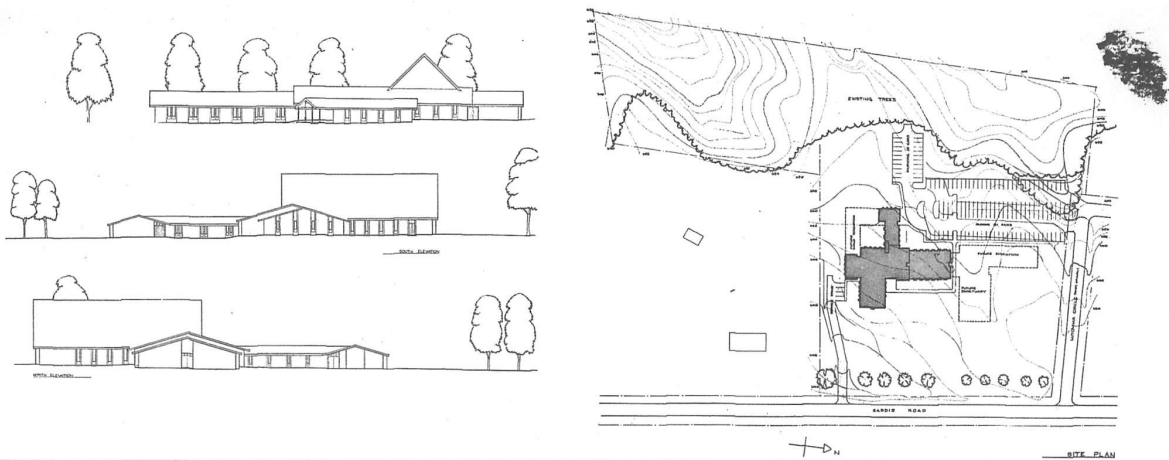
Mr. Armstrong has been pastor of St. Stephen since it was organized in September, 1968. The membership has grown from 69 to 323, and a

full church program has been developed. The congregation is now meeting at Sardis Presbyterian Church, and the pastor has turned one room of the parsonage into a church office. Most of the members live in Stonehaven, Lansdowne, Olde Providence, Old Farm and the nearby community.

Before he began work on organizing the new church, Mr. Armstrong had served two other Charlotte congregations, Trinity and Thrift United Methodist, for eight years. His earlier pastorates were in Durham and Greensboro.



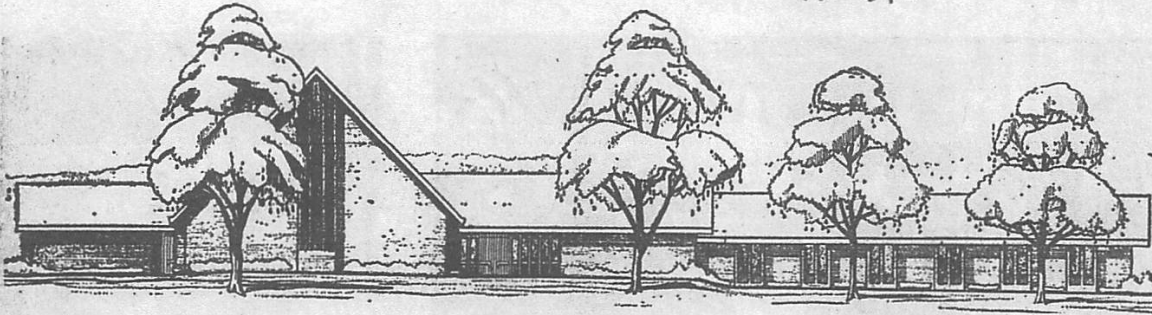
Early concept drawing & elevation for the original part of our campus.



A NEW BUILDING FOR SAINT STEPHEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WILBER, KENDRICK, WORKMAN AND WARREN ARCHITECTS-ENGINEERS; CHARLOTTE, N. C.

April 17, 1971



Architect's Sketch Of New St. Stephen United Methodist Church

United Methodists To Start \$363,000 Building April 25

By SAM R. COVINGTON

Observer Staff Writers

St. Stephens United Methodist Church, a young and growing congregation in southeast Charlotte, will break ground for a \$363,000 building on Sunday, April 25.

Dr. C. C. Herbert, a western N.C. Methodist official, will be the speaker, said St. Stephen pastor James M. Armstrong Jr.

Herbert will preach for the regular 11 a.m. service, after which the congregation will go to the building site for the groundbreaking.

St. Stephen, organized in September of 1968, has conducted worship services and other activities in the old sanctuary of Sardis Presbyterian Church on Sardis Road.

The building site is farther out Sardis Road at the in-

tersection of Lutomma Circle, near but not within the Lansdowne housing development.

The new building is to be of contemporary design with a fellowship hall and two wings, one for classrooms and the other for children's facilities.

The fellowship hall will serve as an auditorium until a more formal sanctuary is built. It will be fitted with an altar, choir loft, pulpit and pews for 500 persons.

To one side and the rear of the fellowship hall will be a kitchen, a lounge, choir room, library and offices.

The classroom wing also contains a large "youth lounge," a small chapel and a mechanical equipment room.

The children's wing contains separate rooms for infants, toddlers and nursery-age youngsters. There will be two rooms for kindergartners.



Groundbreaking service held on Sunday April 25, 1971

Thanks To Congregation

St. Stephen Doors Will Open On Time

By EDITH LOW
News Homemaking Editor

The Rev. Jim Armstrong stood in the sanctuary of St. Stephen United Methodist Church, his hands gently touching the smooth walnut panels of the altar rail.

"You would not believe how many times this wood has been sanded," he said, turning away to look over the large multipurpose room that will double as a sanctuary on Sun-



EDITH

days and fellowship hall during the week.

The new building on Sardis Road will be dedicated tomorrow morning by the 400 members. This would not have been possible this soon if many of them had not chipped in time and effort to complete what was not covered in the budget.

Mr. Armstrong's brown eyes reflected a genuine affection for his congregation. Several were gathered nearby, ready to put the finishing touches on the altar area. Their attitudes were much like his.

It all started in April when

the necessity for cutting the budget became apparent. The members volunteered their time and efforts to make the altar rails, the communion rails, cabinets in the various Sunday school rooms, as well as kneeling cushions, cloths for the altar and two sets of choir collars. Four colors are used over various seasons of the year, so the collars were made reversible, one set in two colors, the other set in the other two.

"Ben Griner, who owns Ben Morgan Fixtures, opened his shop nights and Saturdays to members. That's where we did all our work. If you'll notice all the rails are movable. We

can use the rostrum as a stage if we wish.

"The walnut for the rails was donated by three members of the church. We have about five people who know what they are doing and the rest of us just followed instructions. We worked almost every Saturday.

"A former member, Edward Johnson, did all the wood finishing."

He paused a minute and then talked about the lifestyle of the people involved. "These are mostly people you would not think about as being able to put this together."

"Don Irwin, who owns a cabinet shop, volunteered to do all the cabinets. He's in charge of computer programming at Memorial Hospital. Another is in charge of personnel at Southern Bell. One is operations manager for Westinghouse Nuclear Turbine.

"Virginia (Mrs. Jim) Gobble made the cloths. She and some of the ladies spent hours on the choir collars — 44 of them and they also made 44 feet of kneeling pads.

"Marjorie Riggins was one of the seamstresses," he added, nodding his head in her direction.

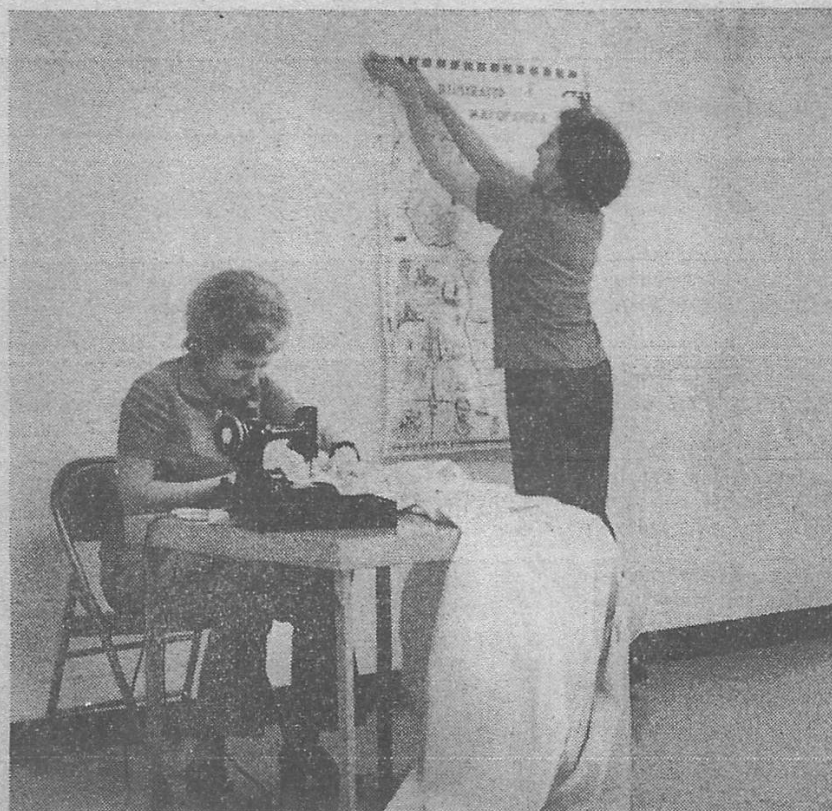
One of the most apparent things about the group of people gathered was their obvious joy in knowing each other. Mr. Armstrong said the entire congregation is on a first-name basis.

"They started out wearing name tags and mine always said reverend. I told them that when they put what they were on their tags, they could

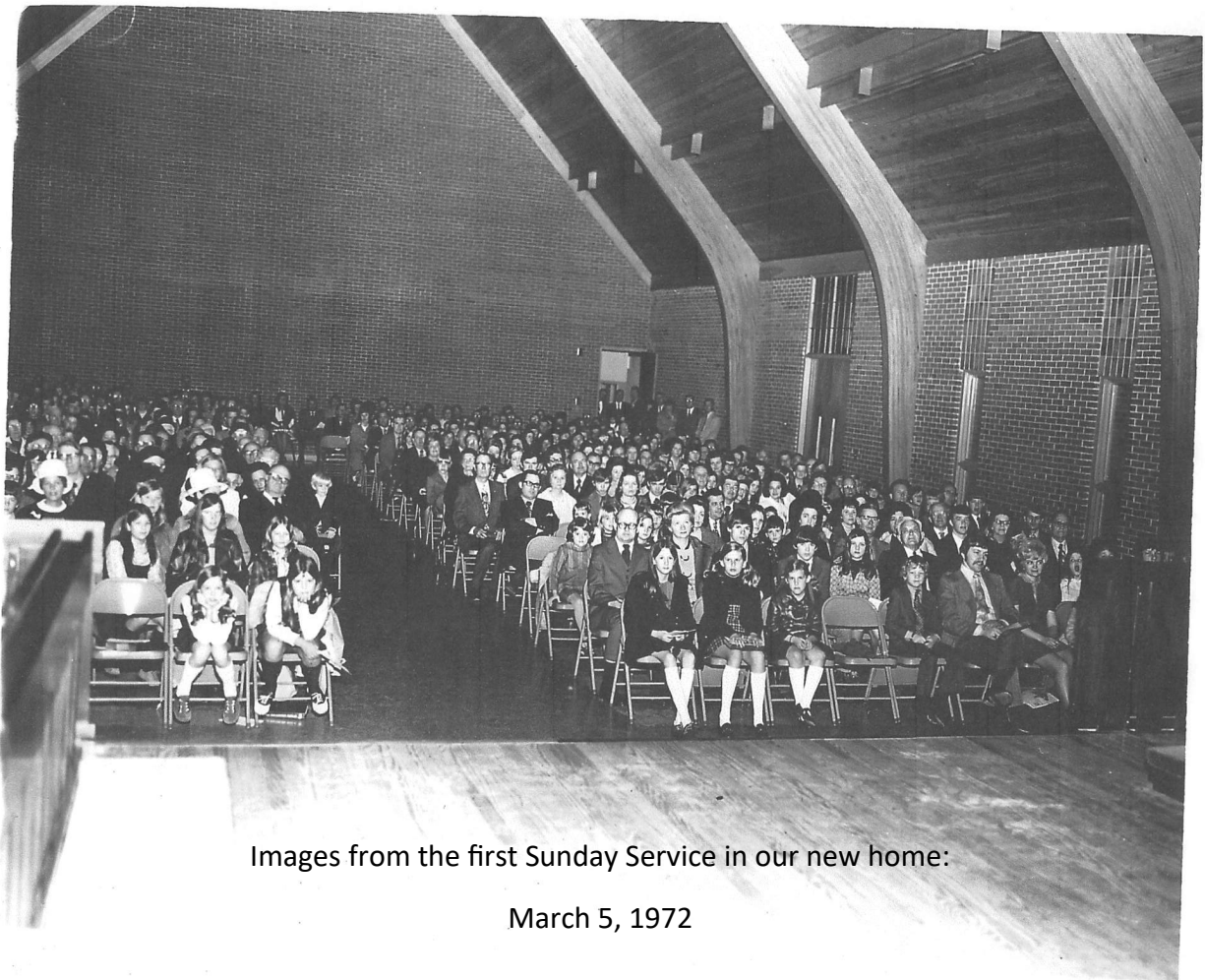




Don Irwin, Jim Armstrong, minister of St. Stephen, United Methodist Church, and Bob Jackson (left to right) get the altar rail ready to put in place for the dedication service planned for tomorrow. Many of the church's 400 members gave their time to finish the sanctuary which will also double as a fellowship hall.

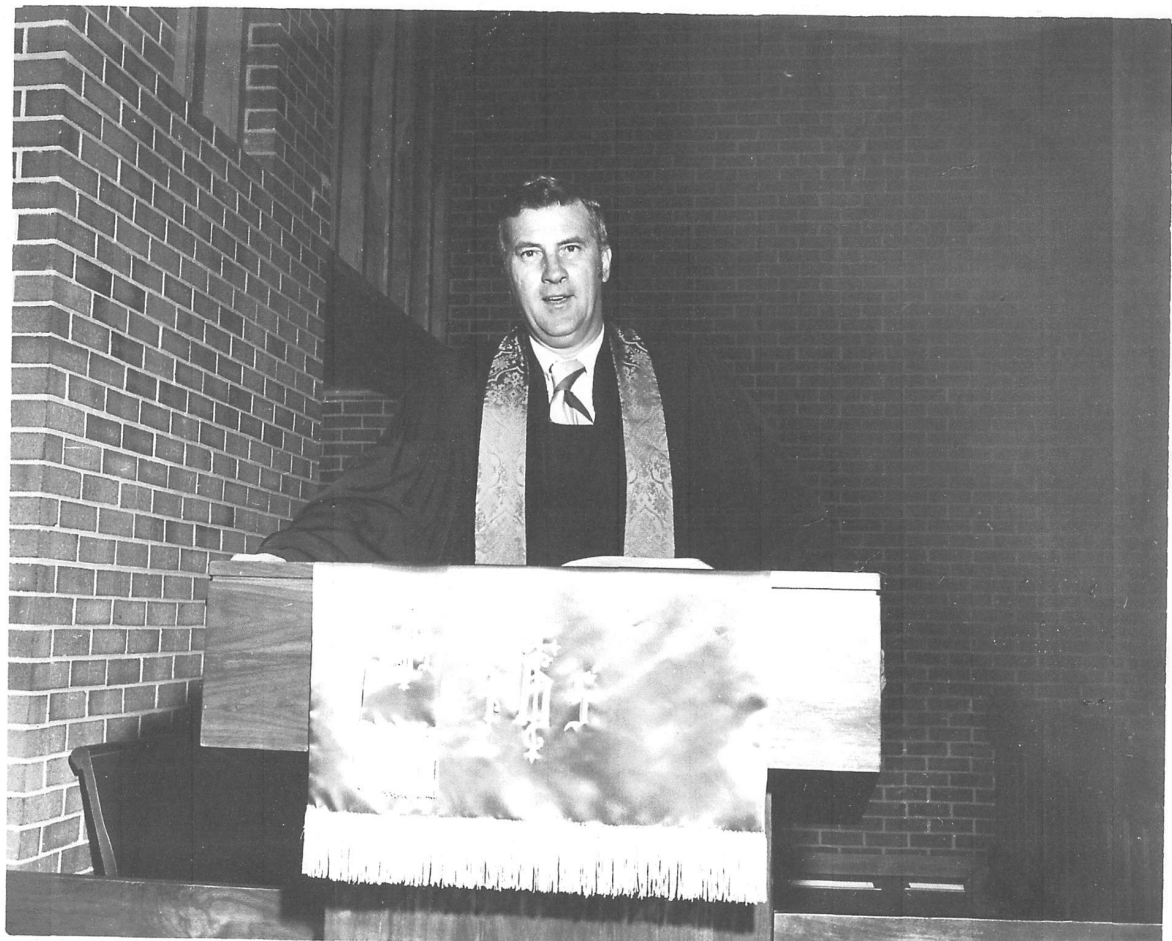


Mrs. Richard Dunn (left) sews some cloth to cover a worship center in one of the classrooms. Mrs. Neal W. Morgan hangs a map of



Images from the first Sunday Service in our new home:

March 5, 1972



for the worship of Almighty God. For the preaching of God's Word; for the due administration of the Holy Sacraments; for the conversion of sinners; the edification of believers; and the salvation of the world; for nurture in the truth of the Holy Scriptures; for Christian teaching, fellowship, and service, we reverently set apart and consecrate this building, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER (superintendent)

Now therefore, O Lord, let thine eyes be open toward this house day and night; and let thine ears be ready toward the prayers of thy children, which they shall make unto thee in this place. And whensoever thy servants shall make to thee their petitions, do thou hear them, and when thou hearest, forgive. Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that thy ministers may be clothed in righteousness, and thy saints rejoice in thy salvation, and may we all, with thy people everywhere, grow up into a holy temple above, the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. O God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; save the community of thy people from cowardly surrender to the world, from forgetting the eternal Gospel amid the temporal pressures of our troubled days. For the unity of the Church we pray, and for her fellowship across the embittered lines of race and nation; and to her growth in grace, her building in love, her enlargement in service, her increase in wisdom, faith, charity, and power, we dedicate our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN 294 "I Love Thy Kingdom Lord"....Tune: St. Thomas

PRESENTATION SERVICE

Building Committee Architect Trustees

BENEDICTION WITH CHORAL RESPONSE

"Christ, We Do All Adore Thee"....Dubois

THE POSTLUDE "Open Thou The Holy Portals".....Neander

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I was glad when
they said to me,
"Let us go to the
house of the Lord!"

Psalms 122:1

ST. STEPHEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
6800 SARDIS ROAD
Charlotte, N. C. 28211
Rev. James H. Armstrong
Telephone: 364-1824

Order of worship for the first service & consecration on our new campus.

The SERVICE of WORSHIP and CONSECRATION Eleven O'Clock A. M. Sunday, March 5, 1972

THE PRELUDE "Chorale: Well Done Is The Work Of God"...

Gastorius

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Hail, Our Redeemer"....Rhea

HYMN 26 "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Tune: Nicaea

THE INVOCATION

The Minister

THE COLLECT (in unison)

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, that thou hast given to thy servants a holy will and sacred desire, to erect and sanctify to thine our worship this building, which we now open for thine honor and glory. Grant that we, and all who come within these portals, shall ever make right use of it, and that the splendor of thy presence shall be manifest therein, and the hearts of thy people be ever blessed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PSALTER (the people standing)

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:

Be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;
And his truth endureth to all generations.

THE GLORIA PATRI

THE APOSTLES CREED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY "A Dream".....Fauré

THE ANTHEM "Gloria" from the "Twelfth Mass"....A. Mozart

THE SERMON

Mr. Armstrong

PRAYER (the minister)

O God, eternal and ever blessed, who delightest in the assembling of thy people in the sanctuary: Hear our prayer for this house, which we would devote henceforth to the honor of thy name. Grant, we beseech thee, that peace and prosperity may be found within these walls, that thy glory may be the light thereof, and that we, and all who come within it, may be satisfied with the goodness of thy house; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER (minister and the people)

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, that thou hast given to thy servants a holy will and sacred desire, to erect and sanctify to thine own worship this building, which we now open for thine honor and glory. Grant that we, and all who come within these portals, shall ever make right use of it, and that the splendor of thy presence shall be manifest therein, and the hearts of thy people be ever blessed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRESENTATION (the minister)

Dr. Heckard, we present this building for consecration as a place for the worship of God and the service of men.

THE DECLARATION (superintendent)

In holy reverence, and in confidence that God our Father will accept that which we do in his name, I now declare this house to be open