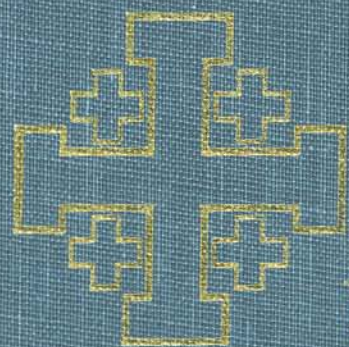


A History: 1980 - 1991



Saint Francis
United Methodist Church

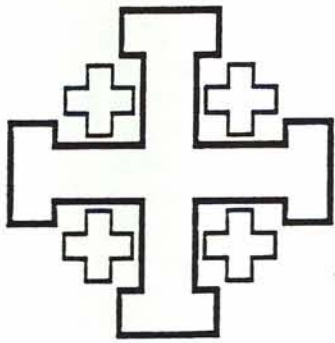
By Lorenzo Pierce Plyler

Lorenzo J. Tyler
9/27/92



11

A History: 1980 - 1991



Saint Francis United Methodist Church

Raleigh District, North Carolina Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church
Cary, North Carolina



PREFACE

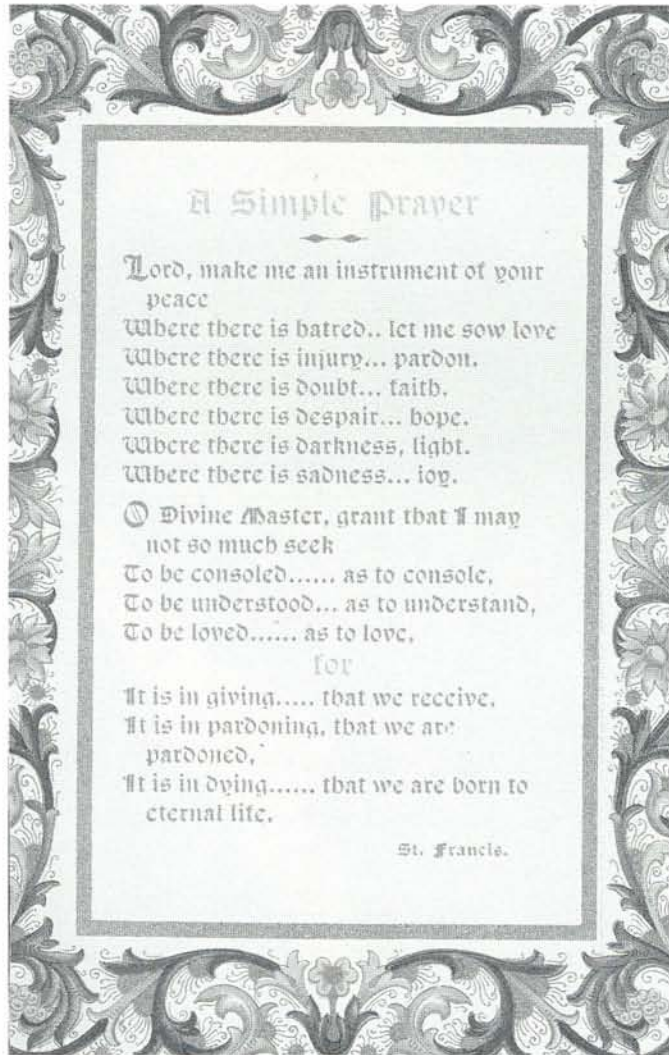
This book is a history of God's People. Its situation is that of a group of loyal, dedicated Christians who began an unending task, Saint Francis United Methodist Church in Cary, North Carolina. It is more than a history, it is one way a few Christians have dealt with their covenant with God through Christ when, at their reception into the body of the United Methodist Church, they pledged themselves to uphold their church with their prayers, their presence, their gifts, and their service.

It was "with fear and trembling" that this editor began his task. It is "with fear and trembling" that he now, lays down the pen and surrenders this history to its primary author: God, in Christ and his Church.

Much inspiration and help has come to me from the members of Saint Francis Church: Charter members, and "little children" like myself, as well as those members who have come along the pathway created by those who began the task. All three groupings have assisted enormously in this task of history writing.

Especially, I am indebted to a select few who have worked side by side with me in this endeavor. There is Sandra Weaver, Administrative Assistant, and Larissa Witt, Program Director. Also, special "thanks" is due to those who did the typing of the manuscript, Gwen Briggs, and Brenda Kerr. Likewise, for those who carefully proofread the manuscript and shared their own personal experiences — Dr. John Rushing, Dr. Ed Barrows, Linda Ziegenfus, Jennifer Fisher, George Turke, and Teena Cochran — I say "God Bless You." And for those who took the time to write down some of their memories and aspirations through the years of their life in Saint Francis Church — J. Cameron West, Steve and Lala Compton, Carl and Mary Ellen Frazier, Dr. James Earl and Martha Vann, Don and Mary Holloway, Ed and Diane Averett, Bob and Marge McFarlane, and Alan and Brenda Kerr, among others, I say "Grace, Mercy, and Peace," be yours always. Then last but not least, are all those members of Saint Francis Church who related verbally one or more anecdotes of their personal experiences, plus those who so warmly expressed their "Well Wishes" during the writing-time, I say "God Bless You All."

Lorenzo Pierce Plyler



A Simple Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your
peace

Where there is hatred.. let me sow love

Where there is injury... pardon.

Where there is doubt... faith.

Where there is despair... hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness... joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may
not so much seek

To be consoled..... as to console,

To be understood... as to understand,

To be loved..... as to love,

for

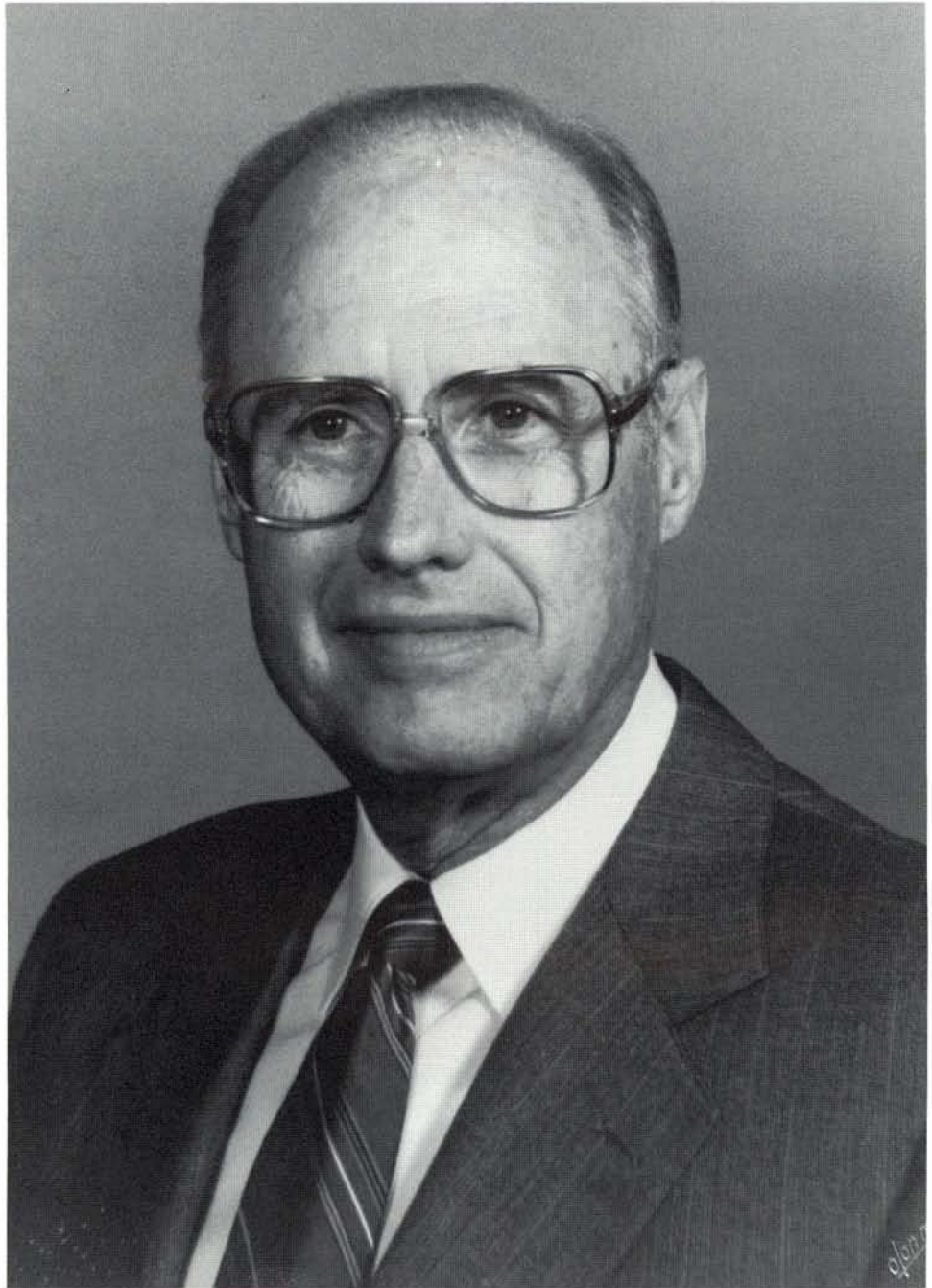
It is in giving..... that we receive.

It is in pardoning, that we are
pardoned,

It is in dying..... that we are born to
eternal life.

St. Francis.

The Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi



The Reverend Bishop C.P. Minnick, Jr.

Resident Bishop, Raleigh Area, The United Methodist Church

BISHOP CARLTON P. MINNICK, JR.

Date of Birth: September 8, 1927, Greensboro, NC. Reared in Lynchburg, VA.

Education: Attended public schools in Lynchburg, VA. Graduate of E.C. Glass High School, Lynchburg

College: University of Virginia (one year), graduated from Lynchburg College, VA, B.A. Degree, Cum Laude, 1954.

Seminary: Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA, Bachelor of Divinity Degree, 1957. Completed Master of Theology Degree in 1958. Topic of Masters Thesis: **Exegetical study of the New Testament Concept of the Church.**

Ordained: As a member of the Virginia Annual Conference, ordained Deacon in 1955 and ordained Elder in 1957.

Honorary Degrees: Doctor of Divinity Degree from: Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA, 1978; Millsaps College, Jackson, MS, 1981; Rust College, Holly Springs, MS, 1982; NC Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount, NC, 1989.

Pastoral Ministry:

- + Chaplain and Professor of Bible at Ferrum College in Virginia, and pastor of St. James United Methodist Church, Ferrum, VA, 1985-1963
- + Westhampton United Methodist Church, Richmond, VA, 1963-1967
- + Williamsburg United Methodist Church, Williamsburg, VA. 1967-1973
- + Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, Arlington, VA, 1973-1978
- + District Superintendent, Alexandria District, VA, 1978-1980

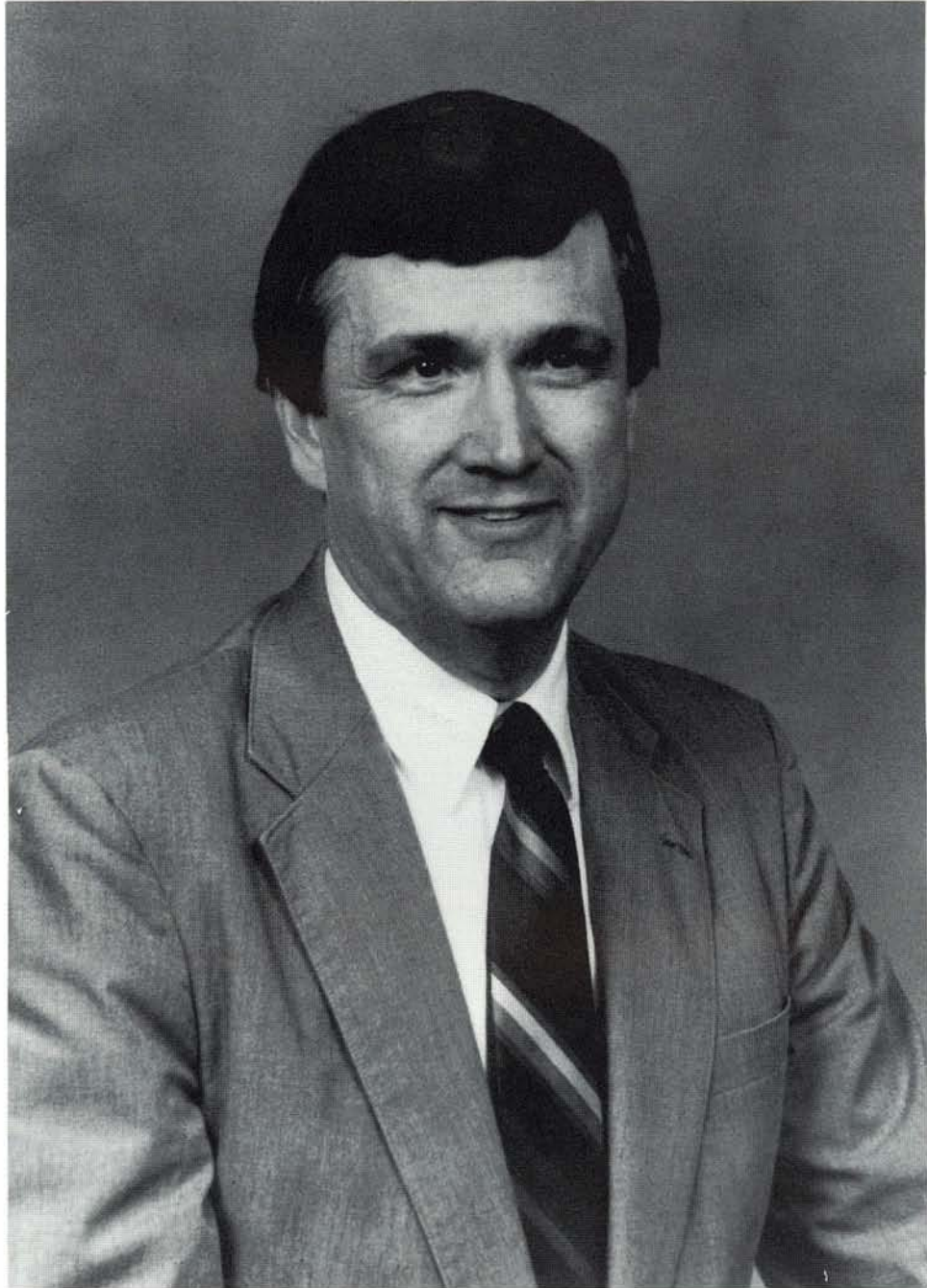
Episcopal Data: Elected Bishop of The United Methodist Church by the Southeastern Jurisdiction on July 17, 1980. Consecrated Bishop, July 19, 1980, at Lake Junaluska, NC. Assigned to the Jackson, MS, Area, July 1980. Assigned to the Raleigh, NC, Area on July 18, 1984, and assigned for a second quadrennium in July 1988.

Episcopal Responsibilities:

- + Served on General Board of Church and Society, 1980-1988
- + President, Southeastern Jurisdictional Administrative Council, 1988-1990
- + Served as Co-Chair of The Council of Bishops' Initiative, "In Defense of Creation: The Nuclear Crisis and a Just Peace," 1984-1988
- + Chair of the Council of Bishops' Committee on Episcopal Initiative for Ministry and Mission, 1988-1992
- + Has served on the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, 1988 to present.
- + Has served as President of United Methodist Committee on Relief Department, General Board of Global Ministries, 1988 to present.
- + Has served as Member of Governing Board, National Council of Churches in the U.S.A., 1988 to present
- + Has served as Member of the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council, 1988 to present

Family: Married to Mary Ann Adams of Lynchburg, VA. They have four children: Gregory Minnick, Richmond, VA; Jonathan (Jay) Minnick, Raleigh, NC; Mrs. Patte Martin, Woodbury, MN; Mrs. Ann Wheeler, San Diego, CA. The Minnicks have three grandchildren.

Office: The United Methodist Building, Room 203, 1307 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27605. Mailing Address: PO Box 10955, Raleigh NC 27605-0955. Office Phone: (919) 832-9560



The Reverend Doctor F. Belton Joyner, Jr.

*Raleigh District Superintendent
The North Carolina Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church*

F. BELTON JOYNER, JR.

The United Methodist Building
1307 Glenwood Avenue/P.O. Box 10955
Raleigh, N.C. 27605
(919) 834-5100

MARTIAL STATUS: Married, Toni Vance of Hopatcong, New Jersey
One Adult Son: Belton III, Williamsburg, Virginia

EDUCATION: Duke University, A.B.
Drew University, B.D.
Drew University, D. Min.
Honorary Degree, Methodist College, D.D.
President's Medallion, Louisburg College

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS:

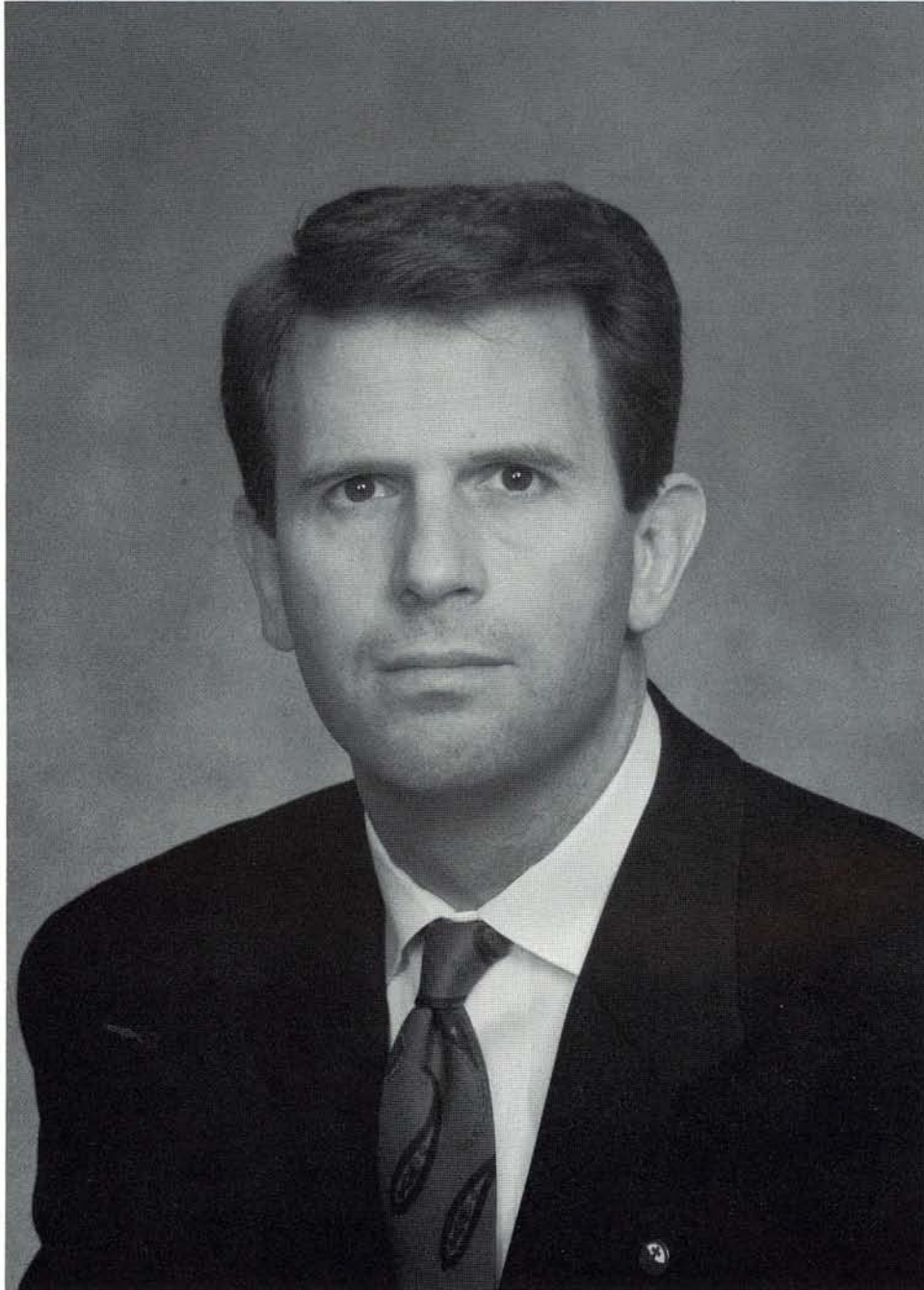
1959: Ordained Deacon, The Methodist Church
1961: Ordained Elder, The Methodist Church
1961-1965: Pastor, Oleander-Pine Valley Methodist Charge Wilmington, NC
1965-1968: Pastor, Mt. Bethel Methodist Church, Bahama, NC
1968-1974: Staff, North Carolina Conference Council on Ministries, The United Methodist Church
1974-1978: Pastor, Mebane United Methodist Church, Mebane, NC
1978-1985: Pastor, Trinity United Methodist Church, Durham, NC
1985-1989: Executive Director, North Carolina Conference Council on Ministries, The United Methodist Church
1989-Present: Raleigh District Superintendent, North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church

CONNECTIONAL CHURCH ACTIVITY:

Delegate: Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference — 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992
Delegate: General Conference — 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992
Member, Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy
Member, General Board of Publication
Trustee, Louisburg College

PUBLICATIONS:

* New Creation	* Junior High Ministry and You Series
* Explore	* Youth Teacher Development Series
* Jesus Christ	* UMYF Arena
* Adventure	* Church School
* Directions in Faith	* Youth Bible Series
* Christian Studies for Late Teens	* Program Quarterly
* Bible to Life Book for Late Teens	



The Reverend J. Cameron West, Pastor
Saint Francis United Methodist Church

June 1981-August 1983

J. CAMERON WEST

PERSONAL:

Born July 1, 1950, in Lumberton, North Carolina.
Parents: Dr. and Mrs. Cameron P. West
Married: Elizabeth Louise Batchelor, October 8, 1989

EDUCATION:

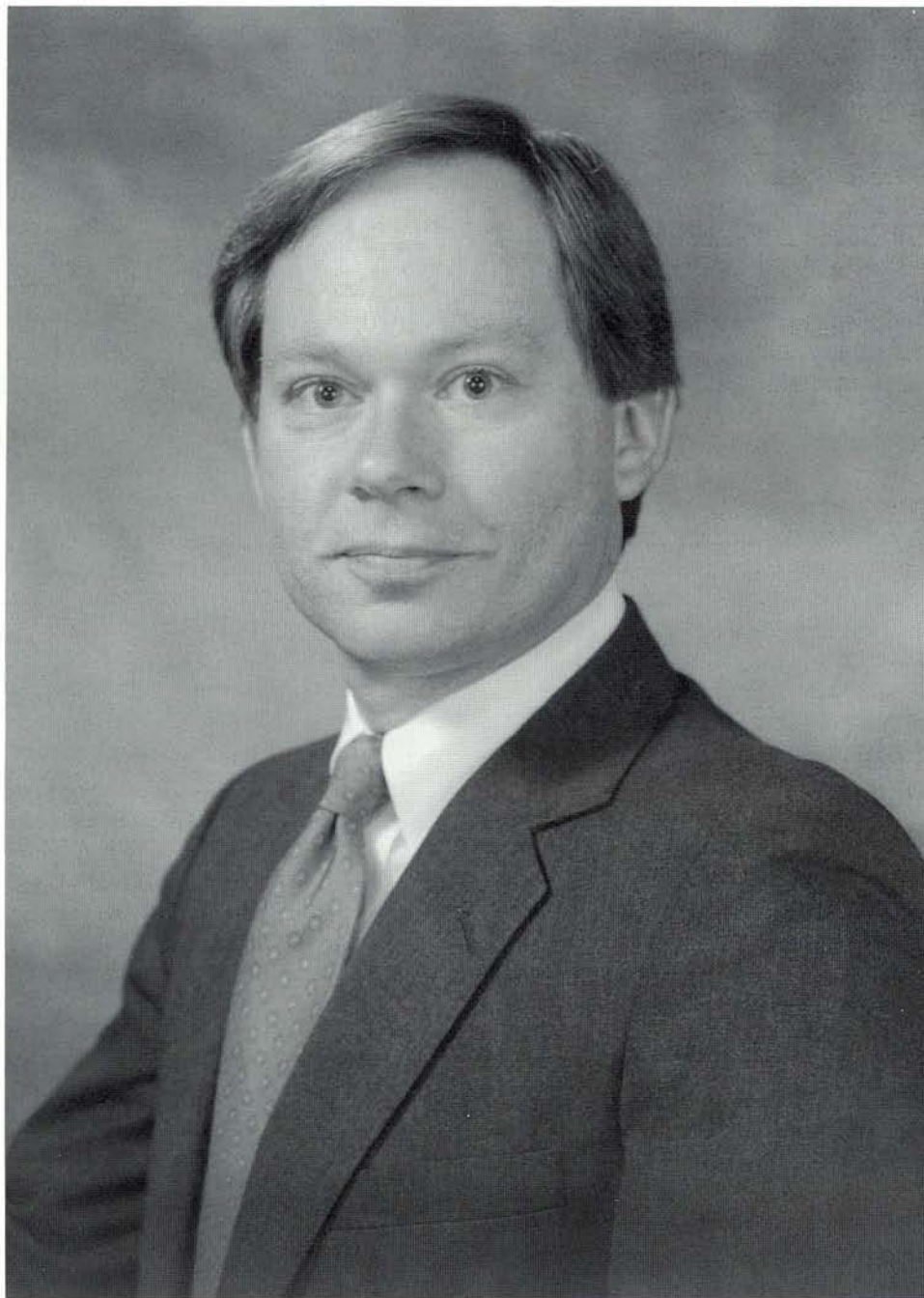
Bachelor of Arts, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1972
Master of Divinity, Yale Divinity School, 1978.
Master of Theology, Duke Divinity School, 1986.

PASTORATES:

Associate Pastor, Hayes Barton United Methodist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina, June 1978 - June 1981.
Organizing Pastor, Saint Francis United Methodist Church, Cary, North Carolina, June 1981-August 1983.
Sabbatical, Duke University, August 1983-May 1984.
Pastor, Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, Warrenton, North Carolina, June 1984-December 1986.
Pastor, Welch Memorial Church, High Point, North Carolina, January 1987-June 1988.
Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Valdese, North Carolina, July 1988-.

PUBLICATIONS:

Sermon (on church-state relations), **The News and Observer**, Raleigh, North Carolina, December 1979.
Sermon (on the spiritual dimension of economic and social deterioration in northeastern North Carolina, August 1986.
Sermon (exploring the Christian response to war), **The News-Herald**, Morganton, North Carolina, December 1990.
Pamphlet, "Our Children Take Part in the Lord's Supper," Discipleship Resources, Nashville, Tennessee, December 1983.
Article, **The Interpreter** (on the United Methodist-Episcopal eucharistic service), Raleigh, North Carolina, by Bishops Cannon and Estill, December 1983.



The Reverend Doctor Stephen C. Compton
Pastor, Saint Francis United Methodist Church

September 1983-June 1989

STEPHEN CHARLES COMPTON

Birth: 6/18/50 Alamance County, North Carolina

Family:

Wife: Lala Smith Compton
Children: Jonathan MATTHEW and Stephen CLAY Compton

Education:

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>
A.B.	1972	University of North Carolina
M.Div.	1979	Duke University
D.Min.	1990	Emory University

Ordination:

Deacon	1977
Elder	1981

Appointments:

Chestnut Ridge	1978
Salem (Person Co.)	1980
Saint Francis	1983
N.C. Conference Vitalization Project	1989



The Reverend R. Carl Frazier, Jr., Pastor

Saint Francis United Methodist Church

July 1989

R. CARL FRAZIER, JR.

Personal:

Born May 21, 1958 in Wilson, North Carolina. Parents: Robert C. Frazier Sr and Elizabeth Bissette Frazier

Married Mary-Ellen Beasley of Bentonville, North Carolina on December 29, 1979.

Two children: Elizabeth Quinlan Frazier (born December 21, 1983) and Ellen Frances Frazier (born February 19, 1989).

Education:

Graduated from Ralph L. Fike Senior High School, Wilson, NC — June 1976. Bachelor of Arts (magna cum laude) from Barton College (formerly Atlantic Christian College), May 11, 1980.

Master of Divinity from Duke University, May 6, 1984.

Pastorates:

Gaston United Methodist Charge (interim supply), Gaston, NC 1979-80

Pleasant Green United Methodist Church, Durham, NC, 1980-84

Trinity United Methodist Church (associate pastor), Durham, NC, 1984-85

Battleboro-Clark Street United Methodist Charge, Battleboro, NC. 1985-89

Saint Francis United Methodist Church, Cary, NC, 1989-

Church:

Ordained Deacon in the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, June 7, 1981

Ordained Elder in the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, June 2, 1986

North Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, 1987-

(Vice Chairperson, 1991- ; chair, Local Pastors Committee, 1988-)

North Carolina Conference Board of Education, 1986-87

North Carolina Conference Committee on Continuing Education, 1987-

Planning Team, Bishop's Seminar on the Ministry, 1987- ; chair, 1989

Rocky Mount District Committee on the Ministry, 1987-89; chair, 1988-89

Coordinator of Youth Ministries, Durham District, 1984-85

Community:

Vice President, Cary Area Ministerial Association, 1991

Cary Advisory Board for Meals on Wheels, 1991-

CHAPTER I

The First 100 Days

“The Germ”

As early as 1976, the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church had been considering the expansion of the denomination south west of Raleigh, especially in the area of Cary, NC. By 1980, it was apparent to the Annual Conference and the Methodists of Cary that another Methodist congregation was of prime necessity. Each of the two Methodist churches in the Cary community had around 1700 members: First Methodist having been established around 1871 and White Plains Methodist in the early 1960s, and both unable to accommodate further expansion. Likewise, since Cary, a small city of nearly 23,000 population, was fast becoming a suburban community looking toward Raleigh, NC, as its locus, it was deemed essential that there must be a third Methodist church to supply the demands of the denomination.

At the Annual Conference session in June, 1980, the announcement was made that a new Methodist church was under consideration for Cary. In August, 1980, the Raleigh District Superintendent, the Reverend Reginald Ponder, said that a new church would soon be a reality, probably by the next Annual Conference session and at that time a pastoral assignment would be made. The new church, he continued, would be located near the MacGregor Downs subdivision or some other advantageous location near southwestern Cary and Apex. Reverend Ponder cited four major reasons for this prospective expansion of Methodism: The new congregation would be located in an area not too close to the other Methodist churches; the newly appointed pastor would be a person

attractive to Methodists who either belonged or did not belong to the existing churches; some Methodists might prefer to be in a smaller congregation than First Church or White Plains Church; and some Methodists might receive satisfaction by being charter members of a new congregation.

Both ministers of First Church and White Plains Church, the Reverend T. M. Faggart and the Reverend Samuel D. McMillan, Jr., concurred with Mr. Ponder, relative to the need for another Methodist congregation; and became with their congregations deeply involved in the contemplated new church development. This feeling of Christian brotherly love continues to the present time.

On June 8, 1981, at the next Annual Conference session, the announcement was made relative to Conference church development that the contemplated church for Cary was now to be a reality and the new pastor would be the Reverend John Cameron West, Associate Pastor, at Hayes Barton United Methodist Church in Raleigh, NC. On being introduced to the Conference, Mr. West said, “It is with great excitement and deep gratitude that I accept this appointment. I promise to you to help the lay people of Cary begin a community of faith which draws in the best of the Wesleyan and United Methodist heritage . . . Bishop Cannon (then the Resident Bishop of the **North Carolina Annual Conference**) I pledge to you that I **will** be faithful to my tasks to teach and preach; to encourage fellowship; to be a model of prayer in my life; and to break bread sacramentally in the name of the Lord. I will consult you and my District Superintendent often in

my labors, and I will ask for your prayers that God will grant us success in our new labors in Cary."

Thus, it was that St. Francis United Methodist Church was born. There was no congregation, no finances, no church building, no parsonage; but there was Mr. West and his ideas about his new appointment and his new task in Christ Jesus. When he was interviewed following on his arrival at Cary, he stated this: "The mission of the church is not just in far away places, but also in Cary. I want to establish a church that is a network of people who care for each other. I want to establish a church that is theirs."

"The Task Begins"

On July 16, 1981, The Reverend Mr. West sent out a letter to all those people who had shown a positive interest in a new Cary church and who had consented in becoming a member of his Planning Committee. This letter bore this inscription: "Dear planning committee member of South Cary United Methodist Church." At this same time Mr. West and his spouse, Cynthia, took up their residence in Kildare Farms at 1219 Selwyn Lane, Cary, NC. The property purchase was part of the assistance to the new church promised by the North Carolina Annual Conference.

The first meeting of the planning committee was called for Wednesday evening, July 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Martha and Dr. James Earl Vann who resided in MacGregor Downs. The first gathering began with worship, centered within the scripture lessons, Acts 2:42-47 and Luke 24:13-35. "Both of these lessons offer insight into the basic nature of Jesus' ministry and the ministry of the early church" was Mr. West's opening statement in his first sermon to his new congregation. The brainstorming session that followed the worship requested the members to ponder over these questions:

1. "What one contribution of the church to your life or what one program the church has offered you causes you to give thanksgiving to God?"
2. In what one way has the church **failed** or disappointed you?"
3. In what one way would you like to be **committed** now to the life of the Church, or in what way can we as a new congregation in south Cary serve the community?"

The letter informed the committee that five more sessions would be held, also on Wednesday evenings: July 29, August 5, 19, 26, and September 2. Furthermore, on September 13, in the cafeteria/auditorium of Briarcliff Elementary School on Pond St., Cary, the first Sunday worship service would be held. One other item for consideration concluding the letter was Mr. West's suggestion that the following be names for the new church: "St. Philip's Church, with the inspiration being drawn from Acts 8:4-40 and St. Stephen's Church . . . from the story in Acts 6 and 7."

As announced the new congregation gathered on July 22, 1981, at the Vann home. Reverend West addressed the

assembly with these words: "Tonight is the culmination of a dream I began dreaming in March, 1980, with Tom Faggart (Pastor of First United Methodist Church, Cary) and my wife that one day I would be privileged to lead a group of people in Cary in the faith journey of establishing a new congregation. Those of you who have known me in the past know that I like to do things well. I believe we are in the beginning stages of forming a congregation that will embody the best of the United Methodist traditions."

In his first formal presentation, Mr. West made reference first to John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement in England; then his witness that, like John Wesley, he too professed the "evangelical catholic" position of pastoral relationship. Moving on to worship, he accented the importance of the Lord's Supper at each service. Afterward, he introduced the latest information about Methodist worship through the book *We Gather Together*, and added that for the present all would participate in "Word and Table" as spelled out in the above text. "We will," he said, "use this book for several months as our Sunday bulletin, and I will each week teach you about the services in the book."

The service continued with hymns being sung, with Mrs. Vann playing, and Scripture lessons read by Dr. Vann. Prayers of praise and thanksgiving came afterward with everyone standing "as was the practice in the ancient church." Prayers of confession as well as prayers for each individual followed, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. The service ended with the pastor's benediction and this announcement: "The hymnals belong to us, purchased with money donated to us by First United Methodist and White Plains United Methodist Churches --- \$500.00 each . . . We will take an offering each week as administrative expenses are beginning to mount and as a way of engaging in stewardship before we actually begin a formal program of pledging in September."

The second planning meeting was held on July 23, 1981, at the home of Russell and Joann Buxton in MacGregor Downs. Worship began the program for the session. This constituted Scripture Lesson, Matthew 14:13-21; Praise; Proclamation of the Word, Response to the Word; the Lord's Supper; Dismissal and Blessing. The brainstorming part of the meeting centered within three questions Pastor West had suggested to the group in the first session. The meeting concluded with Mr. West announcing that "four good names" had been already suggested for the new congregation: Church of the Covenant, Church of St. John the Evangelist, St. Philip's Church; and St. Stephen's Church; also that the group should decide by September 13, the first Sunday Worship Service, what the name of the church would be. In conclusion, West added that the next session would meet at the parsonage.

A pastoral communication, signed by Reverend T. M. Faggart, Pastor of First United Methodist Church and consigned by Mr. West, was sent on July 29, 1981, to recent visitors at First Church telling these people about

the new church. Mr. Faggart's statement was: "In order that you may have the option of visiting a smaller, much different church environment than you experienced at First Church . . . either Mr. West or a member of the planning committee of South Cary Church will call to see if you are interested in receiving a visit . . . to see if you are interested in the new church."

In the *Raleigh Times*, dated August 1, 1981, further insights into the development of the new church are reported. Mr. West, interviewed by the *Times* staff reported Fred Brown made this assertion: "The committee includes single people, married couples, and youth. The youngest committee member is 23 and some members are in their 50's. Sociologically, I tried to get a good mix, a cross section of South Cary. I was looking to people I knew would be committed." The *Times* article also said that the committee was looking for a building site as well as finding a name for the new congregation. Pastor West continued: "The name South Cary Church is only temporary. We want the name to reflect the mission of the church . . . The new church will probably be built either on Kildare Farm Road or somewhere south of Kildare Farm Road and Maynard Road." In this same interview, Mr. West also said that the church would receive financial backing from the North Carolina Conference during the first year of its existence. His concluding remarks were: "My salary and housing are being paid by the NC Conference and we are eligible for a sizable grant and loan within the first year. After that, we will be expected to provide a return on their investment."

The third planning meeting met at the home of Joann and Russell Buxton on August 5, 1981. The session started with nine families in attendance. As were the previous meetings, Worship began the proceedings. The Scripture Lessons were I Kings 19:1-19 and Matthew 14:22-36. Dianne Averett read the New Testament with Wanda Swartz leading the Prayers of the People. Edward Averett assisted Pastor West in the Breaking of the Bread and Giving of the Cup. In the discussion that followed two more names were volunteered for the developing church: All Saint's Church and St. Francis Church. An argument for each of the suggested names would be presented at the next meeting on August 19. After this, the assembly divided into three groups---Thanksgiving, Failures, and Commitment---to discuss issues now before the group. Thanksgiving included Mary Holloway, Steve Sykes, Dianne Buxton, Cindy West, Angie Shelton, Harry and Clair Brown. Failures was comprised of James Vann, Kenneth Swartz, Edward Averett, Jean Kunzman, and Jean King. Commitments consisted of Madra Britt, Wanda Swartz, Russell Buxton, Martha Vann, Loretta Hollowell, and Kaye Jackson. Several announcements were made by Mr. West to the effect that the Briarcliff School location for the September 9th service was affirmed; that White Plains United Methodist Church had contributed \$500.00 to the church fund; that William Britt was giving a cross for the church; that an Open House was scheduled for September

at the parsonage and that wine would be used in the Supper. The session, next, narrowed down the projected church names to St. Francis, St. Stephen's, and St. John the Evangelist. It was also decided that a fourth and final meeting would be on August 19 at the parsonage since no meeting would be held on August 12, for Pastor and Mrs. West planned to be on vacation that week.

On August 10, 1981, a communication was sent by Mr. West to all those who were interested in the South Cary Church. Among other statements in the letter relative to the new church was the information about the August 5 meeting of the planning committee, that the preliminary vote for the name of the church indicated that of fifteen ballots cast, eleven favored St. Francis. He terminated his communication with the following statement: "Assuming we will call ourselves St. Francis United Methodist Church, the example of that great man will be a continuing guide and inspiration for our ministry. St. Francis of Assisi was a figure whose life embodied the ideals of humility, love, peace, justice and social concern. If we can reach out to each other and to the people of Cary and Apex communities as he reached out in the 12th and 13th centuries across boundaries that would divide people, then we can grace our church with no name more fitting than his."

The fifth planning session met at the home of Dianne and Edward Averett on August 26, 1981. The first item of business as had been the case in past meetings was Worship. There followed then reports of all the standing committees: the Special Program, Hospitality, and Outreach committees. A discussion relating to the future site selection planning meeting preceded the adjournment.

A communication dated August 24, 1981, and just prior to the fifth session outlined some of the future plans of Mr. West for the church. He spoke of the next session of the planning committee, the United Methodist Church night on September 9 at First Church where the interested people might meet the District Superintendent Reginald Ponder and other Conference personnel. Mr. West also announced the following piece of important information: "Concerning our permanent name of St. Francis United Methodist Church, 17 of 21 ballots cast last Wednesday night were for St. Francis . . . I appreciate your interest in this important naming process and I rejoice with you at the beauty and vision which our new name gives to us."

The sixth and final planning meeting took place on September 2, 1981, as anticipated at the home of David and Jane Kunzman. Worship opened the session. In the business segment the Special Program Committee for the Community Night at First Church reported on the activities for that program. After which several of the District and Conference officials present at this time gave the assembly information on Ministerial Salary Support, as well as financial aid from the Board of Missions. Adjournment followed.

In the *Cary News*, dated September 9, 1981, there appeared the article affirming both the Community Night



at the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church that evening at 7 p.m. and the anticipated first Worship Service on September 13, 1981 at 10 a.m. at the Briarcliff Elementary School.

The planning was now completed, and thus St. Francis United Methodist Church initiated its future life, affirming the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and its namesake, St. Francis of Assisi.

From the nine families responding to the call for the first planning session, the consequential list of adherents indicates who were among the first group of Cary residents to begin this auspicious undertaking of St. Francis United Methodist Church: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Armfield, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Averett, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bailey, Janie Barkhurst, Mr. and Mrs. William Britt, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Buxton, Mary Clive, Mary Holloway, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hollowell, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Jackson, Jean C. King, Dr. and Mrs. David Kunzman, Jerry Lachapelle, Angie Skelton, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Swartz and Janie Swartz, Steve Sykes, Dr. and Mrs. James E. Vann and the Reverend Mr. and Mrs. J. Cameron West.

CHAPTER II

“The Germ Grows”

In the *Cary News*, September 16, 1981, an announcement appeared relative to the worship inauguration at St. Francis Church. It read: “A new congregation serving the Cary area: Saint Francis United Methodist Church, Cameron West, Pastor. **Sunday Worship:** 10 a.m. at Briarcliff Elementary School on Pond St. (1 block west of the intersection of Maynard and Kildare Farm Roads, Cary). Children welcome at worship. Nursery for infants and toddlers. **Wednesday Bible Study:** 7:30 p.m. at 1219 Selwyn Lane, Kildare Farms subdivision, Cary.” The announcement was published on September 23 and 30 also.

The first issue of *The Franciscan*, edited by John Cameron West, came to the new congregation on October 1, 1981. Its leader read: “Come Celebrate the Festival of Saint Francis,” and cited the following events: “This Sunday is the Festival of Saint Francis throughout the





Christian World, and we will remember the life of our namesake with a day long celebration. We will start the day in corporate worship at 10:00 a.m. . . . Beginning at 1:30 that afternoon, we have the opportunity to share in Saint Francis concern for the poor by walking for hunger relief in the Cary CROP WALK . . . That night at 6:00 p.m. we will celebrate our first Parish Night at First United Church. We will share a covered dish supper, watch filmstrips on the life of Saint Francis and experience an intergenerational learning event."

This issue of *The Franciscan* also identified several future events for the members of St. Francis Church:

1. "The Way of Discipleship," a series of ten sessions beginning on October 18, centering themselves on "what it means to be a Christian disciple".
2. "Planning For Education," a Christian Education program for the 1982 church year directed by James and Martha Vann, Mary Holloway, and Deidre Palmer, all Duke trained leaders.
3. "Administrative Council Taking Shape," selection of temporary church officials for the remainder of the year, 1981, the group to receive proper instruction by the Reverend Willie Teague, North Carolina Conference Coordinator of Leadership Development.
4. "Parish Nights for the Rest of 1981," these events were to occur at First United Church on November 1. (All Saints Day), November 22 (Thanksgiving Celebration), and December 20 (Christmas Love Feast). Also an announcement was included relating to a Christmas eve worship service at 4:30 p.m. on December 24; the place to be announced at a later time.
5. "Wednesday Night Bible Study," a series of four night sessions also in October which would concentrate on the Lectionary readings for that month.

The Franciscan for November 1, 1981, reported two very important events for St. Francis church: the announcement of Charter Sunday, January 10, 1982 and the

selection of Administrative Council members for 1982.

1. Charter Sunday, the program for the day began with worship at 10:00 a.m. and a Baptismal Renewal Service. Several people were baptized and a number of persons were received by transfer of membership to the United Methodist Church. The Raleigh District Superintendent preached and presided over the Lord's Supper. After the worship service Mr. Ponder convened the Constituent Conference of St. Francis. The first official business of the new church was then transacted. Lunch for all official participants, clerical and laity, was served at the MacGregor Downs Country Club, Cary, after the charter service. On the same evening at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, a community wide celebration of the Wesleyan Covenant service with the Raleigh Area Bishop William R. Cannon presiding. A reception for Mr. Cannon followed the service of Covenant making. The Charter service was announced publicly from the office of the Coordinator of Communications to the various denominations of Cary and Methodism in the North Carolina Annual Conference on December 31, 1981.

A letter sent to Bishop Cannon on January 11, 1981, by the new Lay Leader, James E. Vann expressed the united thanksgiving of St. Francis Church. It read in part: "I express to you the heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the leadership you have provided during the formation of this, the newest congregation in North Carolina Methodism . . . We ask for your prayers, and we rest in the comforting thought that the church at large is supporting us in this great endeavor and will walk with us on this great journey we have begun."

2. The second so very vital announcement was that of the naming of the first group of official members, the Administrative Council of St. Francis Church for 1982, elected for the Constitutive Conference.

This, the Administrative Council for 1982, would be made up of the following members:

- Pastor: The Reverend J. Cameron West (ex officio)
- Chairperson and Lay Leader: James Carl Vann
- Chairperson of the Work Area on Nurture and Membership Care: Mary Holloway
- Chairperson of the Work Area for Outreach: Dianne Averett
- Chairperson of the Finance and Property Committee: Ed Hollowell
- Chairperson of the Pastor-Parish Relations and Nominating Committee: Russell Buxton
- Treasurer and Financial Secretary: Ken Swartz
- Coordinator of Age-level and Family Ministries: Madra Britt
- Membership and Recording Secretary: Jean Kunzman
- Historian: Cindy West

On December 5, 1981, the newly named Administrative Council, 1982, met with the Rev. Willie Teague at Peden Guest House, Cary. This was the first Administrative Council of St. Francis Church. Its purpose, as announced

by Mr. West, was "to create a liturgical/societal learning environment in which the council members may discover the meaning of the cross in its Biblical context . . . and reflect on the meaning of the Resurrection." The program started with a devotion "The Way of the Cross," fourteen stations reflecting the Raleigh-Cary community.

At the end of 1981, December 31, St. Francis United Methodist Church reported to the North Carolina Annual Conference:

- Full Members: 83
- Average attendance: 80
- Baptisms: 12
- World Service and Conference Benevolences: \$123
- All other causes: \$2,854

The December 15, 1981, *The Franciscan* reported "The Celebration of Christmas at St. Francis Church." This was a first event also for the new church, and was held at Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 20, at 6:00 p.m. The service itself was a Christmas Love Feast, so important to both John and Charles Wesley in the early days of Methodism in England. The Love Feast began with the singing of favorite Christmas carols, after which an offering was taken for the Warmth for Wake Fund. The Christmas eve service on December 24, 1981 also at Kirk of Kildaire Church was a Holy Communion service at 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon. *The Franciscan* reported also that children's and youth choirs under the direction of Mrs. Jerry Lachapelle would begin in her home on Sunday evenings starting with January 17, 1982.

"The Seed Sprouts"

The year 1982 proved to be a promising time for St. Francis Church. From Charter Sunday, January 10, until



May 30, 1982, the following people became the Charter Members of St. Francis United Methodist Church:

- Larry and Barbara Armstrong



- Edward and Dianne Averette
- Larry and Martha Bailey
- William and Madra Britt
- Orman, Carolyn, and Ceci Ellington
- Mary Holloway
- Ed Hollowell
- Alan and Brenda Kerr
- Jean King
- Nancy Linder
- Ron and Billie Jo Melbourne
- William and Shirley Osterhout
- William and Jane Paige
- John Parker
- Ben and Debbi Richards
- Woodrow Sanders
- Frances Williams

(The above persons were affirmed at the Constituting Conference, January 10, 1982).

- Robert and Judy Armfield
- Ed and Cathy Barrows
- John and Shirley Highfill
- Anne Highfill Hollenback
- Dana and Lynn Lewis
- Robert and Margie McFarlane
- Michael Ruff
- Bill, Marilyn, Denise and Julie Shenton

(The second group was added as Charter Members from January 17 to May 30, 1982, when the Charter was closed.)

At the Constituting Conference, January 10, 1982, the Nominations and Personnel Committee nominated the following people to be the elected church officers for 1982:

Administrative Council

- Chairman, Lay Leader and Delegate to Annual Conference: James Earl Vann
- Chairman, Work Area on Nurture and Membership Care: Mary Holloway
- Chairman, Work Area on Outreach: Dianne Averett
- Chairman, Committee on Finance and Property: Ed Hollowell
- Chairman, Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations and Nominations: Russell Buxton.



Treasurer and Financial Secretary: Kenneth Swartz
 Coordinator of Age Level and Family Ministries: Madra Britt

Membership and Recording Secretary: Jean Kunzman
 Historian: Cynthia West

Pastor-Parish Relations and Nominations by classes

1982: Russell Buxton and youth to be elected later
 1983: Jane Paige and Larry Paige
 1984: Dave Kunzman and adult to be elected later.

Trustees by classes

1982: Jean C. King
 1983: William Britt
 1984: Edward E. Hollowell

This group were so elected and St. Francis Church was now officially constituted; Reverend J. Cameron West, holding an ex-officio membership by reason of *The Discipline* and Annual Conference appointment.

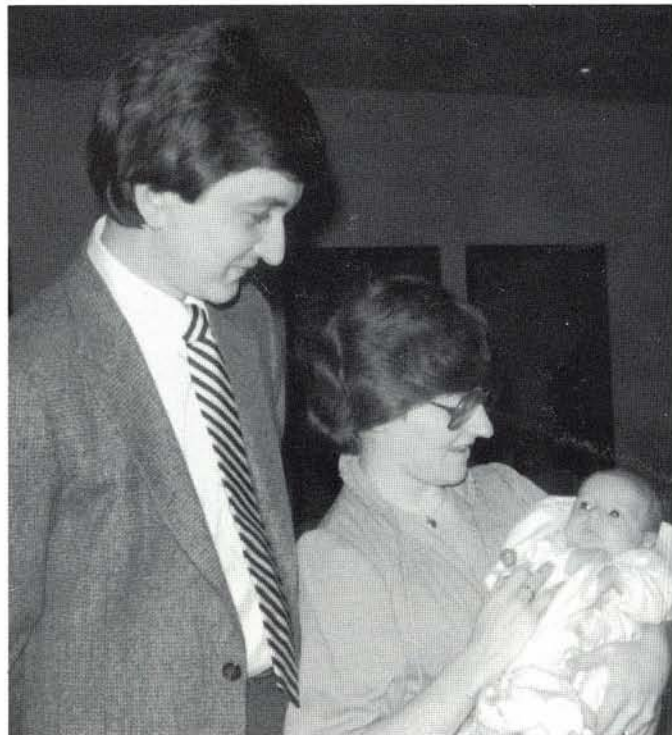
At the Administrative Council Meeting at the home of the Vann's on February 3, 1982 several items of interest appeared: 1. The committee, chairperson of Nurture and Membership Care, Mary Holloway, reported that her committee was accentuating the social concerns of hunger. The committee "To Care Enough" would be looking into the problem and the findings were to be discussed in the Sunday school cluster groups. The areas of hunger to be discussed were global, national, community, household, and personal. At the Parish Night, February 32, also Ash Wednesday, the committee would introduce St. Francis Church to the hunger problem through a dinner of vegetables, fruits, nuts, soup and bread-a meatless and dessertless supper. 2. The Work Area on Outreach presented three glaring needs in Cary where the Area would concentrate its future efforts: Hunger, Handicapped Children and their Parents, and Teenage Vandalism. 3. The Treasurer and Financial Secretary, Ken Swartz presented the following financial statement:

Total Gross			\$48,616.00
Total Net			29,116.00
Pledges	29	(72% of Net)	20,986.00
Offerings, 1982			1,832.55
Amount required for Budget			2,239.68
Deficit			407.13
Available Funds, Checking			1,358.05
Balance Savings			2,053.09
Balance on Hand			3,411.14

4. The Committee on Finance and Property, Ed Hollowell, reported that the Homeowners Association of Castlewood Subdivision was securing signatures from the subdivision in order that St. Francis Church might build on a property, 7.7 acres, which had been given to the church.

Mr. Hollowell, reporting for his committee to the April 7, 1982, meeting of the Council added further financial interests: The church site in Castlewood Subdivision needed to be increased by three acres more. If that number could not be attained, the MacGregor Downs Development Corporation would purchase the 7.7 acres for \$115,000. Also, \$6,700 would be needed by July 31, 1982, to close the parsonage property. Both First Church and White Plains Church had pledged \$3,000 each for the parsonage. Savings of about \$3,900 would be sufficient for the closing. Likewise, he informed the Council that a Building Fund Committee had been formed with James E. Averett, William Britt, and Jean C. King, Chairperson.

Items of interest in the April 7, 1982 meeting of the Administrative Council indicate a continued emphasis on Nurture and Membership Care: fifty-five people had attended the Parish Night on April 4, a baptismal service was planned for May 30, 1982. Dr. Vann, because of the





On April 26, 1982, the Financial Secretary gave the Council his report which indicated an increase in Balance on Hand, but that St. Francis Church was still holding a deficit of about \$73.00 per week. Pledges had increased to 33, amounting now to \$23,556 or 81% of the budget.

A letter from Ed Hollowell, dated May 4, 1982 to Pastor West said that the Finance and Property Committee had added Dana Lewis to its membership. Likewise, he added that Briarcliff School had renewed the agreement for Sunday services to be continued. Finally, he reported in his financial statement for June 30, 1982 these items: Checking Balance — \$776.77, Saving Balance — \$151.57, and Money Market Balance (Interstate Securities) — \$7,088.

expansion of the Sunday School groups, urged that the Sunday School be moved to a regular hour on Sunday morning as soon as possible. And Larry Bailey, speaking for the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, said that Ms. Diedre Palmer, a Duke Seminarian would be the summer intern at St. Francis Church; her primary duties would be in developing a Sunday School program. Before adjournment, it was decided to have, if possible, a Church Conference in the near future to brief all interested people on the developments. A tentative date was set for May 30, 1982.



Activities at St. Francis Church went into "hold" until September. The July 7, 1982, Administrative Council, the sole meeting of the summer, reported on the organization and training of the Fellowship Committee, a group of



Greeters for Sunday morning services; a report from Diedre Palmer related her activities with the Sunday School, a summer children's day camp and plans for the Fall program; the formation of a Cub Scout pack and the appointment of the St. Francis Award Committee included Jane Paige, Robert Armfield, Robert McFarlane, Pam Smith, Charles Montgomery (a member of White Plains Church) with Russell Buxton as the Chairperson.



Two important pieces of information were sent to the church members of St. Francis by the Pastor-Parish and Nomination Committee; the first, relative to church officials and the second stating the committee's position on Pastor's salary and related matters for 1983.

The first item reported from Reverend West: **Administrative Council Nominees, 1983** chairman, Lay Leader and Delegate to the Annual Conference: James E. Vann.

Chairwoman, Work Area on Nurture and Membership Care: Mary Holloway

Chairwoman, Work Area on Outreach: Nancy Linder

Chairman, Committee on Finance and Properties: Ed Hollowell

Chairwoman, Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations, and Secretary, Committee on Nominations — Jane F. Paige

Treasurer: Lynn J. Lewis

Financial Secretary: Kenneth Swartz

Coordinator of Age-Level and Family Ministries: Madra Britt

Membership and Recording Secretary: Jean P. Kunzman

Pastor-Parish Relations and Nominations Committee

Class of 1984 (to fill vacancy): Russell Buxton

Class of 1985: John Ferguson, Shirley Highfill

Trustees

Class of 1985: Hugh N. Carr

The second item also from Reverend West:

"In 1982 Saint Francis Church is receiving 85% of the Pastor's Salary, Travel, and Utilities Allowance (STU) from the Conference. Saint Francis has voluntarily assumed 15% of the STU in order to raise the Pastor's STU from the Conference grant of \$114,700 to a total of \$17,200. The Conference Guidelines for Establishing New Congregation's allows for STU support on a decreasing scale for a period of four more years beyond 1982. Beginning in 1987, Saint Francis will be expected to provide 100% of the STU support for its Pastor.

"I am proposing that we cut the Conference share of the Pastor's STU to 70% for 1983, 55% for 1984, 35% for 1985, and 15% for 1986. Furthermore, I am proposing that through the period of Conference STU for 1982 be \$17,200; a 10% increase for 1983 would be \$17,200, for a total STU of \$18,920. We would ask the Conference to assume \$13,244 of the STU in 1983: Saint Francis would assume \$5676 . . . I am recommending that we divide the \$18,920 figure in this way:

Salary	\$15,320
Travel	1,600
	(1983 maximum for new churches)
Utilities	2,000 . . . "

On September 15, 1982 Dr. James E. Vann, Chairperson for the Administrative Council relayed to the members of the Council the information relative to the Council Retreat. It would be September 18, at the Peden Guest House in Raleigh. In his communication, he said this: "Before



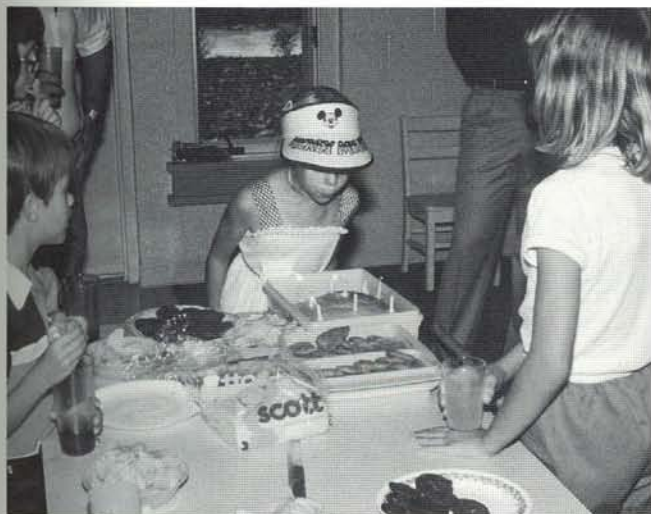
Saturday, please give some thought to how well the ministry of Saint Francis Church has sought to meet human needs in the last year . . . Also give thought to specific means by which we may serve in 1983 in the following areas of ministry: worship, pastoral care, fellowship, education, evangelism, and social service and action. One other aspect of ministry — stewardship of time,

talent and resources — will be the subject of a special Council workshop on Saturday morning, October 9, and a congregation-wide Parish Night on Sunday, October 10.”

On November 3, 1982, the Administrative Council convened at the home of Dr. James E. Vann with the Committee on Finance and Property also present.

Reports were received from the Work Areas and other standing committees. Recommendations from the Trustees reported on the parsonage improvements which had been made prior to the Council meeting, as well as future plans for the parsonage. Russell Buxton followed with a report on the land situation of the proposed church building development and presented the “St. Francis Church Preliminary Site Plan.” This announcement was now presented: The St. Francis Award would be presented on November 7, followed by a special reception for the recipient after the worship service.

On the appointed day, Sunday, November 7, 1982 the first St. Francis Award was given to Mary Kay Ferris of St. Michael’s Catholic Church, the award being presented by Lay Leader, Mr. Vann before both congregations. Mrs. Ferris received two books and a plaque featuring the Prayer of St. Francis. When the recipient was informed by telephone about the Award, thought she had received a wrong number. On Dr. Vann’s explanation, Mrs. Ferris



reply was, "Oh my gosh, oh my gosh!" Pastor West at the award service at St. Francis said this about her: "She embodies the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi, a person who is the model of Christian saint."

The meeting adjourned with Pastor West reporting in detail the Budget for 1983 and a discussion on Stewardship. Pastor West recommended as a goal that the church affirm the practice of the tithe for stewardship at St. Francis. A motion was made, and after discussion "pro and con" it was decided to follow Mr. West's suggestion. The financial statement for October, 1982, showed that now St. Francis was running a deficit of \$28.91 per week.

The December 8, 1982, meeting of officials was both a Charge Conference and Administrative Council meeting. At the Charge Conference the Conference Apportionment was accepted unanimously, plus the 1983 church goals reported from the Council Retreat in September. These were categorized as:

1. Worship
2. Pastoral Care
3. Evangelism
4. Social concerns

5. Stewardship.

A vote unanimously approved the proposal.

The Administrative Council followed immediately after the Charge Conference. Among other items, Dana Lewis reported on the Every-Member Giving. One week after the distribution of pledge blanks, three adults and two child pledges had been received, totaling approximately \$2000., leaving about \$9000. deficit of the 1983 budget. Only one month remained in which to complete the campaign, and about 22 families (44 individuals) remained to report on their stewardship. The meeting, after reports from the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee on Pastor evaluation and Work Area on Outreach, was adjourned with a prayer by Dr. Vann.

At the end of the year, Dec. 31, 1982, St. Francis Church reported to the Annual Conference the following:

Members — 101
Baptisms — 9
Preparatory Member — 46
Church School — 92
Grand Total Paid \$32,375
Outreach Ministries — \$1,000

CHAPTER III

The Plant Shakes

The year 1983 began on a lofty tone, with a strong leadership in the Administrative Council.

Administrative Council, 1983

Chairperson, Lay Leader and Lay Member to the Annual Conference: Dr. James Earl Vann
Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference: Mary Holloway
Chairperson, Work Area on Outreach: Nancy Linder
Chairperson, Committee on Finance and Property: Ed Hollowell
(This committee included the Trustees: Ed Hollowell, Chp., 1983; William Britt, 1984; and Hugh Nick Carr, 1985).

Treasurer: Lynn Lewis
Financial Secretary: Kenneth Swartz
Coordinator of Age-Level and Family Ministries: Madra Britt
Membership and Recording Secretary: Jean Kunzman

Other Officials, 1983

Chairperson, Saint Francis Award: John Ferguson
Cub Scout Packmaster: William Paige
Worship and Fellowship Coordinator: Nancy Pomeranz
UMYF Adviser: Vacant
Chairperson, Parish Care: Cathy Barrows
Past-Parish Relations Committee:
1983: Jane Paige, Larry Bailey
1984: Russell Buxton, David Kunzman, Jeff Armfield (youth member)
1985: John Ferguson, Shirley Highfill

Pastor's Secretary: Jerry Lachapelle
Pianist and Senior Choir Director:
Pastor: James Cameron West (Ex Officio)
Junior Choir Director: Jerry Lachapelle

A meeting schedule for the year also was constructed by the Council:

January

13—Leadership Training Workshop — Hayes Barton UM Church
26—Finance and Property Committee

February

2—Administrative Council
9—Work Area on Outreach
16—Ash Wednesday Worship Service
23—Work Area on Nurture and Membership Care

March

16—Pastor-Parish Relations Committee
23—Finance and Property Committee
30—Holy Week — No official meetings

April

6—Administrative Council
13—Work Area on Outreach
20—Work Area on Nurture and Membership Care

May

25—Finance and Property Committee

June

1—Administrative Council
8—Work Area on Outreach
15—Work Area on Nurture and Membership Care
29—Pastor Parish Relations Committee

July

27—Finance and Property Committee

August

3—Administrative Council

10—Work Area on Outreach

17—Work Area on Nurture and Membership Care

31—Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

September

18—Finance and Property Committee

October

5—Administrative Council

12—Work Area on Outreach

19—Work Area on Nurture and Membership Care

November

16—Finance and Property Committee

30—Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

December

7—Administrative Council

At this time the Administrative Council also set into operation the following recommendations from the Planning Retreat on September 15, 1982:

Proposed Goals for Ministry, 1983

Saint Francis United Methodist Church

1. In order to enable members of Saint Francis Church to experience the Sunday worship service as an occasion for hearing God's word and responding to God's Word at that time and during the ensuing week, the Work Area on Nurture and Membership Care and the Pastor will formulate a plan for "Educating the Congregation in Worship," to be presented at the April meeting of the Administrative Council and implemented by the Council and pastor.
2. In order that the congregation of Saint Francis Church may provide better and more widespread pastoral care and fellowship among its members and the general community, the Work Area on Nurture and Membership Care and the Coordinator of Age-Level and Family Ministries will, during the months of January and February, take a human need assessment with each church member, define needs among the congregation and general community requiring priority attention by Saint Francis Church, and formulate specific programming to address the needs identified for priority attention. The Work Area and the Coordinator will report recommendations to the April meeting of the Administrative Council.
3. In order to promote the evangelism ministry of each member of Saint Francis Church and of the congregation as a whole, the Work Area on Outreach will adopt at its February meeting a specific plan in February, and will report on the progress of efforts to the April Administrative Council meeting. The plan will include the appointment of a Coordinator.
4. In order to raise levels of awareness on social justice issues, the Work Area on Nurture and Membership Care and the Work Area on Outreach will design a

summer family program to increase awareness and give guidelines for living a "theology of enough." The work areas will finalize plans at their April meeting and will appoint a Coordinator.

5. In order that every member of Saint Francis Church realize the responsibility each Christian has to be a faithful steward to God's gifts, the Finance and Property Committee will appoint a Stewardship Coordinator to develop a program of stewardship education and a plan for the Every Member Giving effort for fall, 1983. The Coordinator will present a proposal at the May meeting of the Finance and Property Committee, and the Administrative Council will act on the Committee's recommendations at its June meeting.

The Financial Statement at the Finance and Property Committee, January 26, 1983 stated:

Budget

Total Gross	\$50,109.00
Total Net	34,026.00
Pledges (40 adults, 12 youth) (100%+)	36,111.00
Beginning Balance (1/1/83)	3,577.63
Current Balance (1/20/83)	4,925.73
Potential Excess over Budget: per week	109.86
Gifts, Etc. (1/26/83)	125.00

On February 2, the Administrative Council met for its first meeting of the new year, 1983. Called to order by Dr. Vann, the Chairperson, Reverend West led the Devotions. The Work Areas made their reports, as well as did the various committees responsible to the Council. Old Business, New Business, and the State of the Church items preceded the Benediction and Adjournment:

Nurture and Membership Care: Working full strength in (1) Worship set up, (2) Greeters, (3) Church School, (4) Parish Care Groups, (5) MYF. Cathy Barrows, Coordinator of Parish Care reported five neighborhood groups which meet every other month for lunch, with social activities beginning in March.





Study groups are in the planning for the Spring quarter: Two Lenten Groups, a Prayer Group, two Adult Confirmation classes, as well as one relating to the formation of a women's group.

Outreach: Reported on these issues: "Theology for Enough," Evangelism, and Social Justice, also St. Francis is now or will be represented in Christian Community in Action, Raleigh Area Ministries and Raleigh Board of Missions.

Age-Level Ministries: A survey of the congregation has been taken regarding topics for small groups seminars. "Parenting" appeared to be the most favorable, and the committee recommended that this be a part of the summer program.

Finance and Church Property: Castlehill Subdivision has ended unsuccessfully, because some owners refused to sign the necessary waivers for St. Francis to meet the Cary Council building code. Other sites are available, Mr. West said (1) Corner of Cary Parkway and Kildaire Farm Road, 6 acres and (2) Corner of Old Apex Highway and Cary Parkway, 9 acres.



The April 6, 1983 financial statement reported that the Potential Excess per week now stood at \$5754 with \$612.35 in the Special Income account.

The Administrative Council met on April 6, 1983, as scheduled. After a short devotional, the following reports followed:

Nurture and Membership Care: Activities for the succeeding months were to include a May 8th Parish Night with a program by the Youth Choir, titled "110% Chance of Rain" and a closing picnic at Reedy Creek Park for the Sunday School. Summer Vacation Bible School is planned and a refinement of Church School goals is scheduled for the Fall.

Outreach: In "Evangelism" Alan Kerr and Jim Pomeranz were named as coordinators. "Social Concerns" coordinator is Carolyn Short. "Missions" selected Alan Kerr and Nancy Linder as coordinators, with these committees being lead by special representatives: Christian Community in Action (Dorcas Shop) — Nancy Linder; Crop Walk — Nancy Linder; Raleigh Area Ministries — Louise Wicker; Raleigh Board of Missions — Carolyn Short; Scouting — Don Holloway; Soup Kitchen — Louise Wicker; Coalition (Last served in February; St. Francis Award — Robert Armfield.



The Financial report indicated that 41 adults and 12 youth-children had now pledged \$36,267 (100%+) of the yearly budget; the Annual Conference had made St. Francis a grant of \$500 for audio-visual equipment; St. Francis will receive \$25,000 from the Conference Ten Dollar Club. Potential excess per week was \$57.54.

The financial report on May 31, 1983, indicated a drop in the weekly need to -\$15.13. However, the Current Balance on May 31 was \$9,988.26.

At this point in time several events occurred within St. Francis Church which disturbed deeply its promising future: One came from the new Raleigh District Superintendent, Reverend Thomas Smith, recently named at the

Annual Conference session, June 5-9, at Methodist College, Fayetteville, NC. Mr. Smith, at the order of Bishop Cannon, informed St. Francis Church that **only** grape juice would be used in the future in the Holy Eucharist. The second was that of the sudden exit of Mr. West as Pastor. At a Sunday morning worship service in August, 1983, Mr. West made a shocking announcement to the congregation that he was resigning his pastorate at St. Francis Church and planned to continue his education at Duke University in the Doctor of Theology program. Without comment, he proceeded to move out of the Parsonage and several of the men at St. Francis moved his

him in the 1984 *Journal* as Student at School and assigned him to Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, Warrenton, NC. Later, Mr. West transferred his conference membership to the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. Mr. West was deeply loved and appreciated by St. Francis Church, and they sent him away with their enduring love and admiration.

"Again, the Plant Contends"

Stephen C. Compton was transferred by Bishop Cannon from the Durham District, Salem United Methodist Church, Hurdle Mills, NC on September 1, 1983 and appointed to St. Francis. On September 23, 1983, Reverend J. Cameron West was appointed as Student at Duke Divinity School to work in the Doctor of Theology program.



On September 11, 1983, a special meeting of the Administrative Council was held in the office of District Superintendent, J. Thomas Smith, for the specific purpose of pursuing "the arrangement of a formal agreement with an attorney for the purpose of obtaining guidance concerning the title problems related to the Lot Six of the Castlewood Subdivision owned by the church . . . Reverend Compton

was directed to seek the services of an attorney. The name, Dillard Powell, was suggested."

A special meeting of the Administrative Council and the Finance and Property was convened in the home of Ed Hollowell on September 28, 1983. The following dates were announced as very important to the congregation: October 9, Administrative Council Retreat; October 18, budget meeting for the Finance and Property Committee; October 26, joint meeting of Finance and Property and Administrative Council to pursue budget; November 2, Charge Conference; November 6, St. Francis Award. Reports were presented relating to finances and the church parsonage refurbishing. Next, the property situation was discussed by William Britt in which he showed drawings of the acreage of St. Francis in the Castlewood Subdivision. He pointed out the two main parcels of the property under discussion: the front three acres facing Kildaire Farm Road, purchased from Mr. Rice in Castlewood and the 7.7 acres donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Forrest; the acreage to be used for a church by January 1985, or the land would return to Mr. Forrest. Mr. Britt continued saying that the front three acres have these conditions: 1) Since a covenant cannot be lifted for Castlewood, a single family dwelling is the only thing that could be erected. 2) If the restrictive covenant were lifted then St. Francis would have to consider rezoning. 3) St. Francis does not have clear title to the property due to a \$3,000 lien on the property. After considerable discussion, the Council decided to proceed in this manner: 1) the legal lifting of the January, 1985 reversionary clause; 2) have the attorney, Mr. Dillard Powell, confront Mr. Rice and offer him \$16,000 in exchange for a clear title. The Long Range Planning Committee, with Mr. Powell, was given the authority to act in this matter. The meeting adjourned with Mr. Compton presenting the organizational structure for St. Francis as he saw it, and closing with prayer.

On October 7, 1983, Mr. Compton invited a group of men from the congregation to a meeting at the parsonage. His invitation read, "I would like for you to meet with me to discuss the possibility of beginning a United Methodist Men's group as a fellowship and service club in our church. I will even provide a freezer of homemade ice cream as enticement. Please let me know if you can meet with us." The invitation was extended to Bob Herring, Rick Knight, Pat Rice, Roland Tripp, Hal Hester, Ron Jorles, Ronnie Lowe, and Larry Armstrong.

The *Cary News*, dated Wednesday, November 9, 1983, reported the second presentation of the St. Francis Award. Life Experiences, Inc., an Apex-based business providing work opportunities to handicapped adults, was the recipient. The Award was presented at the Sunday worship at Farmington Woods Elementary School where the congregation was presently meeting for its religious observances and ordinances. The Reverend Compton said this to the assemblage: "The St. Francis Award acknowledges the work of those in the community who resemble the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. We are proud of the services Life



Experiences gives the community and believe this a fitting award." The plaque was presented to Tom Carter, president of the Board of Directors of Life Experiences by the Lay Leader, Dr. James E. Vann. Also participating in the ceremony was Mabel Page, executive director of Life Experiences; Nancy Linder, chairperson on Outreach; and John Ferguson, the St. Francis Award committee chairman.

November 21, 1983, Mr. Compton received permission from J. Thomas Smith, Raleigh District Superintendent, to hold a Charge Conference for the purpose of approving

the signature of the Trustees on a Trust and Mortgage Agreement with the North Carolina Conference Board of Missions, Inc. At that meeting, December 4, 1983, in Farmington Woods School, the building program for St. Francis was launched. An additional \$25,000 had come from the Board of Missions by way of the Ten Dollar Club. These funds could be "used solely for the church building or the parsonage." The Charge Conference approved unanimously the signing of the agreement. The Trustees signing for St. Francis Church were Bill Britt, Hugh Carr, and Ed Hollowell as well as Mr. Compton, the Pastor.

Mr. Compton laid out his program for the coming year, 1984, in a letter to Mary Holloway, Chairperson of the Administrative Council dated December 9, 1983. He wrote, "I would like to suggest the following ideas for consideration by the Administrative Council at the February 1st meeting. It may be best if the work area and committee chairpersons have a chance to think about these things in advance. I would suggest that all committees be organized by mid-January. Perhaps they can all meet in committee for organization prior to the first meeting of the Council. The suggestions were:

Day Camp or Vacation Church School for children in the summer

Bible Study — Gospel of Matthew — before Easter

Prayer or Study — during Lenten season

Social Issue Study — late spring

Participatory Mission Project — summer

Bible Study — Book of Isaiah — fall



Mission Study — fall
 Ongoing New Member Class — church school hour
 New Adult Church School Class
 Study and/or Special Observance — Methodist Bicentennial
 Easter Sunrise Service — at building site
 Series of brief papers interpreting seasons of the church year

Two days prior to his letter to Mrs. Holloway, chairperson, Administrative Council, Mr. Compton sent out two letters of inquiry:

The first, to Reverend Albert Fisher, The Duke Endowment, stating that the Long Range Planning Committee for St. Francis was busy preparing a report for the Charge Conference in April, 1984, when a Building Committee would be named. He also stated: "It will be most helpful for our committee to know if our site is located such that we may obtain the assistance of your office."

The second, to the Directors of the General Board of Discipleship, Nashville, Tennessee, stating: "A question has risen among the members of my congregation concerning the propriety of using wine in place of grape juice in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. I am aware of the historic causes for the use of grape juice in the United Methodist ritual and of the rubric . . . found in *The Book of Worship for Church and Home*. I find that no such rubric is included in the supplemental worship resources. "The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper: An Alternate Text 1972" and in the commentary, *Word and Table*, of any change in this traditional practice which would permit the use of wine . . . I would greatly appreciate an informed opinion concerning this matter at your earliest convenience.

Two other pieces of correspondence, dated December 12, 1983, also clearly relate to the continued developmental plan forming in Mr. Compton's mind for St. Francis Church:

The first was sent to Ed Hollowell, chairperson for the Property and Finance Committee. The letter spelled out vital items of discussion and action for that committee's meeting the following week. These were the:

Lingering question about agreements previously made with Dr. Ponder and the Bennett's (adjacent property owners to the church site): Review of the Financial Stewardship Campaign and the 1984 budget; Approval to

put culvert in ditch at the church site providing access; Approval to send a letter to Board of Global Ministries, Church Extension Division, requesting that St. Francis Church be put on their waiting list to be considered for a loan; Recording of deed to 7.7 acres which were conveyed by NC Board of Missions to St. Francis Church;

Your signature as Trustee on Trust and Mortgage Agreement with NC Board of Missions at the October meeting of the Charge Conference; and a year to date treasurer's report.

The second correspondence was an answer to the question Mr. Compton raised with the Board of Discipleship, and signed by Hoyt L. Hickman, Assistant General Secretary, who said that the rubric for the Lord's Supper found in *The Book of Worship* and *The Book of Hymns* is the only rubric United Methodists have. No mention is made of the issue in *The Discipline*, the only book of policy whose provisions have legal authority. The overwhelming majority of United Methodist congregations use grape juice for Holy Communion. However, a minority of congregations, "more numerous in some parts of the country than others . . . use wine." Some bishops and district superintendents, he continued, have taken stands on the matter. If they have not ruled to the contrary, I would say that in deciding whether to use wine or grape juice you and the congregation are free to follow your conscience and your pastoral judgment. Since Bishop Cannon and the District Superintendent had already ruled on the matter it appears that the matter is closed. (St. Francis Church continues to use grape juice in the Lord's Supper.)

The year 1983 began on a high peak, but by mid-year it had dropped down to nearly a standstill. Following the arrival of Mr. Compton as Pastor at St. Francis Church, a regeneration occurred. The Pastor's report to the Annual Conference relating the state of St. Francis Church indicated a decided growth over 1982:

Total Full Members — 129
 Average Attendance at Sunday Worship — 85
 Baptisms — 9
 Preparatory Members — 56
 Church School Membership — 92
 Current Expenses, total — \$16,263
 Benevolences — \$10,951
 Grand Total Paid — \$36,745.

CHAPTER IV

“Now, the Plant Waxes”

The year 1984 inaugurated a fresh start for St. Francis United Methodist Church. The Administrative Roster increased considerably in size in order to expedite the program envisioned at the Fall Retreat in 1983. The new Council was expanded to include a Vice Chairperson, Recording Secretary as well as a Financial Secretary, a Coordinator of Communications, and a variety of Chairpersons: St. Francis Award, Long Range Planning, Education, Worship, Stewardship, Parish Care, Nursery Care, Evangelism, Mission, Church and Society, Scouting, the President of the UMYF and an Honorary Member, Frances Williams, a total of the twenty-nine members.

The 1984 Goals also indicated an expanded agenda for St. Francis Church. It proclaimed: “Our primary goal is to

emphasize evangelism by designing and implementing a plan resulting in a membership increase by 100 by December 31, 1984, and by stressing the need of total commitment to evangelism by every member of the congregation. Coordination is the responsibility of the Evangelism Committee of the Work Area on Outreach.” Other goals were:

3. To emphasize a strong, viable program of financial support and a commitment to facilities development;
4. To create additional opportunities for replenishing membership, fellowship, deepening spiritual commitment to Christ, and outreach involvement.

The first meeting of the Administrative Council for the new year convened February 1, 1984, with Chairperson Mary Holloway in charge. The devotional was led by John Ferguson, followed by Mr. Compton's reflections on the program for the new year. Reports were received from the Work Areas and Committees responsible to the Council. A number of business items relating to the program for 1984 were discussed and dealt with. The Finance Committee made their report: a financial statement, the budget spread, and pledges for the new year. The budget for 1984 was \$53,824 with 33 adult and 1 youth pledges totaling \$31,642, 79% of the budget. The amount required each week was \$768. Yet there was a \$166 deficit per week in giving.

On February 22, 1984, Reverend Compton requested in writing from the Raleigh District Superintendent, J. Thomas Smith, permission to convene a called meeting for the charge conference --- meeting as a church conference --- on Sunday, April 29, 1984 after the morning





worship hour. The business of the conference was limited to the following:

1. The report of the Long Range Planning Committee to be presented for acceptance.
2. Nomination and election of a Building Committee and its chairperson.
3. Nomination and election of officers to fill several vacancies on the Council: Church Historian and Chairpersons for the Work Area on Outreach and the Committee on Church and Society. The reply from the District Superintendent was affirmative and the date, April 29, was added to the church calendar.

An article with picture appeared in the Cary *News* in early March indicates the advancement of the Outreach program at St. Francis Church. Cub Scout David Bryant was awarded the Arrow of Light, highest Cub Award, at the annual Blue and Gold Banquet. February 22, at the East Cary Junior High School. David was the first Cub to receive this award in the two year old Pack, sponsored by St. Francis Church. Other awards given at this dinner were to Jason DeWees, Mark Rushing, and Josh Leavitt.

The financial statement, dated March 31, 1984, showed that in this manner St. Francis Church also was making



advancements. On January 1, 1984, the checking account had a \$96.69 deficit. On March 31, that account had been advanced to \$1,597, and the weekly deficit in contributions had decreased to \$18.59. The building fund now totaled \$5,708.

When the Administrative Council met on April 10, 1984, the Minutes contained evidence of advancement toward their 1984 Goals, Mr. Compton reported that St. Francis Church had 100 visitors at the Morning Worship service at Farmington Woods Elementary School since January 1. He also announced that the Confirmation



Class, a group of nine young people, as well as a number of adults would unite with St. Francis Church on Palm Sunday at the Morning Worship. He continued with the statement that the Duke Endowment Committee would soon meet and determine if St. Francis could qualify for an endowment. A special report was presented by Rosemary Whaley on the newly formed United Methodist Women: "On Tuesday, March 27, 1984, the St. Francis United Methodist Women had become an organized unity of the



Raleigh District UMW. The first group of officers was:

President: Rosemary Whaley

Vice President: Jane Paige

Treasurer: Janice Cox

Secretary: Barbara Armstrong

There were twenty members present at the inaugural meeting of the UMW. A number of important matters relating to the various Committees and Work Areas, were dealt with: the parsonage had been stained; Mr. Compton's health insurance should become a responsibility of St. Francis Church; and the Pastor was instructed to establish a Master Calendar for the congregation. Mr. Compton's announcements included a church-wide dinner to welcome all new members on April 28, 1984; the Charge Conference would be on May 8; and the next meeting of the Council, June 13, 1984. Barbara Armstrong assumed the duties of Secretary 20 hours a month at \$4.00 an hour.

A guidance brief to the Building Committee of St. Francis Church from the Council was sent to each member of the Committee. It outlined the membership of the Committee, the Goal and the Objectives of the Council. The Committee was instructed "to have a church building suitable for the worship and education needs of the St. Francis Church on its property on Kildaire Farm Road by 1986. The committee was also instructed to follow out the suggestions for "The Building Committee" in the *Discipline* of the United Methodist Church. Three subcommittees were then set up by the Building Committee to carry through the order of the Council; Plans, Finance, and Construction. Mr. Don Holloway was named Chairperson.

The financial statement for May 15, 1984, showed a deficit per week in giving to be \$71.27. The current balance on that date was now \$12,407.

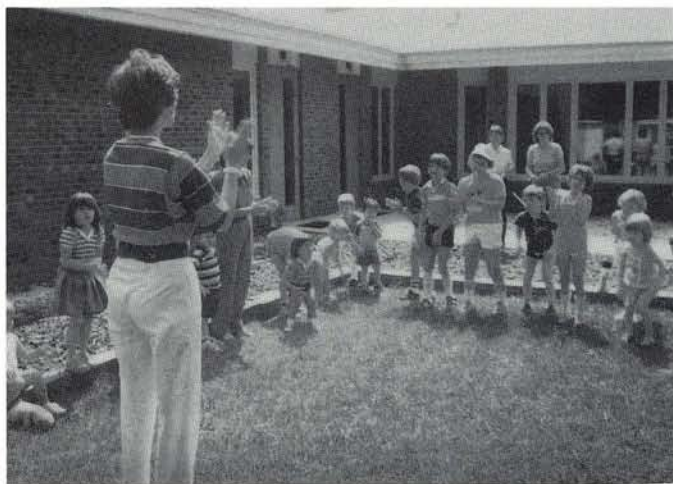
The financial secretary reporting on May 16, 1984, indicated that the pledges for 1984 (31 adults, 1 youth) extended from less than \$250 to over \$2,000 per year. Also the average weekly attendance so far in the year was: January, 93; February, 85; March 85; April, 91; and May 80.



The Minutes, dated May 30, 1984, evidenced the continued growth at St. Francis Church. Mr. Compton reported that about thirty new members had been received since January 1. Also the budget, though under pledged was being maintained to date and a new orientation class would begin on June 6, 1984. He was, he said, unhappy to report that Duke Endowment Committee had not granted St. Francis an endowment.

Mr. Holloway, Chairperson of the Building Committee, reported that the subcommittee on Finance had been set up with Ed Barrows as Chairperson and Nancy Pomeranz and Billie Jo Melbourne as members. The Study Subcommittee with Bill Britt as Chairperson and William Paige and David Kunzman had been established. A third subcommittee, that of Plans and Construction was chaired by Hugh N. Carr and Nancy Hemphill and Robert Cox as members.

At this time John Rushing and John Carey, seeking permission from the Council, presented their application certificates for the position of Lay Leaders in the United Methodist Church.



Discussion followed relative to the separation of the youth group at St. Francis into Junior High and Senior High UMYFs. Likewise, possible leadership for the two new groups was discussed.

The Trustee report followed by Hugh Nick Carr. The Board, he said, had now been increased by three members: Jack Collins, Bob Herring, and Rose Wolf. At Carr's request, to fulfill the directives of the *Discipline* relating to Trustees, the Finance and Property Committee, turned over the responsibility for the property to the Board of Trustees. At this time the Council changed the title for the Finance and Property Committee to the Finance Committee. Carr also said that the Bennets would be interested in buying one acre of the newly acquired church property, but the Trustees were not interested in selling or trading acreage. More than this, the church had received notice that the front three acres could be used solely for single

family dwellings and that other use was not possible. Carr requested permission to respond to the verbal request of the Bennets saying that St. Francis was not interested in selling at this time. Other items of business followed; then the Council adjourned.

On July 17, 1984, Mr. Compton received a letter from J. Thomas Smith, District Superintendent, to the effect that Mr. Compton might hold a special Session of the Charge Conference on July 19, 1984 "for the purpose of selling a block of property that has no direct bearing on the main body of property . . . It is Lot 9A. In addition to the (sale) of the property you may take up the matter disallowing the church any access to the pond itself, although you will have access to the lake."

The problem of Lot 9A, Castlemill Subdivision became more complicated when Mr. Britt, Trustee of St. Francis Church, received a written communication from Mr. Thomas R. Workman, Jr., owner of Lot 7 adjoining Lot 9A on his west side. Over the years Mr. Workman had been maintaining Lot 9A to protect the appearance of his home and property. He offered to donate \$500 to the Building Fund if St. Francis Church would give him a warranty deed to Lot 9A. Likewise, he agreed to accept and pay all closing costs for the transfer of the Lot 9A.

The matter of Lot 9A was finally resolved at the meeting of the Charge Conference on July 29, 1984. Hugh Carr presented two motions on behalf of the Trustees:

1. "The Trustees of St. Francis United Methodist Church hereby make a motion for St. Francis United Methodist Church to relinquish its rights of all access and use to the pond in the Castlemill Subdivision. These rights are entitled to the church by ownership of LOT 6 of the Castlemill Subdivision." This motion was passed by the conference.

2. "The motion was made and carried that the tract of land known as Lot 9A, Castlemill Subdivision be conveyed to Mr. Thomas R. (Dick) Workman, Jr. in consideration for the time and monies he has expended in maintaining it over the last thirteen (13) years, and to the mutual benefit of him and the church for no additional consideration." Discussion followed the motion on Lot 9A. The motion

now was voted and passed. There were five affirmative votes, three negative, and two abstentions. The motion was declared passed.

The Administrative Planning Council for 1985 was announced by the Council's Chairperson, Mary Holloway. Her letter to the St. Francis Administrative Council dated August 3, 1984, said "Annually, we gather to set goals, develop plans for the next calendar year and project the budget necessary for implementation. This year the Saturday session is scheduled for August 25, 1984, from one to five in the afternoon in the Window Room, MacGregor Downs Country Club . . . Reservations have been made for 6:30 p.m. for the Council and their spouses (or a friend) for dinner and brief after-dinner presentations . . . Our congregation is on the threshold of a special time. Please come and be a part of the planning to guide us. Robert Baldridge, Conference Director of Leadership Training will help us at the planning session."

On August 22, 1984, Mr. Compton, on his request to District Superintendent J. Thomas Smith, received permission to hold a Charge Conference on September 12, 1984." The purpose of this conference is to reconsider deeding Lot 9A, Castlemill Subdivision, to Thomas R. Workman."

The special Charge Conference was called to order by Mr. Compton on September 12, 1984, who said the purpose of the meeting was to vote on a motion brought before the Charge Conference by the Board of Trustees. This motion, he continued, had previously been voted on at a meeting on July 29, 1984, however "it was later determined that two persons not eligible to vote had voted." Mr. Carr, then, presented his motion again, and it was tabled for discussion. When put to a vote the following voted for it being tabled: "John Ferguson, James Earl Vann, Mary Holloway, John Carey, Dudley Hartel, Jim Pomeranz, Kelli Rushing, Rosemary Whaley, Marty Bailey, while Hugh Carr voted against it. The motion to table was carried." Rosemary Whaley suggested that the Council determine a date that the tabled motion should be resolved. Mr. Compton said that "any member of the Council could suggest to him that a Charge Conference be held at anytime to deal with the table motion." The Conference then instructed that Mr. Workman be notified that the matter of Lot 9A had not been resolved to this date.

Immediately following after the Charge Conference, the Administrative Council, convened to deal with the budget for 1985. Dudley Hartel presented the budget in two formats; the present form and also a new form which would be employed in the future. Mr. Compton reported on a meeting with an attorney in relation to access to the church property through Lot 6. It was the opinion of the attorney that, if legal action was necessary to gain access, the decision would be in the favor of the church; however, he hoped that some agreement could be worked out with Olsen's, the owners of the Lot, within a week. Mr. Compton also said than an out-of-court settlement would





cost around \$150. Other items were considered; then the Council adjourned with the announcement that the next session would be on October 10, 1984.

The financial statement on September 30, 1984 showed the current balance for the year was \$18,984; but the deficit per week was \$58.

A group picture of the members of St. Francis United Methodist was taken by a professional photographer outside of Farmington Woods Elementary School on an advantageous Sunday following Morning Worship. There were 106 Persons present for the setting.

As scheduled the meeting of the Administrative Council met on October 10, 1984 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Holloway, with eleven members present. Mr. Compton reported on the workings of the Nominations Committee; the date of November 4, 1984, for the Church Conference; and information relating to his meeting with the attorney for the church about the land problems with the Olsens: the attorney was in contact with the Olsens and give them a chance to settle out of court. If this move failed, the matter would go to court. Following, it was reported by the Chairperson for Nurture and Membership Care, Kelli Rushing, that the third weekend of each month be designated as "parish care Sunday weekend." The Council agreed to the proposal. The next parish-wide activity then would be on October 28, 1984, at which time the Finance Committee would discuss the budget for 1985. During this period of discussion, the children would be involved in a Halloween party. Ron Lowe then presented the report of the Parish Study Committee, which pointed out the unsuitability of the present parsonage. The Council directed the Parish Committee to investigate the renting of a satisfactory dwelling for the Compton family while the present parsonage was sold, putting the equity in CD's for the future purchase of another parsonage. The Committee on Outreach announced that the nominations for the annual St. Francis Award were in. A final decision would

be made by the Committee on October 14, and the presentation of the Award would be on November 4, 1984. John Carey, presented the report of the Finance, Stewardship and Building Committees, requesting the retaining of the services of the Board of Global Ministries for guidance in a stewardship campaign early in 1985 for the purpose of fund raising for the new building. The Council voted affirmatively that Mr. Carey proceed as was necessary to carry on such a plan. Before adjournment, Mr. Compton announced to the Council that a United Methodist Men's group was in the process of formation. A breakfast meeting at Junior's Restaurant was scheduled for November 4, at 7:30 a.m.

As had been announced, the annual St. Francis Award was presented during the Morning Worship service on Sunday, November 4, 1984. The Award, given by Reverend Compton and Diane Averett of the Award Committee, was accorded to Miss Elsie Williams, a resident of Cary, N. C. for 22 years. Miss Williams' Award was for the



purpose of honoring an "unsung hero" who has displayed the qualities of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Award's namesake. Patsy Stainback of Piney Plain United Church of Christ who nominated Elsie Williams said this about her: "Elsie Williams seemed to live unconsciously by the ideals set forth in the words of the Prayer of Saint Francis. She has identified her spiritual gifts, accepted them, thanked God for them, and committed them to God's service on earth." After 16 years in the district attorney's office, Wake County, on her retirement in 1962, Miss Williams was introduced to the inside of a prison by a women's prayer group. From that first time experience she knew she must return. Joining the Yorkefellow Fellowship, she spends Monday evenings in the N.C. Correctional Center for Women. (Compliments of the *Cary News*, December 5, 1984).

The concluding session for the year was convened by its Chairperson, Mary Holloway on December 5, 1984. Mr. Compton reported on the state of the situation relative to the church property. It was, he said, that the attorney for St. Francis Church advises that under the existing covenants in force the church could not cross the property in question. The Olsens have taken the matter to court and have received a restraining order, among other things. The attorney recommends that the Church ask that the suit be dropped in view of the fact that nothing has been done on the property. Mr. Compton also reported that he had met with Russell Buxton and the builder of the property next to the church property to see if he would be interested in trading another portion of property for the property of the church. Another option, Mr. Compton continued, would be to sell the property outright. The financial report then followed which showed a deficit per week to be \$26.38. He said also that 61 percent of the 1985 budget had been pledged with some pledges still outstanding. After this report, Mr. Compton shared some reflections on the year 1984: Sunday worship averaged some 80 people; a new adult class had been added and a new children's class formed in the Church School; a UMW begun; a UMM in formation; 34 new members have joined with St. Francis Church; our financial obligations have been met; the Long Range Planning Report is completed; the Building Committee is busy; fourteen new families have visited within the month; and all fellowship activities have been highly successful. He looked to the future, he concluded, to be a building year for St. Francis Church, both physically and spiritually.

The statistical report to the North Carolina Annual Conference reflected the efforts made in 1984 as of December 31 to have been a successful year:

Total Membership — 129
 Average Attendance — 85
 Baptisms — 8
 Preparatory Members — 56
 Leaders: Church School — 40
 Church School Membership — 115
 U.M.M — 12

U.M.W. — 30

World Service and Conference Benevolences — \$1091

Local Benevolences — \$900

Grand Total Expended — \$48,127

"And Continues to Grow"

The year 1985 saw a distinctive change appear in the life of St. Francis United Methodist Church. This was the publication of its first *Handbook*, 1985. The Jerusalem Cross, the insignia for the church and the title *1985 Handbook*, as well as Saint Francis United Methodist Church decorated the outside cover. Inside (a) page, the *Table of Contents* introduced the reader to a variety of congregational particulars: Pastor's Letter, Mission Statement, History, Calendar of Events, Administrative Roster, Program Goals, Budget, Memorials and Gifts Policy, Worship Committee, Outreach Work Area, Sunday School, Roll of Members, Neighborhood Parish Care Groups, Mother's Group and Birthdays. St. Francis had launched itself into a full-blown and highly active Christian community. No longer were the thoughts in St. Francis centered in existence and expansion. Now, it was to become a service organization for Jesus Christ and the United Methodist Church.

The Pastor's Letter contained some highly pertinent thoughts. Mr. Compton wrote: "This congregation of which you and I are a part is one of the most committed churches to the Christian task I have ever known. There is a desire in this church for closeness to God, friendship with one another, and service to our community which demonstrates a genuine dedication to Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of our lives."

The first order for the new year for St. Francis Church was the Charge Conference, January 2, 1985. The Administrative Council members present were: Mr. Compton, Mary Holloway, Janice Cox, Lynn Lewis, John Carey, James Earl Vann, Kelli Rushing, James Pomeranz, Julie Hester, Shirley Highfill, Frances Williams, Julie Shenton, Rosemary Whaley, and Hugh Carr. Filling the unnamed officials for the year 1985 was the first item of business. These persons were: Vice Chairperson, Administrative Council, Nancy Hemphill. Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Bill Jameson. Trustee for 1987 Bill Shenton; and Nursery Coordinator, Cindy Thomas. Three resolutions were now introduced to the Charge Conference by the Board of Trustees who recommended:

1. "To sell to Mr. Ralph Forrest for the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) lot 6 of Castlemill Subdivision located in Swift Creek Township, Wake County, North Carolina, and the 7.7 acre tract of land adjoining lot 6 of Castlemill Subdivision conveyed by the North Carolina Board of Missions, Inc., to the Trustees of Saint Francis United Methodist Church. . . ."

2. "To purchase from Mrs. Texanna J. Montague for the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) a track of land containing 8.83 acres located on S.R. 1300 (Kildaire Farm Road), Wake County, North Carolina. . . ."

3. "That the Trustees of Saint Francis United Methodist Church be given the authorization to dispose of Lot 9-A of Castlemill Subdivision in conjunction with the sale of Lot 6 of Castlemill Subdivision and the 7.7 acre tract of land adjoining Lot 6 of Castlemill Subdivision to Mr. Dick Workman or Mr. Ralph Forrest (whichever is most advantageous to the church)." The motion for a vote on the three resolutions was made and passed by the Charge Conference as follows:

First resolution, 13 in favor, 1 abstention;

Second resolution, 13 in favor, 1 abstention;

Third resolution, 13 in favor, 1 abstention.

Following the vote, the Charge Conference was called to order as a Church Conference. The same above resolutions were made to the Church Conference. These were brought to a vote.

They were as follows:

First resolution, unanimous;

Second resolution, 34 in favor and 1 opposed;

Third resolution, 33 in favor and 2 opposed.

The first Administrative Council meeting occurred on January 30, 1985. Following on the devotions, Mary Holloway introduced each member of the new council. They were: Mr. Steve Compton, Mary Holloway, Janice Cox, John Carey, James Earl Vann, Kelli Rushing, Jim Pomeranz, Debbi Richards, Julie Hester, Shirley Highfill, Hugh Carr, Rosemary Whaley, and Julie Shenton. Mr. Compton reported on some of the things he would be doing in the upcoming year among others: spending more time working with new and old members: spending less time in committee meetings and more time in nurturing his family. He also requested that each member present take the name of a family that he had visited and make some type of contact with them. Other items of usual business were cared for, after which the Council adjourned.

An article in the *Cary News*, for Wednesday, January 23, 1985, reflects something of the advancements at St. Francis Church. Under the caption "Local Youth Group Nails Down the deee in "licious." Members of the youth who helped make a cookbook were; Leslie Barrows, Marianne Shenton, Julie Shenton, and Phyllis Carey, advisor. Some of the most popular recipes at St. Francis were in this cookbook: Baked Beef Stew by Kelli Rushing; Self-Filled Cupcakes by Sue Lowe; Sausage Balls by Mary Holloway; Chicken Lasagne by Phyllis Carey; Angel Biscuits by Cathy Barrows; and Blender Chocolate Fudge Pie by Lynn Lewis.

The Cub Scout Pack 202 indicates another kind of activity within the congregation. The *Cary News*, dated February 6, 1985, reported that the annual Pinewood Derby Race had occurred on January 30 at East Cary Junior High School. Cub Scout John Hinkel won first place in the race. Josh Leavitt took second; with Mark Rushing winning third place. Kris Keener was given a special trophy for the best designed car. In all, twenty cubs participated. Edward Averett, Committee Member coor-

inated the race, and Jack Hinkel made the track for the race. William Paige was the cubmaster.

The next Administrative Council convened on April 10, 1985. Julie Hester presented the devotions. Reports from the Work Areas followed:

Nurture and Membership Care, Kelli Rushing: plans for the summer Vacation Bible School were underway; the work of the Nursery Coordinator, Cindy Thomas; the activities of the UMYF including their efforts to support Life Experiences; and the developments of a *Handbook* to be available by April 14, 1985.

Outreach Work Area, Julie Hester: a focus on "Christianity In Korea"; concerns for World hunger; as well as support for the Cary Health Fair, the soup Kitchen (the Shepherd's Table) and the fall CROP walk. A report also indicated that the offering for One Great Hour of Sharing on March 3, 1985 amounted to \$150.

Evangelism Committee, Darlene Knight: at the training session attended by her, Rick Knight and Mr. Compton, it was suggested that name tags for all members and visitors at church activities be stressed; also on Sunday evenings, April 14, 1985, an orientation meeting for all new members of St. Francis Church would be held at First United Methodist Church and at that time they would receive a copy of the new Handbook.

Trustees, Hugh Carr:

The property lots 6,7, and 9A had been sold and the money from the sale invested; a survey had been done on the prospective property on Kildaire Farm Road (near Penny Road) and a clear title has been prepared, the closing date would be April 12, 1985, with a church sign erected on the new site.

Financial Secretary, Lynn Lewis: Mrs. Lewis presented summaries of deposits and expenditures for January, February, and March, 1985.

Finance Committee, John Carey: no changes were advised for the 1985 budget, as of March 25, 1985. Pledges by the congregation covered about 75% of the budget and also both Finance and Building Committees were finalizing a communication indicating their money handling procedures; and an audit of the finances for 1984 was about to be done.

Lay Leader James Earl Vann was complimented by Mary Holloway, chairperson, for the "high level of spiritual enrichment in the congregation during this Easter season."

Coordinator of Communications, Jim Pomeranz: reported the reaction to the recent newsletter developed for the congregation and costs relating to future publication.

Pastor, Mr. Compton: a staff person from the conference will be at St. Francis to assist with the finance campaign for the new building —5/30/85 - 6/12/85; a possibility of a student intern from Duke Divinity School for the summer; and a proposed satellite program for the Cary Meals on Wheels.

UMYF, Julie Shenton; The March of Dimes Walk America, 4/20/85 at the Research Triangle Park.

At a special meeting of the Administrative Council, April 24, 1985, Mr. Compton presented to the assembly Mrs. Ann Pfisterer, a representative of the General Board of Global Ministries, who explained the fund raising project for the next months at St. Francis Church. Then, Don Holloway for the Building Committee, reported that the findings of the Committee reflected the need for \$100,000 to begin the building of the new church. On the motion of John Rushing, the Council recommended that the goal for the new church be set at \$100,000. With the second by Debbi Richards, the Building Committee was instructed to continue their work for St. Francis Church.

The *Cary News*, dated April 17, 1985, reported on the development of St. Francis Church. The article introduced the public to the architect, Norma DeCamp Burns of Raleigh, who had been retained by the Building Committee to build the new edifice. Mrs. Burns "is trying a unique concept for designing a Cary church. It is called design by consensus and involves interviews and written surveys by the congregation". In this way she introduced some of her ideas about church construction. She also said that her method had been used before by at least one church in California. It took three years to design that building. Mrs. Burns has been an architect for eight years in Raleigh, she recently received national acclaim for the designs of a social services building in Chatham County. "Construction should begin by the end of 1985" said Mr. Compton, Pastor of St. Francis Church.

A letter dated June 13, 1985, from the District Superintendent, J. Thomas Smith, authorized Mr. Compton to hold a meeting of the St. Francis Church Conference on June 23, 1985, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the Conference was the conderation of recommendations of the Building Committee for a master plan and first unit design for St. Francis Church.

Another communication to the Council from Mary



Holloway, chairperson, the Administrative Council, dated June 15, 1985, announced the dates for the Annual Planning Retreat. This year the Retreat was to be held on Friday and Saturday, August 16 and 17, 1985. The Friday evening session was to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor at White Plains United Methodist Church, beginning with a buffet dinner. The Saturday session was to begin at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and pastries at the Science and Technology Center in the Research Triangle Park. Mrs. Holloway's message to the Council was "come with a prayerful attitude to reflect on past goals and progress and to plan for the future."

The report of the Finance Committee to the Administrative Council on July 24, 1985, indicated that for the first half of 1985 on a total budget of \$68,651, \$25,232 had been disbursed by the Treasurer with a balance of \$34,283 remaining for the rest of the fiscal year.

A second communication from J. Thomas Smith, Raleigh District Superintendent, permitted Mr. Compton to call another session of the Church Conference on





August 25, 1985, after the morning worship service. The purpose of the Conference was the consideration of the schematic design drawings for the proposed building.

On August 25, 1985, the Church Conference convened with 51 voting members present. Mrs. Norma Burns presented the drawings showing the first phase of the building plan. On the motion of Bill Britt, of the Study Subcommittee and with a second by John Rushing, it was voted to continue with the architect's plans. The vote was unanimous.

By October 5, 1985, *The Franciscan*, now the official newsletter of St. Francis Church, had become the medium of communication for the developing congregation. Some inspection of its contents illustrates the expansion of St. Francis United Methodist Church in its aims and goals to serve the community of Cary and fulfill its destiny in the Lord's kingdom here: A Calendar of Events for October introduced the St. Francis member to a diversified ministry for the month, some 24 items, after which there followed a Duty Roster of responsibilities of various persons for Nursery, Usher, Greeter, Communion Bread, Flowers, Communion Assistants and Set Up/Take Down (preparations at Farmington Woods School) duties for the four Sunday Worship Services. Announcements continued the program for the month, ably reflecting the expansiveness of St. Francis Church thrusts. Some of these were: instructions relative to both Adult and Children Choirs; the annual St. Francis Award; the Baptism of Ashlea Ellen Rice, daughter of Pat and Kristy Rice; the need of volunteers to represent St. Francis in a variety of local service agencies; the impending Church Conference on October 27; the possible sale of the present parsonage; the UMW's Yard and Bake Sale, as well as their Retreat at Chestnut Ridge, October 5 and 6; the Stewardship Campaign and its results financially for St. Francis Church; an explanation of the responsibilities and duties of the Nominating Committee, preparing for 1986; the annual CROP WALK; "Chicken Pickin," a program of fun, fellowship, and food, sponsored by the UMM to be held at Bond Metro Park, October 20, from 2 p.m. onward; World-Wide Communion Sunday; a Spiritual Life Retreat, Octo-

ber 11-13, in the North Carolina Mountains; and concluding with the Building Committee report stating that "ground breaking for our first church building" would be early in 1986.

The St. Francis Award was presented as scheduled on November 3, 1985, at the Morning Worship service to Gladys Kiger, a member of White Plains United Methodist Church. The Award was presented by the Reverend Mr. Compton and Diane Averett chairperson of the Award Committee, and assisted by the Lay Leader, James Earl Vann. Mrs. Kiger on receiving the Award said: "I have never been so surprised in my life. It was just the last thing in the world I expected to happen. I just do what I do because there is a need for it, not for any recognition. I am just so grateful."

In December 1985, the United Church Methodist Women published a booklet entitled *Helpful Hints for All*, some 200 hints designed to make life a little easier for the individual. Instrumental in the publication were Faye Lindsay, Marilyn Shenton, and Rosemary Whaley, the UMW president. The proceeds from the sales of the booklet were dedicated mainly to the Building Campaign.





The year 1985 ended on a very high plain with the first Annual Christmas Pageant in December. The Director of the event was Phyllis Carey, ably assisted by a committee of church women: Cathy Barrows, Marilyn Shenton, Jean Kunzman, Faye Lindsay, and Kelli Rushing. The Pageant included singing by the Choirs and the assembled congregation, and plays by the UMFY as well as the Sunday School. The program was presented at Farmington Woods School for the entire congregation and their friends.

On December 31, 1985, Mr. Compton reported to the District Superintendent the annual church summary:

Total Members — 149
Baptisms — 12
Preparatory Members — 65
Average Worship Attendance — 120
Funds Disbursed — \$47,611
Balance on Hand — \$11,904

CHAPTER V

“Now, the Plant Buds”

The new year, 1986, at St. Francis Church actually began on December 30, 1985, when the new Chairperson, Jim Pomeranz sent a communication to all the 1986 Administrative Council. His purpose, as his letter states was to alert the council to some important changes in procedure: 1) Council meetings throughout the year would be monthly beginning with January 13, then February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, and June 16, 2) the volume of business overlapping each month demanded a monthly meeting which would begin at 7:30 p.m. at his home and adjourn at 9:00 p.m. 3) 1986 promised to be a most exciting year for St. Francis Church because of the rising membership which merited expanded programming, as well as 1986 being the ground breaking and construction “of our first church building”. The letter concluded with a listing of the new Council for 1986:

Pastor — Mr. Steve Compton
Chairperson — Jim Pomeranz
V. Chairperson — Bobby Herring
Lay Leader — Bill Jameson
Lay Member to Annual Conference — James Earl Vann
Chairperson, Trustees — to be elected by Trustees
Chairperson, Committee on Finance — John Carey
Chairperson, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee — Dave Kunzman
Recording Secretary — Janice Cox
Treasurer — Barbara Armstrong
Financial Secretary — John Carey
Church Historian — Jean Kunzman
Chairperson, Nurture and Membership Care Work Area

— Mike Maddry
Chairperson, Outreach Work Area — Susan Zachary
Superintendent, Sunday School — Gene Wolf
Coordinator of Communications — Cathy Barrows
Chairperson, Education Committee — Karen Maddry
Chairperson, Evangelism Committee — Diane Averett
President, UMW — Rosemary Whaley
President, UMM — Ronnie Lowe
President, UMYF — Donnie Curtis
Youth Member — Julie Shenton
At Large Members —

1986 1987 1988

Kelli Rushing Gary Streeter Karen Montgomery
Roland Tripp Bill Lindsay Bill Springer

The new year 1986, began with these words to St. Francis Church from Mr. Compton: “What a surprise to find God in a stable! What a surprise it must be when people find God in our infant church! But God is with us and that is our great joy!” (*The Franciscan*, January, 1986). Mr. Compton’s greetings were ably augmented by a voice from the congregation, Frances Williams, who reflected the attitude of the St. Francis congregation with her “Holiday Recipe”:

“4 cups of Love, 5 spoons of Hope
2 cups of Loyalty, 2 spoons of Tenderness
3 cups of Forgiveness, 4 quarts of Faith
1 cup of Friendship, 1 barrel of Laughter

Take Love and Loyalty; mix them thoroughly with Faith. Blend with Tenderness, Kindness, and Understanding. Sprinkle abundantly with Laughter. Bake with

Sunshine; serve daily with Generous Helpings."

Also, according to *The Franciscan*, St. Francis became a participant in the quadrennial program of the United Methodist Church, "Catching the Spirit", a special thrust in the denomination's efforts in mission and outreach, evangelism and education, and global issues, produced by the United Methodist Communications agency. Likewise, the *Minutes* for the January 13, 1986, meeting reflect the continued awareness of the Christian witness of St. Francis Church. Twenty-five members plus the Chairperson Jim Pomeranz were in attendance. A report from the Building Committee by Don Holloway showed a present total of assets toward the building project to be \$527,700 in cash, pledges, and loans. However, bids for the new construction were being delayed until more information and clarification of pending loans were available. "If all went well", he continued, "construction could begin in July and occupation of the first unit by year's end." The Work Areas and committees were in the process of organizing and defining their program year: Rosemary Whaley for the United Methodist Women announced that their group had taken on a group care home where they would visit, furnish some needs, and entertain the residents of the home. Also they were continuing to supply Bibles for the new-born babies of the congregation, as well as recruiting a large group of St. Francis ladies for their retreat in February in Fayetteville, N.C. The Board of Trustees, Lisa Bright reporting, said that the Board was in process of selling the present parsonage for \$82,000. The January report from the Finance committee indicated that St. Francis Church had



received in 1985, 100.2% of its pledged budget (42 pledging units); likewise, that the commitments by pledge for 1986 from 54 adults and 15 youth amounted to \$63,120 or 83% of the projected 1986 Budget.

One special event occurred in January that has become an annual event, the Charter Day celebration. On January 12, a special Worship service celebrated officially four years of existence by the congregation, which now renewed its commitment and mission as a United Methodist Church in Cary.

The Franciscan, February, 1986, indicated the continued efforts of the congregation to fulfill the Administrative Council's goals for the new year. One special event,





the Sweetheart Banquet, took place on February 16, at the Hickory House in Garner; this event becoming a yearly observance also. The Sweetheart Banquet was the work of the newly organized parish Care Committee for St. Francis Church. The Committee, composed of Kristy Rice, Gail Jameson and Rosemary Whaley, also anticipated other events throughout 1986: an old-fashioned gospel sing, a talent night, the annual Christmas Pageant and Caroling, a picnic with games at Fred Bond Park, a family week-end retreat at Camp Chestnut Ridge, and the continuation of after-church receptions on Palm Sunday and St. Francis Award Day.

On February 17, 1986, the Administrative Council convened as announced previously at the home of Jim and Nancy Pomeranz. Nineteen members were in attendance. In the Pastor's report, Mr. Compton gave the report for the Building Committee. Progress was being made, he said, with Duke Endowment and the Board of Global Ministries relative to prospective loans; a group of the Committee visited two projects in Pittsboro done by Norma Burns, architect for the committee, a site plan was under development for presentation to the Town of Cary for approval; and a model with interior finishings was being completed for viewing by the congregation. Gene

Wolf indicated from his observations that some 60 persons were attending the Sunday school session and about 126, the Sunday Worship Service. John Carey, reporting for the Finance Committee stated that weekly offerings were running close to the budget needs, as well as were Building Fund offerings. Karen Maddry for the Education Committee reported that Cokesbury Book Store was supplying St. Francis Church as a new church with a year's supply of teaching materials free; also a new 2 - 3 year class was being well received; and that the Vacation Bible school was in the planning of the committee. The Trustees presented a request for the authorization of spending \$2,500 from non-designated funds as earnest money for the purchase of a new parsonage. Their request was approved unanimously by the Council.



March, 1986, brought in the wonderful days of Spring and Easter for St. Francis Church. *The Franciscan* reported the constantly expanding program of the congregation in mission. Training was the earlier center of congregational activity. Now was the time for aggressive movement ahead. The culmination of this early preparation came in the Reception of Members into this Body of Christ on Palm Sunday, March 23, with a reception following the morning Worship Service. Palm Sunday introduced the Holy Week Celebration, followed by the Maundy Thursday Service, March 27; Good Friday Service, March 28; Sunrise Service, Lochmere Lake, Easter Sunday, March 30, with Morning Worship and Eucharist at 11 a.m. New preparatory members arrived in February in the persons of Sarah Ellen Carr, daughter of the Hugh Carr's and James Paul Averett, son of Edward and Diane Averett, as well as Lee Robert Wolf, son of Gene and Rose



Wolf, who had been born January 12. The Administrative Council met on March 17. Reflections from the officials included those of the Trustees relative to the progress of the parsonage and the Chairman, Mr. Pomeranz, said that the Committee on Nominations would soon present names to fill out the empty seats on the Council: a member for Pastor-Parish Relations, Historian, Treasurer for Building Committee and an Evangelism Co-Chairperson. Mr. Compton added that 18 new members had united with St. Francis Church since the beginning of the new year. The Church School now reported around 65 average attendance and the morning Worship hosted some 135 communicants, as well as the application for another intern for the summer period from Duke Divinity School. Pastor Steve reported also for the Building committee: their efforts relative to interior development of the new building on a site plan of the new church done by the architect indicating among other things that the building would be about 6800 square feet over all. John Carey reported for the Finance Committee to the effect that the Audit for 1984 was complete and that the 1985 Audit was in process; also, program for new members in conjunction with the Stewardship Committee was in development; and even though the Budget had not been pledged 100%, St. Francis Church was doing quite well financially. Mike Maddry, reporting for the Nurture and Membership Work Area, stated that the committee showed interest in a more formal Worship Service, an Acolyte program, robing for the choir, regular ushers and their instructions, some methods for greater silence within the congregation in all aspects of Sunday Morning Worship, as well as the preparation for a 1986 Handbook.

A corporate letter to St. Francis Church from Vivian Carey, dated April 7, 1986, indicated that a new project was under development by a new club in the congregation, The Open Door Club. The request to the congregation asked for the revival of the "old-fashioned quilting bee". Its purpose was the construction of a Friendship Quilt. Each letter contained a template block with attached instructions: "You may use any type of embroidery, applique, cross-stitch, painting or whatever, but be sure it is washable. You may use pictures of animals, birds, religious



symbols, your child's hands, geometric designs, or anything you like, Please put you name on it. The year 1986 is not necessary, since the center block will read St. Francis United Methodist Church, 1986". Likewise, there appeared in the letter information relating to the cost of the quilt, which would be a contribution of \$1.00 per block. The purpose of the quilt, which on completion would be auctioned and the proceeds would go to some project in the new church. (The quilt when completed was sold and returned to the Church as a memorial. It hangs on special occasions in the Nave of the new building and is one of the



most prized memorabilia of the congregation.) The April meeting of the Administrative Council reported continuing plans for the Summer as well as past efforts within St. Francis Church. Reporting for Parish Care, Rosemary Whaley said the congregational parish night at Jordan Hall had been highly successful with the summer intern Bill Walters and his wife Susie in attendance; that a church-wide Retreat was planned at Chestnut Ridge, August 24 - 25; and that a picnic would be held on June 8 at Fred Bond Park. Reporting for the Sunday School, Gene Wolf indicated that the Adult Class now had 25 members



and that the youth and childrens classes amounted to over 60 students. Mike Maddry reporting for Nurture and Membership Care indicated continued interest in the advancement of the Education program in a May workshop for teachers; in the Vacation Bible School beginning July 13 at White Plains Church with Cindy Peters the organizer, and in the projection of a second Adult class in September or on the new building completion. In Worship, Mike also reported the purchase of additional Hymnals and "We Gather Together" worship guides, that Bill Haynes would be Advisor to St. Francis Church's new Acolytes; and that continued discussion relative to the morning worship service was in process, especially in regard to the move to the new building. Donnie Curtis, reporting for the MYF, stated that the Youth had taken part in a clean-up weekend at Camp Chestnut Ridge, also that a "Lock-In" would be held at the clubhouse in Cindy

and Meady's area on Friday, June 6. At this time, he said, there were about 12 members in the group. Under Old Business, James Earl Vann, acting on the mailing of the March **Minutes** of the Administrative Council with the Report of the Nominations Committee, moved to accept the Committee's report: Jim Crossett, Pastor-Parish Relations, class of 1987; Vivian Carey, Historian; Billie Jo Melbourne, Building Committee Treasurer; Diane Averett, Chairperson, the Evangelism Committee. New Business: The report from the Board of Global Ministries indicated that prior to a loan of \$218,000, St. Francis Church must commit itself to another Capital Funds campaign. Jim Pomeranz asked for such an effort to be completed before October 1, 1988. The Council voted the Campaign with the stipulation that the drive be in the charge of the Finance Committee. Mr. Pomeranz also stated that now was the time to make preparations for the year 1987 in Budget and programming.

The Franciscan, April, 1986, attests to the expanding St. Francis Church. Added to the membership were Vivian Carey, Ellen Greenhorn, Carol Piazzola, Judy Tudor, Beth Tudor, the Brant family, William and Sue Crockett, Jim and Kay Crossett, the Gurney family, the Haynes family and the Laine family. The Open Door Club continued its service activities with assistance to the Children's Home as well as the Walnut Grove Child Care Center. The N.C. *Christian Advocate*, May 20, 1986, pictured a group from the Open Door presenting lounging pillows to Cynthia Egleston, Director of the Walnut Grove Center. Representing St. Francis Church was Mr. Compton, Vivian Carey, Katie Gordon and Vera Shenton. Announcements of future activities included the United Methodist Women's "Salad Dinner", April 15, Kildaire Farms Clubhouse, 7:00 p.m., for all St. Francis women, and the church-wide Parish Care Chicken Pickin' at Bond Park on June 8.

May reflected the presence of the systematization of Methodism developing. The Administrative Council met on May 19 with eleven members and one guest, Bill Walters, the summer intern, present. Pastor Compton introduced Mr. Walters to the Council after which John Carey presented the Stewardship report. At the present time, John said, St. Francis was \$192 per week under Budget, but felt no reason for alarm. Sunday School, Gene Wolf reported, continued to expand. The high attendance was 99 on Palm Sunday, and 173 attended the morning Worship. Church attendance now averaged 120 people while Sunday School was 65. Mr. Compton in his reflections said that St. Francis' loans were being reapproved and the parsonage was presently under contract with an October 1, 1986, closing. The Open Door Club, Vivian Carey reporting, added that the group was now stressing a Fall Festival for St. Francis Church in either October or November. *The Franciscan* for May, 1986, added several items of interest also. New members added were Keith and Laura Armstrong and the Berkstresser family; the Vacation Bible School begins in July on 14 - 18 at the White

Plains Church, Cindy Peters the director; a church charge conference late in May or early June to approve or disapprove the architect, Norma Burns' final plans for the proposed construction; the Mission Committee was presently recruiting workers and receiving contributions for the Shepherd's Soup Kitchen and the Western Wake Crisis Ministries; the annual St. Francis Church weekend at Camp Chestnut Ridge on August 23 and 24; and a new venture the KID'S PAGE. The UMW at their "Salad Dinner" elected officers for their year. These persons were:

- President — Faye Lindsay
- Vice President — Sharon Reynolds
- Secretary — Vickey Coon, Barbara Armstrong
- Nominations Chair — Shirley Carlin
- Christian Personhood — Tammy Neuchterlein
- Supportive Community — Pam Streeter, Kristy Rice
- Christian Social Involvement — Lala Compton, Marilyn Shenton
- Christian Global Concerns — Lisa Bright

The notes of the Administrative Council for the summer of 1986 reflect the continued movement toward institutionalism. The reports indicated some reduction of programming and planning across the congregation. The June 16, *Minutes*, report more emphasis on program planning for 1987 and less activity by the responsible committees. Coordinators for children and youth now were necessary, as well as Coordinators for Higher Education and Campus Ministries. These persons should be nominated and elected prior to the fall program. Beginning September 1, a Director of Music and a Pianist will become a part of the church staff. The July 21 meeting of the Council reported that the Nominating Committee had nominated these people for new responsibilities:

- Chairperson, Children's Ministries: Kathy Boling
- Chairperson, Higher Education: Sally Davis
- Coordinator for Youth: Judy Tudor

These people were accepted by unanimous vote. The Council meeting, August 10, showed these interests and concerns: Sunday School attendance; the Ground Breaking set for Sept. 7, 1986, with Dr. Joseph Bethea, Raleigh District Superintendent, as the Morning Worship preacher; and the Board of Trustees request for incorporation of St. Francis Board of Trustees. The session continued with various program discussions for 1987.

A Church Conference convened July 24, 1986, with Pastor Compton as chairman. The purpose of the Conference was to make final approval of the construction plans prior to their being put out to bid. Don Holloway, chairman of the Building committee, presented the finalized plans. The Conference discussed these plans with the Committee and with Norma Burns, the architect, who added that all plans would be ready for bidding within three weeks. Mr. Holloway moved for the acceptance by the Conference of the finalized documents. The vote being called for, the motion carried unanimously.

The Franciscan for these same summer months, June, July, August, 1986, reflect the continued activities of

the congregation better than do the *Minutes* of the Administrative Council. The issue for June opened with Statements by Pastor Steve relative to the reception of St. Francis Church to visitors: "It's the friendliest church I've ever attended": again, "I visited several churches and never got a call or a visit from a member or a pastor. It made me feel good when someone came to my door the first Sunday I visited". Also, "We visited many churches in the area, but none was just right, until we came to St. Francis. We knew this was where he wanted to be from the first Sunday". A new youth project began this month also: this was participation in the Highland United Methodist Youth Project by several St. Francis youth. The July issue reported the welcoming of the Boling family, the Herman family, and the Stinehour family into the fellowship of St. Francis Church. The Chicken Pickin', prepared by the United Methodist Men, was well received, with special "thanks" going to Ronnie Lowe and John Carey and all the UMM for their hard work. The August issue of *The Franciscan* opened with a report from the Duke summer intern, Bill Walters. A highlight of his statement: "The most exciting part of my experience here this summer has been the dynamics involved in preparing to design and erect your new church. It is interesting to see how God works to bring together the ideas of so many people and see the confidence and trust of the congregation." The Vacation Bible School proved to be a great success for all concerned. Fall planning continued in conjunction with several group social programs within Parish Care. The summer program concluded with the Annual Church



Retreat at Camp Chestnut Ridge, August 24 and 25. Highly successful, the Retreat invited this response by one reporter: "Everyone had loads of fun. The fellowship, the study, the relaxation, (in spite of the deluge that night) were wonderful! Three cheers to the retreat committee for doing such a wonderful job!" A special highlight at the Retreat was a program presented by the St. Francis Youth. During the summer Sue Lowe and Phyllis Carey worked with the grades 4 - 12 of the Sunday School classes to teach them Bible verses, Bible stories, Methodist



"creeds", the OT and NT books, the Lord's Prayer, and other related religious subjects. These studies culminated in CROSSFIRE, an opportunity for the youth to demonstrate their summer study skills. Among other appreciative compliments was this one: "WOW! They put so many of us adults to shame."

September, 1986, as reported by *The Franciscan*, indicated the intent and determination of St. Francis Church to become more than a congregation without a "home base". On September 7 at the Morning Worship Service with the Raleigh District Superintendent Dr. Joseph B. Bethae preaching, ground was broken for the new building. After the Service everyone went from Farmington Woods Elementary School to the building site on Kildaire Farm Road, just north of the Penny Road intersection to break ground for what became unit #1 of St. Francis United Methodist Church. Following on the ground breaking a church-wide luncheon was enjoyed by everyone at Montague's Lake off Penny Road. September 7 was also the formal beginning of the new Church School year. Besides the children's and youth classes there were added now two Adult Classes in place of a general class. One class began a study of the Wisdom books of the OT, which was taught by Mike Maddry. The second class, taught by Chris Peters began a study in NT centering itself in books by Paul Little dealing with Christian issues today.

On September 19, 1986, Pastor Compton received permission to hold a special Charge Conference on October 1, 1986, in order that the Trustees be authorized to purchase a house as the Parsonage at 1428 Elgin Court in Cary. Dr.

Bethae also informed Mr. Compton that he might act on another matter of important consequence to St. Francis Church. This was the authorization of an application to Duke Endowment for capital funds toward the building project.

The Administrative Council met on September 29, 1986, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pomeranz. Don Holloway reporting for the Building committee, stated that the first round of bids on the accepted plans showed the lowest bid to be higher than the Committee could approve. Revisions of the plans by the architect for rebidding were completed, and with the approval of the Council it was agreed for the Committee to rebid the new plans. Unless major alterations were required, the Building committee prepared to seek a second series of bids. Pastor Compton reported on the planning sessions of the Council. These recommendations for 1987 were: the development of means to train the youth to grow into Christian adults; the growth in disciplining of St. Francis members; the telling of others about God; and the continued emphases on mission, both local and beyond the scope of St. Francis' influence. The Council adjourned after a number of issues for the Charge Conference had been dispensed with and approved.

October activities affirmed the accelerated program at St. Francis Church. According to *The Franciscan*, October, 1986, every area of the congregation was in action. All this began with the Church Charge Conference, October 19, at White Plains Church, and is encapsulated in a report by Mr. Compton which began with these words: "God continues to bless us with many good things in this church. Equal to our growth in number, both by new membership (40) and the birth of children (7 infants baptized), is the evidence of our growth as a true church, the body of Christ, a genuine community of faith." The blessing about which "Steve" made mention included the Open Door Club's quilting, retreats by the UMW, the Adult study classes, preparations by the Adult and Children's Choirs for weekly services and the approaching



holiday season, a variety of Bible studies in the homes of the neighborhood groups, a church wide Parish Night at the Cary VFW on Reedy Creek Road, as well as preparations for the move of the pastoral family to the new Parsonage, and the Annual St. Francis Award in November.

The special Charge Conference, earlier announced, was held on October 1. Ten voting members and 13 other congregational members were present. Two items were on the agenda: the first resolution authorized the Trustees to purchase a Parsonage at 1428 Elgin Court for the price of \$119,000 and to negotiate a mortgage loan of \$95,200 for the purchase. The second resolution was for the Trustees to accept a conditional donation from Duke Endowment for the purpose of the first unit including Fellowship/Worship Hall and Education space. Both resolutions were passed unanimously by the Conference.

The November issue of *The Franciscan* indicated additional choirs, the New Dimension and Angel Choirs having been formed and now in service for the congregation. The Parish Night was a big success. The auction and bazaar were very well received. The Open Door Club as a result of their efforts raised \$2100 for the Church Building Fund, the quilt made by the congregation alone sold for \$600 and was returned to St. Francis Church for annual display. Stewardship Sunday was observed on November 9 under the banner of the Circuit Rider motif. John Rushing was in charge of the financial campaign for the Stewardship event.

The St. Francis Award presentation was on November 2 and Mrs. Sally Kate Gordon, a member of St. Francis Church, was the recipient. The *N.C. Advocate* carried the ceremony in its December issue. It reported in this manner: "Sally Kate Gordon has contributed so much to the lives of others through the beauty of her own life . . . She had been active in the Open Door Club of St. Francis UMC and XYZ Club of Cary. She made lap robes and crocheted Christmas angels for service organizations to sell. One of her bedspreads recently auctioned for over \$200, and has cared for many ill family members, her own husband as well as other family friends." The Award was



given for the Church by Mr. Compton and Diane Averett, chairperson of the Award Committee.

The Calendar of Events in the December *The Franciscan*, amplified the aggressiveness of the St. Francis people: study Bible groups, acolyte rehearsals, Christmas Pageant practices, choir rehearsals, as well as the scheduled activities of the UMW, UMM, and UMY are featured. All church activities for December terminate in the Christmas celebration which began with an Advent devotional entitled "Traveling Toward Bethlehem", prepared by various members of the church body. On December 13 the Second Christmas Pageant, "A Time to Reflect", was held at Farmington Woods School. A new feature, the Christmas Cheer Family, the Collean Huddleston family, was inaugurated. Ms. Huddleston on receipt of the cheer sent this "thank-you" to the church: "My family and I wish to thank you for the beautiful Christmas we had. Words just can't say what we feel. To see the children's (5) eyes light up Christmas morning was the best gift I could have received. Without people like you we could not have had any Christmas." Additional Christmas celebrations also featured a Christmas Eve Service, on December 24 at Farmington Woods School, and a number of holiday parties by the various groups and organizations of St. Francis Church.

The December meeting of the Administrative Council likewise provides additional evidence of a successful, effective year. Don Holloway, for the Building Committee, reported that a responsive reply had been received from the lowest rebidder, Gary Smith General Contractor of Cary. Also, negotiations were continuing toward a contract with the builder, for a final decision by December 28. Mr. Pomeranz, reporting on the Finance Committee's "Catch Up Sunday" (December 7), indicated some \$12,000 had been received. Total expenditures for the year were \$64,528 with a total income (through December 7) of \$65,833. The proposed Budget for 1987, \$76,000, was reviewed and approved. Various other matters were disposed of, and the meeting adjourned with Mr. Compton asking that he be authorized to secure a coordinator from the Board of Discipleship to guide a Lay Witness Weekend in 1987. The Council moved approval and turned the matter over to the Evangelism Committee for development and planning.

On December 31, 1986, St. Francis Church in its financial and statistical reports listed among others the following:

Total Membership — 186
 Worship Average Attendance — 140
 Preparatory Members — 76
 Leaders, Church School — 40
 Church School Members — 130
 United Methodist Women — 25
 United Methodist Men — 15
 Paid, Local Benevolence — \$331
 World Service and Conference Benevolences — \$1912
 Grand Total, Expenditures — \$64,528

CHAPTER VI

“And Now It Flowers”

January, 1987, introduced through the *1987 Handbook*, began, as had been all of 1986, a year of energetic activity now centered within the scope of the recommendations of the 1986 Charge Conference:

Develop a means to train youth to grow into Christian adults;

Growth for members in discipleship;

Learning how to tell others about God;

Emphasis on local and out-of-area missions work.

Likewise, the 1986 Charge Conference had set up a budget of some \$84,000 to carry out their recommendations for 1987, and selected a complete Administrative Council to monitor the St. Francis thrust throughout the new year.

The new chairperson of the Council, Diane Averett, and Mr. Compton, inaugurated the work for 1987 by workshops for the Council and all church leaders. Held on the afternoon of January 11, a Sunday, at the church office, the leaders presented training and learning for the three major Work Areas: Nurture and Membership Care, Outreach, and Administration. These sessions were followed by the Regional Training Workshop on January 12 at Edenton Street United Methodist Church, Raleigh, N.C.

The Franciscan, January, 1987, illustrates the intensity of thrust by the expanding congregation of St. Francis Church. The year officially began on the first Sunday, January 4, with the morning Worship Service, a Service of Renewal, where a renewed “commitment to Christ and His church” was the theme of worship. Mr. Compton challenged the worshippers with these words: “As you plan

to make your New Year’s Resolutions for 1987, consider as well how you wish to strengthen your relationship to God and your commitment to the Christian life.” Announcements in *The Franciscan*, included all of the regular scheduled events and several new additions: the Coalition, an area-wide effort by the churches to provide fuel for needy persons, on January 17; the resumption of training of acolytes, the new confirmation and membership class, and the renewal of subscriptions to the *NC Advocate* for 1987.

The Administrative Council met on January 19, 1987, as scheduled by the chair, Diane Averett. Devotions and December 1986 Minutes having been cared for, the committees submitted their reports. For the Building Committee, Don Holloway, chairperson, reviewed the work of the Building Committee: funding (\$433,000) from the Board of Global Ministries was approved; the lowest bid came from Gray Smith, Cary, NC. Smith’s bid was less than the average of five other bidders (\$520,000) due to the facts that he was a local contractor, had less overhead, and had no “performance bond”. He would, he said, provide a letter of credit from Wachovia Bank for \$50,000. This amount, \$50,000, was the approximate difference in Smith’s lowest bid and the bid rendered by the second lowest bidder. The Committee, having visited some of Smith’s work, was satisfied with his developments, as also was Norma Burns, the architect. Mr. Holloway then requested the following actions from the Council: 1) to sign the contract with Mr. Smith and 2) to receive a construction loan from Pioneer Savings and Loan (rate of

prime plus 1%). Madra Britt moved in favor and being seconded, the request was passed unanimously. Here, the Council applauded Don and the Committee, after which Mr. Compton stated further that the proposed contract was being reviewed by the attorneys for St. Francis Church; that the contract has a completion date of September 1, 1987 (weather permitting). Continuing the agenda Madra Britt reported on the Parsonage Committee and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. The former indicated that considerable efforts had been undertaken to make the Parsonage more livable for the Compton family; also the latter committee was concerned about Mr. Compton's time by the local congregation, the Raleigh District, and the Annual Conference, recommending to the Council the return of Mr. Compton to St. Francis Church another year; also that since funds were so short at the time, the Committee could not recommend funding for more secretarial service, a choir director, or pianist as was requested by the Planning Board, and another summer intern was unlikely as well. Barbara Armstrong and John Carey reported for the Finance Committee to the effect that \$68,476 had been expended in 1986 and that the weekly offering amounted to \$65,776. The difference (\$3,600) was provided by the Annual Conference. Bill Shenton reported for the Trustees and presented the Council a Policy for Receiving Memorials and Gifts, which the Council approved unanimously. Bill Jameson, Lay Leader, then reported on the District Listening Session for the Capital Funds campaign which was held at Louisburg on Sunday evening. The campaign planned to raise \$8,000,000 over the next few years to maintain better the Conference camping facilities, to construct new such facilities, and to purchase sites for new congregations, plus implementing programs for outdoor Christian ministries. In Mr. Compton's report, he said that John Boling had agreed to be Pianist without compensation for St. Francis Church.

In February, 1987, one entire page of *The Franciscan* is reserved for the "Calendar of Events," 44 items in number as well as Sunday Schools and Worship Services all in 28 days. What a busy time! However, all these events were not happy events at St. Francis Church. Following on the "Duty Roster" one of the "Personals" indicates that there were also trying times: "To James Earl and Martha (Vann) — We'll miss you. Thanks for your efforts in helping to build our church. We will always remember the lovely music your lives brought to our hearts. And our hearts will remember "This is the day the Lord hath made. Rejoice and be glad in it!! Thanks for the memories!" Dr. Vann had retired and he and Martha had now moved to their retirement home in Wilmington, N.C. (One period for St. Francis Church had ended. But another had also begun. Thanks to the Lord!). Two special announcements appear here also: Scout Sunday for Cub and Boy Scouts was observed on February 1 with fitting celebrations and also the Sweetheart Banquet on February 15 at Hickory House with Sue Lowe coordinating the annual event.

The February meeting, as scheduled, began on the 25th at the home of Diane Averett, the chairperson. The Work Areas reported on the activities of their committees during the past month and made mention of future activities: a children's ministry, expansion of the worship program, new neighborhood groups, a college-age class for the Sunday School, a Vacation Bible School, the proposed Lay Witness Weekend, and related activities in the Evangelism outreach. The Finance Committee, Bill Jameson reporting, stated that a monthly audit had been introduced by the Finance Committee; also, that a \$160 deficit existed below budget requirements. For the Trustees, Bill Shenton reported that the church was now incorporated. The official name for the future was Saint Francis United Methodist Church of Cary, Inc. Also, he stated that the contract for the new building had been signed and that before the end of February a road on the church site would be opened with the closing date set for February 27. Pastor Compton commented on several items of future consequence: the Capital Funds Campaign; the Cary Committee on New Church Development, of which he was now the chairperson at the request of the District Superintendent; the Bishop's program of Racial Inclusiveness and its policy. The meeting adjourned with Mr. Compton displaying the new Book of Remembrance recommended by the Board of Trustees.

March's issue of *The Franciscan* reports the continued activities within Saint Francis United Methodist Church, affirming the pace set with the congregation during January and February. Lisa Bright expressed the drive of the Church quite well in the "Something to Think About" which stated a quotation from Saint Francis of Assisi:

"Start doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible." The Worship Committee then commented on its activities: the use of two Acolytes, one to carry the cross (crucifier) and the other to light the candles (candle lighter) and information relating the study of the Acolytes in the life of Saint Francis Church. With the beginning of Lent on March 4, the Lenten season would be a special time within the congregation preparing for the Easter celebration on April 18. Nurture and Membership Care announced the sponsorship by the Annual Conference of a children's ministry workshop for both the Raleigh and Goldsboro Districts on April 7, 1987. Three courses were to be offered, namely, Children and Worship, After-School Programs and Children's Fellowship and Christian Education beyond that of the Sunday activities. The meeting was scheduled for 7 p.m. in Centenary UMC in Smithfield, Kathie Boiling directing for Saint Francis. The Administrative Council convened on March 16 with the chairperson, Diane Averett, in charge. A new item was added to her position of chair and hostess; coffee, etc., was served to the committee at 7 p.m. until 7:30. A review of the Work Areas, Finance Committee and Board of Trustees were presented, after which a discussion followed relating to the proposal for

new church development. The action of the council was for support of this program. Also, a report was received about the Capital Funds Campaign indicating Saint Francis Church would accept a pledge of \$8,000 over three years as support for the Campaign. The meeting adjourned with discussion relating to an upcoming Lay Witness Mission weekend in May.

April, 1987, at Saint Francis Church was a month of religious observances pointing toward Easter Sunday: a Retreat for the Confirmation Class on April 1 and 2 at Raventree Park, a trip to Edenton Street UMC, Raleigh, for a meeting with Bishop C.P. Minnick, baptisms at Morning Worship Services, a cookout at Reedy Creek Park for the confirmands and their families on April 11, the traditional Palm Sunday Service, followed by the Reception and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on April 12, the Maundy Thursday Service on April 16, Easter Sunrise Service at the church site, and the Easter Celebration of Eucharist on April 19. All worship activities except the Sunrise Service were held at Farmington Woods School.

The Administrative Council met on April 27 for the regular monthly session. The committees made their usual reports: Rosemary Whaley, coordinator for the Lay Witness Weekend, reported on the progress of this visitation and enrichment program scheduled for May 29 through 31. Introductory materials, she said, had been sent out to the congregation and a Prayer Vigil was planned for May 16 and 17, followed by visitation to all Saint Francis members. Nurture and Membership Care noted discussions on the Racial Inclusiveness report, transmitting of stewardship letters to new members, the Retreat is planned for August; plans are underway for the Vacation Bible School, June 22 - 26, and the first Junior Hi UMYF meeting had occurred on April 26. Outreach Work Area indicated that several members, adults and youth were interested in participating in the Appalachian Service project. There were also youth who were interested in the Highland Project in Raleigh. Also, the Work Area, Mission Committee, was investigating the possibility of Saint Francis Church to become sponsor for a General Board of Missions missionary in foreign situation. The Habitat for Humanity program, one of the Raleigh District's projects, was being considered. The cost was \$1.00 per member from the District. Mr. Rudy Hillman, representing Habitat for Humanity, will attend the May 2 Worship Service to introduce the congregation to this project for needy people in and about Raleigh. A vote was taken and the Council accepted a financial obligation of \$205 to Habitat for Humanity. Missions also raised the question of members who have become inactive within the church and requested directions to alleviate this before it became a serious problem. Their report concluded with the information that nominations for the Saint Francis Award would be forthcoming in August. The Finance committee stated that the budget expenditures and offerings were equalizing themselves at this time, but that with the summer period

the treasury could again be jeopardized should offerings falter. As for the Building Fund, it was seen to be in good stead, averaging about \$2,888 per month which debt requirements demand. The Board of Trustees reported that Mrs. Barbara Smith who owns the 1.1 acre site adjoining the new church property has offered this property including a brick structure for sale to the church. The Trustees value the property at about \$62,000. Mrs. Smith planned to have the property appraised in the near future. The Trustees then requested a Church Conference to discuss this vital issue, and asked also that a Charge Conference be held to decide the issue. The Council adjourned with the Chair stating that a Transition Planning Committee, Jim Pomeranz, chairperson, had been assembled to expedite the movement of Saint Francis into its new home once it was completed.

The Franciscan, May, 1987, reported the usual church activities for this month, plus these bits of information. At the Palm Sunday Worship Service on April 12 the following confirmands became members of St. Francis Church: Michael Armstrong, John Hinkel, Beth Melbourne, Barbara Sancido, Beth Tudor, Lisa Bandos, Jennifer Kornowski, Kristen Richards, Michael Saucedo, Maria Cox, Randy Lindsay, Tobi Rushing and Erin Thomas. These young people were augmented by Joseph, Mary and Joseph Jr. Bandos, Rudy and Angie Saucedo and Andrea Kornowski who joined at this time with St. Francis Church. A special section of the publication was directed by the Editor to the upcoming Lay Witness Mission. He wrote: "It is coming! This is the month for it. The mission will be the last weekend of May. Everyone be sure to plan to come and be refreshed. It will be a spring of sharing, fun, fellowship, caring, learning, laughing and maybe some tears. It will be above all else a new beginning for us as a church. It will be chance to renew our commitment to one another and to God as we embark on our summer of building."

The minutes of the May 18 meeting of the Administrative Council continue to express the thrust, concern and love of Christian mission in St. Francis Church. Nurture and Membership Care had continued, it reported, to pursue the questions created by the Racial Inclusiveness Report; the musical and instrumental problems once the church had moved into its new quarters on Kildare Farm Road; and its efforts to alert the families who were now becoming inactive members. The Outreach Area listed the coming Saint Francis Award and said that Mary Holloway was the new Committee chairperson. Alan Kerr, the reporter for Outreach, then relayed their concerns about sponsorship of an overseas missionary. He presented four names as possible candidates and requested budgeting for this activity in the 1988 Budget. The Finance Committee, John Carey reporting, listed these actions: Saint Francis Church was continuing its efforts to meet the needs of its Budget, as well as setting forth the plan for the 1988 Stewardship Campaign in September. The Trustees, Bill Shenton reporting, indicated that Mrs. Smith desired

\$77,000 for the property butting on the southwest side of the new church site. But she had decided not to sell because of the Trustees proposal for selling (\$10,000 to \$25,000 as a down payment and finance the balance at 10% and make monthly payments). Mr. Shenton also said that though Mrs. Smith was not willing to sell on the Trustees proposal, she wanted Saint Francis to have the property instead of putting it on the open market.

A busy schedule of events, varied in nature, greeted the reader of *The Franciscan* for June, 1987. In conjunction with the regularly scheduled events, special worship services were held on Pentecost, Trinity and Father's Day Sundays. More than these items were those of the Vacation Bible School, June 22-26 at White Plains UMC for all children 3 through 5 grades. The theme would be "Traveling with Paul" and Kathy Boling would be the director. The Annual Chicken Pickin' would be at Bond Park on June 28. Further items of interest were the ice cream socials at the Parsonage for the Neighborhood Groups; Outer Limits, June 7, Central Cary, June 14, North Cary, June 27, Scottish Hills, July 11, South Cary, July 18, West Cary, July 19. Also listed was the Annual Conference session on June 8-11 at Methodist College, Fayetteville, N.C.

The Administrative Council met on June 15 with nine members present. Several reports were presented: that the Lay Witness Mission would follow at the next meeting; that a grand piano was anticipated for the new building in honor of Martha Vann, that the Stewardship Committee planned visitations on July 1 in order that the church members become more aware of the budgeting process and finances, that a Lay Academy was being formulated for the fall, the first program would be a series on Death and Dying, that the Trustees will be continuing discussions with Mrs. Barbara Smith, that the new building was progressing in its development. A special meeting of the Administrative Council was called for June 18, 1987, after the Morning Worship Service. The purpose of the special meeting was to allow Mr. Shenton to report on late developments with Mrs. Smith. Mr. Shenton outlined for the Council the proposed terms of a lease-option to purchase agreement with Mrs. Smith. The Trustees, he said, requested permission to enter into such an agreement with the owner. His request passed unanimously.

The July 20, 1987, Minutes of the Administrative Council readily affirmed the intensity of a UM Church in its effort to combat the so-called "summer slump". The session got underway with 13 members and a guest, Faye Lindsay, in attendance. Alan Kerr, representing the Evangelism Committee, reported that the Committee had developed a brochure titled "Promises" for new and existing members. The Outreach Area and Stewardship Committee, he also said, are working on this project for the brochure to be available by January, 1988. Mr. Kerr Stated further that Saint Francis Church would have a Boy Scout Troop prior to cold weather. Some 12 boys would begin the troop. Afterwards, he passed around

biographies of the Fogelman family who Outreach proposed be the adopted foreign missionaries for Saint Francis Church. The couple are both medical doctors and would ably represent the Church; they too were the parents of a new baby. Mr. Kerr recommended the Fogelmans as the Church missionaries. Vivian Carey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Gene Wolf then reported for Nurture and Membership Care; the new sponsors for UMYF would be the Whaleys, the Shores and Denise Shenton. Mr. Wolf then stated that the activities poll following on the Lay Witness Weekend had recommended: (1) internal and external publicity; (2) assist groups to meet their needs; (3) establish a Lay Academy; and (4) establish programs to revive the present neighborhood groups. To meet these recommendations, the Work Area was now formulating a Lay Academy Program centered around the topic "Death and Dying"; a future Sunday School teacher workshop; a paid choir director to begin the music program in the fall; a sponsor for the Acolyte program; and a stewardship planning program. The financial report was made by Barbara Armstrong for the period ending June 30. She said that in the first half of the year, Saint Francis Church has contributed \$43,738 and had distributed \$39,111. John Carey, reporting for the Finance Committee, said the Committee was considering merging the two present accounts, program and building, into one budget to expedite the bookkeeping; thus, one bank account. He also added that the Audit was completed and all financial matters were satisfactory. Bill Shenton then reported for the Trustees. He said that Dr. James E. Vass had given as a gift to the Church two chairs and a dresser with glass table top. The gift was now in the Parsonage. He also added that the leasing contract with Mrs. Smith was with the lawyer and would be finished the next day. One stipulation existed; it was a \$500 security deposit. The Trustees, he continued, recommended the security deposit be paid. The Council so directed the Trustees to act in this matter. He concluded with the additional announcement that the Parsonage was to be painted and that a painting account had been set up at Ace Hardware, Cary, for the volunteer group of painters. The Chairperson, Diane Averett, then reported that the Transition Planning Committee would soon establish a procedure for the use of the new church office once the Smith property was acquired. She also said there was need of an official name for the new acquisition. Gene Wolf moved that the future name for the house be "The Church House". With the second, the Council ordered that from this time forward the building be called "The Church House". Mrs. Averett then passed out forms for budget and church goal planning and stated that there would be two Council meetings in August: 17 and 31. The Council adjourned with Bill Jameson saying that it was very important for Saint Francis to support the newest forming United Methodist Church in Cary: the Genesis Church.

The August, 1987, *The Franciscan* reflects on three major areas of Christian witness: the continued planning



for 1988, the new building construction and the annual Retreat at Camp Chestnut Ridge. The Committees of the Administrative Council met at their scheduled times for the plans necessary to begin another year; one that hopefully would see the Saint Francis congregation move from Farmington Woods School to the new church building at 2971 Kildaire Farm Road, southwest of Cary, N.C., just north of Penny Road. The Church House would officially be the administrative center of Saint Francis Church activities beginning August 1. The Chestnut Ridge Retreat, under the direction of Nurture and Membership Care with Sue Lowe as chairperson, was to be held over the weekend of August 29 and 30. A full schedule of retreat activities were scheduled for those who planned to attend this second church-wide event. Camping outside or living in the cabins, prepared staff meals in the dining hall, group meeting, singing, games, swimming, hiking, canoeing, camp fires, Worship Service, Vespers, and Floyd Hinshaw as retreat leader were some of the anticipated activities. The theme for the Retreat was "Together We Love". The Retreat Committee included Sue Lowe, Chairperson, and members Pastor Compton, Marilyn Shenton, Kathy Boling, Faye Lindsay, and Rosemary Whaley, chairperson 1986.

The Administrative Council met on August 17 at the Church House. After the usual opening procedures the Finance Committee made their regular reports. In Mrs.

Armstrong's report, she indicated that Saint Francis Church had spent \$309 more than its offering in the month of July. Mrs. Kristy Rice, reporting for the Evangelism Committee, stated that Reverend Wilkerson of Genesis UM Church needed more volunteers to complete the survey for his church. The date for the survey would be August 30 after 3 p.m. Pastor Compton then requested the Council to deal with the matter of funding the positions of choir director and pianist for the future. He said that the Finance Committee has set up a plan to pay for both positions where \$4000 would be the annual salary of the choir director and \$2000 for the pianist. John Boling, as pianist for Saint Francis Church, was to begin September 1 if the Council approved. Madra Britt motioned that Saint Francis Church approve the funding of \$2160 to cover both positions of the remainder of 1987. The motion, seconded, passed unanimously. Mrs. Britt, next, motioned that the chair of Staff-Parish Relations Committee name a committee as a search committee to care for the two positions should there be vacancies. Seconded, this motion also was enacted. Following the business items, Mr. Compton brought to the Council the discussion of the present aims of Saint Francis Church, relative to the setting of goals for 1988. All committee chairmen, etc., were instructed to prepare listings of major goals for 1988 and to bring these to the August 31 meeting.

There is, in the September issue of *The Franciscan*,

the definite indication of a renewed effort to return to the aggressive zeal of former years. The "Calendar of Events" indicates the following program of events: Education Task Group; Building Committee; Choir, Sr. Hi and Parents meeting; Boy Scouts; Trip to hear Pope John Paul II; Gourmet Group; Promotion Sunday; UMYF; Nurture and Membership Care; Budget Review- Finance Committee; Work Day at the Kildaire Farm Road site; UMM; Disciple Bible Study Group; Administrative Council; and "Death and Grief" study group. Announcements included these items: the official move of the administrative arm to the Church House; Pastor Compton's certification as a Church Business Administrator for his completion of the requirements by the National Institute of Church Finance and Administration, conducted at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia; the annual Charge Conference, October 6, 1987, at First United Methodist Church; the addition of Life Experiences, Inc., as a line item in the 1988 Budget; the Stewardship Campaign for 1988 in October and November; the adoption of the Fogleman family, Lynn, Sharon and Kurt in Maua, Kenya, as Saint Francis' overseas missionary family; and the letter concludes with this closing: "This is a good time to thank Barbara Armstrong for the many hours she devotes every month to our newsletter and countless other church tasks, both in her secretarial capacity and in her church member capacity. Thanks, Barbara, for you time and energy and patience!!"

The August 31, 1987 **Minutes**, of the Administrative Council affirms the renewal of church activation. Pastor Compton's announcements included the following: the authorization of the Council to begin a plan to acquire a piano for the new church building to the amount of \$6200; the use of the Church House by outside groups such as the Girl Scouts and the possibility of Saint Francis Church becoming a sponsor for the various Girl Scout groups; and the addition of a line item in the 1988 Budget by the Finance Committee for the new "West Cary" UM Church. Afterward, Mr. Compton turned the Council's perseverance to goals for 1988. Following a lengthy discussion, it was decided that these were to be the goals for 1988 to be presented at the Charge Conference, October 6: Saint Francis Members Leading Other People to Christ; Outreach to the (local) International Community, to "Blue Collar" Residents, to Overseas/Border, Handicapped, New "West Cary" Church; and Mission Work Teams. However, after more specific considerations, it was decided to qualify the 1988 goals for Saint Francis Church to be: Discovering and meeting the Christian needs of our children and youth, Discovering and meeting our older members, and Strengthen our Care Groups, as well as stressing the Lay Academy. Since there appeared to be some division within the Council where the Church should go, it was decided to return the goal-setting back to the Nurture and Membership Care and Outreach Work Areas for more clarification. With these deliberations the Council adjourned until September 21 for its next session.

As scheduled, the additional meeting of the Administrative Council came to order on September 21 at the direction of the Chairperson Diane Averett. First order of Business was the reports of the work areas and committees. The Outreach Area Statement affirmed the work of the Saint Francis Award scheduled for Nov. 1, All Saint's Day. Also, scouting programs were going extremely well at this time. Likewise, the Evangelism Committee was now in contact with the Board of Discipleship to secure assistance in methods of evangelization. The Nurture and Membership Care Area announced that the Sunday School and Worship Service attendances were quite successful at this time; that a fall outing was being planned for the Daily Vacation Bible School; and that the first session of the Lay Academy, "Knowledge of Death" would begin on October 4; other meetings of the Academy would be on October 11 and 18 at the Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church, Cary, N.C. The Finance Committee reported that income had begun to increase in August, and on a year-to-date accounting Saint Francis Church was slightly ahead on its Program Budget; however, the Building Fund still needed funds to meet the mortgage payments now being paid out. In Old Business, Mr. Compton added that Audrey Austin had been retained as Choir Director on a part-time basis. Mrs. Austin, "Steve" reported, is currently Administrator of Oak Park Music Academy in Raleigh. At Saint Francis "Audrey" would be director of the Adult Choir and advisor to the directors of the Children's Choir. The Committee on Racial Inclusiveness reported that it had carefully considered the question of the Policy and were continuing the development of suggestions for the Council. New Business included discussions related to the first service in the new building on January 10, 1988, as well as policies relating to the use of the new Church House. Following, the Church Use Policy was presented by the Transition Planning Committee which was accepted and passed. The Council then turned its attention to the Charge Conference on October 5 and the necessary items of business at that time. After some discussion, it was decided that the following would be the Council's goals for 1988 to the Charge Conference: Outreach; Saint Francis members leading other people to Christ; the new "West Cary" church; and mission work-teams. To Nurture and Membership Care, the emphasis would be: discovering and meeting the Christian needs of our children, youth, and older members; strengthening the Care Groups; and the Lay Academy. The council adjourned after lengthy discussion related to items of the 1988 Budget, also to be presented to the Charge Conference.

The month of October, 1987, was a month of preparation for the immediate future of Saint Francis Church. The Transition Planning committee had been very busy dealing with all possible kinds of problems when the congregation would be moving into the new building. Now, it was that time, and there was still so very much left to do in order that the transition be smooth and satisfying

to all concerned. The **Minutes** for the October 19, 1987, meeting ably indicate the anticipations and anxieties of the congregation. Outreach Work Area indicated that six nominees had been received for the annual Saint Francis Award, and that an evangelism workshop was now on the calendar for January 31, 1988. Nurture and Membership Care reported that the Parish Care Committee had plans well underway for an auction on November 15; also plans for the new building and the Sunday School; and that a Family Night covered dish was planned for November 1. The Finance committee stated that the Building Fund offering was presently averaging about \$250 per month under what was needed to pay fully the debt on the building. New Business was mainly announcements about the future activities of the church: October 31, work day at the church site; November 16, Administrative Council; November 25, Community Thanksgiving Service at First Baptist Church, Cary, N.C.; December 6, Family Christmas "Get-Together"; December 13, Choir Christmas Cantata; December 24- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service; January 10, 1988, Consecration of the new building; and January 31, 1988, Bishop Minnick will preach at the Morning Worship Service. The remainder of the evening was spent reviewing the possibilities relating to joining with First UM Church in their projected Disciple Bible Study training program soon to begin. Twelve lay persons were needed to be the first group of "Disciples" in training. After considerable discussion the Council adjourned until the scheduled meeting for November.

The NC Christian Advocate, October 13, 1987, carried a very interesting picture and information about the Open Door Club's present activities. The Club's theme for fall, 1987, was "Learn and Give", an activity where the ladies made Dimential Stars, a kind of sewing which would be auctioned at the bazaar on November 11.

As the year 1987 began to wane, the efforts of Saint Francis Church increased in intensity toward the anticipated move into the Kildaire Farm Road building. *The Franciscan* reports a number of activities pointed in direction to the near occupation, and even the Saint Francis Award and Reception on November 1 at the Morning Worship Service was overshadowed by the Family Night and Stewardship program that same night at Jordan Hall. All of the regularly scheduled meetings for November were held at their appointed times where the main topic of interest appears to have been that of the anticipated move. Special items of interest included the UMW Retreat at Sunset Beach, Stewardship Sunday, the weekly Wednesday morning gatherings of the Mother's Group, the meeting of the UMM at the Church House, the Harvest Festival and Auction at First UM Church, and the community Thanksgiving Service at First Baptist Church. Several Work Days occurred during November at the church site, mainly to prepare the property for the coming events and the winter period. The November 16 **Minutes** of the Administrative Council likewise show the efforts of the congregation to be now primarily concerned

with the new building. The Work Areas reported special efforts in some manner turned toward the long-desired goal. Nurture and Membership Care announced the financial returns from the Bazaar and Auction to be \$1646, which was voted by the Council to be deposited in the Building Fund account. Also, the attendance report indicated an increase of persons attending services over the number present at the same time the year previously. Outreach indicated the continued aggressive attitude of forward thrust also. Saint Francis Award Day was very successful; the farm crisis called for the membership participation in relief for this problem through a special offering to be taken between the year-end holidays, and two needy families were planned for through the special Christmas mission this year. Financially, Saint Francis Church was surging forward. For the second time in the records, the Finance committee reported that reserves over-shadowed the expenditures. However, this committee was cautiously expectant about the coming year with all the added expenses being in the new church. Consequently, the committee was stressing the need of having more pledging members as well as increases in present pledges. The Trustees announced that the rules relative to the use of the Church House had been posted and that all concerned please be guided by this statement. Also, the Trustees said that several gifts for the church had been received within the past month for the use of the new church building. These gifts, they stated, were deposited with the proper agencies in the church. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee reported on a matter brought to them by a small group of members in Saint Francis Church who were disturbed with Pastor Compton, the administration of Saint Francis and the Sunday School. The Committee made their announcement to the Council following on their investigation of the situation which indicated that Mr. Compton was spending some 85 hours per work week. The Committee recommended that his hours be reduced to correspond more to the 40 hour work week by taking two days per week out from his present schedule and that he spend less time with meetings and the like in the future. They concluded their report with this statement: "The Committee expresses deep appreciation for what Steve has done. He has worked to rebuild a church that almost never was."

December, 1987, was a traditional holiday time for Saint Francis Church. Most groups and organizations held individual Christmas gatherings during this last month of the year. The newsletter, *The Franciscan*, announced the Saint Francis Family Christmas for December 6 officially beginning the celebration of Christmas which concluded with the annual Christmas Eve Service at Farmington Woods School since the new building was not completed at this time. December 13, the Choir presented its Christmas Cantata.

The **Minutes** for December list other activities also occurring at this time. Chairperson Diane Averett called the Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Church House.

Pastor Compton presented a Building Status report to the Council. Because of several building problems confronted by Gary Smith, the builder, the new edifice would not be ready for use by January 10 as planned. The consecration Service, planned for January 10, had been delayed to January 31, 1987, when Bishop Minnick would be present for an 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service. Mary Holloway, chairperson for the celebration service, reported that between 300 - 350 people would be in attendance for the consecration service on January 31, followed by a luncheon reception under the direction of Sue Lowe. The Greeters for this service would be under the direction of Shirley Highfill, and Ronnie Lowe would direct the parking of cars. Also, though there was no Sunday School on Consecration Sunday, a nursery would be provided during the service. Mrs. Holloway continued with an accounting of anticipated expenses of approximately \$1000 for the entire program. The financial report indicated a satisfactory balance for the year end. Next Ronnie Lowe presented the report of the Stewardship committee. Pledge cards totalling \$79,179 were in the hands of the Committee, which expected \$83,000 for the 1988 Program Budget

as soon as outstanding cards were collected and filed. The Finance Committee recommended that the 1988 Budget be accepted on the basis of the Stewardship committee's funding efforts. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. with the announcement by the Chairperson that the next meeting of the Administrative Council would be on January 17, 1988 at the Church House.

On December 31, the Pastor's report for 1987 indicated that Saint Francis Church had a very successful year:

Total Membership — 214
Average Attendance — 165
Baptisms — 9
Preparatory Members — 78
Leaders in Church School — 10
Church School Members — 130
United Methodist Men — 20
United Methodist Women — 25
Paid to Local Benevolences — \$2,040
Paid to World Service and Conference Benevolences — \$2,423
Grand Total of Expenditures — \$80,017

CHAPTER VII

“And Now Fruit”

Saint Francis Church commenced the new year 1988 with the same expectations that it concluded 1987; that of holding the Consecration Service for the new building on January 31, 1988. The expectation, however, would not be fulfilled because of building problems in construction and with the Town of Cary. Until the building was fully completed there would be no Consecration Service and the congregation would continue their worship life at Farmington Woods School. Pastor Steve made the situations known with these words: “The consecration of our new building, previously scheduled for January 31st, has been postponed. A new date will be set as soon as the building is completed. Several things, including the inclement weather, have contributed to the delay in completing the building. But, we’re getting very near and we are all looking forward to the very special day when we have use of our new home.” (*The Franciscan*, February, 1988).

The anticipation of moving to the Kildaire Farm Road site permeated the activities of Saint Francis Church, as witnessed by the January, 1988, *The Franciscan*, where the first topic was “Consecration Service: January 31 is a red letter day for our church! Plan to attend the church consecration service for the new facility, beginning at 11:00 that morning. In addition to the consecration, the service will feature the sharing of the artwork depicting the life of Saint Francis and other gifts and honors. Special guests invited include: the Reverend J. Cameron West, our first minister; Dr. Joseph Bethae, District Superintendent; and Dr. Reginald Ponder, former District Superintendent”

One special and newly planned activity at the start of the new year was the announcement by the United Methodist Women to the effect that a Women’s Study/Support Group was in the process of organization. A meeting of all interested women would meet at the Parsonage on Thursday, January 21, at 8:00 p.m. The goals for the group(s) were to develop a closer relationship with God and to develop more intimate friendships with other Christian women. The study books to be reviewed in the Study were *Disciplines of the Beautiful Woman* by Anne Arltund, *Let Me Be a Woman*, by Elizabeth Elliot, and *How to Be a Liberated Christian* by Ruth Truman. (This, also from *The Franciscan*, 1988).

Other congregational activities for January included that of the Coalition on January 16 at 8:20 a.m.; several work site days; a crisis control network, a telephone communication by the United Methodist Men providing emergency service to any within the church who needed instant assistance; a communication from the Fogelman’s from Maua, Kenya describing their life and mission in Africa; and the newly created Parish Care Groups now 14 in number, now planned around the geographical location of the groups within Cary and Wake County.

The Franciscan, January, 1988, concluded with a congregational report from Don Holloway, chairperson of the Building Committee. He reiterated Pastor Compton’s report of the delay for the use of the new church. He also added to those who were questioning about the parking lot: “Paving the parking lots is not included in our contractual agreement. The estimated cost of paving both

the north and south lot as well as the connecting drive is \$45,000." He continued: "Painting of the interior has begun and will be completed in a couple of weeks. . . . For those of you that do not know, the approximate cost of our facility, including the architect fees, is \$500,000 Dig a little deeper, if possible, and help us in these crucial times."

January, 1988, also saw the circulation of *The Handbook, 1988*, now a 36 page booklet, containing all pertinent facts relative to Saint Francis church. *The Handbook* was now a major project of the newly reorganized Communications Committee. Lynn Lewis was the coordinator of communications with the assistance of Steve Compton, Pastor; Barbara Armstrong, Church Secretary; Vivian Carey, Historian; and Jim Pomeranz, who type-set and designed the handbook."

The Administrative Council met for the organizing meeting on January 18, 1988, with the Vice Chairperson, Jim Crossett in charge. Following on the devotion, the **Minutes** reflect these activities: Building status/consecration— Pastor Compton reported that, having met with the architect that day, the idea of a completion of all the construction would not allow a Consecration Service on January 31. Consequently, this Service would be delayed until all contingencies were cared for. "Right now we will not set a new date." Nurture and Membership Care reported a continued increase in the Morning Worship Service, 178 members and visitors. Outreach Work Area reported on the anticipated Appalachian Service Project. However, the Board of Missions must go on a "waiting list". The Chairperson, Alan Kerr added that the Area would look into other projects including the Highland Project or other groups needing assistance. The remainder of the **Minutes** reflected much of the interests of the Church concerning the beginning of another year of service to God through Christ and the fulfillment of the desires and expectations of the congregation's namesake, Saint Francis of Assisi.

February, 1988, introduced a period of bold introspection and evaluation on the part of Saint Francis Church. This time of waiting is aptly illustrated in the February, *The Franciscan*, where the lead article, a message from Mr. Compton reads: "Consecration of new building delayed!" However, it becomes obvious that the congregation will not take the "hold" other than to be a continued future thrust. The next three articles affirm this assumption: 1) "Saint Francis Church to host sub-district meeting and evangelism workshop" for February 22 at 7:30 p.m. concerning the capital funds drive; and 2) "Rev. Jim Cowell of the Board of Discipleship, Nashville, TN, will lead an Evangelism Training Workshop" on February 28 from 3:00 p.m. to 5 p.m." Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee, it would be open to all churches of the Raleigh District; and 3) "Confirmation classes to begin on Sunday, February 4, at 4:00 p.m. in the Church House. Membership Sunday will be Palm Sunday, March 27." A variety of other activities and services follow: the **North**

Carolina Christian Advocate campaign; summer camping activities; the taping of the Morning Worship Services; new altar equipment needed, a recommendation by the Worship Committee; the annual Sweetheart Banquet, Friday, February 12, at Valentine's, Raleigh; the gathering of the International Gourmet Group, February; the Administrative Council Leadership Training session, February 14, at Highland UMC at 7:00 p.m.; as well as all the other regularly scheduled events of the congregation. Likewise, *The Franciscan* begins a new "life" in February, 1988, with a totally new format and print-out.

Also, from the *History, 1988*, comes the bit of information; a letter from Dr. Bethea, Raleigh Superintendent, to Mr. Compton; "I am authorizing you to call and hold a special Charge Conference . . . on Sunday, February 21, 1988. The purpose . . . is to authorize the Trustees to borrow an amount not to exceed \$218,000 from the Methodist Development Fund . . . to underwrite the cost of the construction of the first unit of Saint Francis United Methodist Church."

The **Minutes**, February 15, 1988, indicates a continued, determined movement forward. Twenty members were in attendance. After the preliminaries, the Work Areas made their reports. **Outreach**: Alan Kerr, Chairperson, announced the formation of visitation teams, contacts with the Fogelman's in Kenya, the Saint Francis representation on the Highland Project would be 5 youth and 2 adults, the food collections were continuing as previously operated, and the District Mission Saturation event would be on September 23. **Nurture and Membership Care**: reported by Gene Wolf, showed a definite increase in attendance at past events: Groundbreaking, 223; Bishop's visit, 221; and Worship on February 7, 203, and on February 14, 186. **Children Ministries** noted these items: Jennifer Fisher would direct the 1988 Vacation Bible School; a proposed children's fellowship, the M & Ms — Mini Methodist — for grades 3 - 5 of the Sunday School; as well as discussions about children's worship. **The Sunday School**, Diane Springer reporting, had 124 attendees on Bishop Sunday; the offerings by the children was advancing (\$135); there would be four adult classes in the fall; and classes needed in the fall— college age, young adult, and singles. **Worship Committee**: presently looking at robing as well as hand bells for the Choir. **Youth**: Rosemary Whaley reported that the MYF was interested in beginning activities toward a play site on the church property. **Family Ministries**, Jean Perdue, coordinator, anticipates church-wide programs for the whole year. **The Finance Committee**, Bill Jameson, chairperson, reported on the Budget, 1988, and stated that funds were "not too good" for January; "they are sort of traditional". Barbara Armstrong stated that an average of \$2,871 was needed each week in 1988 to meet the Budget requirements. **Trustees**: Jack Hinkel, chairperson, distributed a funds report of monies needed to continue the building; the paving project would cost some \$22,000; an alarm system for the new building; purchase of the table

and chairs from Mrs. Barbara Smith for \$200 for the Church House; as well as that the closing date for the new church was set for February 22. **Old Business:** Mr. Compton said that a conditional certificate of occupancy was being negotiated by the Building Committee. **The Consecration Service would be March 6, 1988.** **New Business:** Diane Averett, chairperson, requested a special offering for "victims of the red tide" as all churches were participating. **The UMW:** Kristy Rice announced that a yard sale would be held on the church property on April 9, provided the Council concurred. The month concluded with the Church Leadership Conference in the new church building on February 29, 1988.

March, 1988: finally the great day had arrived for Saint Francis Church. **The Franciscan**, March, 1988, announced the long sought, prayed for, and planned for **EVENT:** "Consecration of new building set!" The formal statement of occupancy appeared in **From the Pastor's Desk:** "The Administrative Council has chosen Sunday, March 6, as the date for the Consecration of our building ... This will surely be a day when we will want to "praise God from whom all blessing flow."



**The Order
For The Consecration
Of The First Church Building
For
Saint Francis
United Methodist Church**



Cary, North Carolina
March 6, 1988
The Third Sunday of Lent

THE PRELUDE

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *Stand Up And Bless The Lord* No. 16

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

Sisters and brothers in Christ, this is a day of rejoicing. We have come together to consecrate this building of the United Methodist Church. Let us open our hearts and minds to receive God's Word with faith. May our blessed communion, born of one baptism and nurtured at one table of the Lord, become one temple of the Holy Spirit as we gather in love.

WORDS OF GREETING TO THE CONGREGATION

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

PRESENTATION OF THE BUILDING

We present this building to be consecrated to the glory of God and the service of all people.

NAMING OF THE BUILDING

By what name shall this house be known?
It shall be called the Saint Francis United Methodist Church.

CONSECRATION OF THE BUILDING

Dear friends, rejoice that God so moved the hearts of people that this house has been built for praise and prayer, education and fellowship. Let us now consecrate it for service and celebrate its holy use.

Let us pray.

O eternal God, mighty in power and of incomprehensible majesty, whom the heavens cannot contain, much less the wall of temples made with hands. You have promised your special presence whenever two or three are assembled in your name to offer praise and prayer.

By the power of your Holy Spirit consecrate this house of your worship. Bless us and sanctify what we do here, that this place

may be holy for us and a house of prayer for all people. Guide and empower in this place by the same Spirit the proclamation of your Word and the celebration of your sacraments, the pouring out of prayer and the singing of your praise, professions of faith and testimonies to your grace, the joining of men and women in marriage and the celebration of death and the resurrection.

Save us from that failure of vision which would confine our worship within these walls, but send us out from here to be your servants in the world, sharing the blessings of Christ with the world he came to redeem.

Now, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: sanctify this place, for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, Lord is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head above all. **AMEN.**

*HYMN *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* No. 20

CONSECRATION OF THE PULPIT

Let us Pray.

Eternal God, we thank you that Christ your living Word speaks to us through the words of Holy Scripture, written of old by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit and proclaimed today by the anointing of the same Spirit.

When your Word is read and preached from this pulpit, purify the lives and lips of those who speak here, that your Word alone may be proclaimed and your word alone may be heard and obeyed. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, our rock and our redeemer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Kings 8:22-30

ACT OF PRAISE

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

I have chosen and sanctified this place.

Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

I have chosen and sanctified this place.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they prosper who love you!"

I have chosen and sanctified this place.

Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.

I have chosen and sanctified this place.

For my brethren and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"

I have chosen and sanctified this place.

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

AMEN.

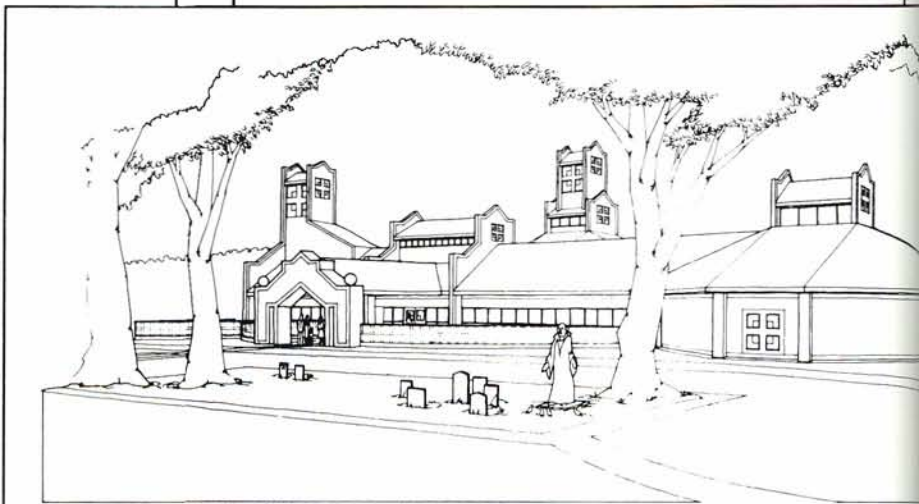
SCRIPTURE LESSON Revelation 21:2-7, 22-25

ANTHEM *Prayer of Saint Francis*

*GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 16:13-18

SERMON Dr. Joseph B. Bethea
Superintendent, Raleigh District

*HYMN *Lord, Speak To Me* No. 195



ST. FRANCIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONSECRATION OF THE BAPTISMAL FONT

Let us pray.

Most gracious God, we thank you that through the waters of baptism you have given us new life, adopted us as your children, and made us members of your church. When we pour the water of baptism, making and renewing our covenant vows, pour out your Spirit and give new birth; wash away sin and clothe your people in righteousness; that, dying and being raised with Christ, we may walk in new and abundant life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all. We consecrate this font in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

CONSECRATION OF THE LORD'S TABLE

Let us pray.

Lord God, we thank you that when we gather at the Lord's table the living Christ is known to us in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup, and we are renewed as his body, whose life is in his blood. When we eat this bread and drink from this cup,

refresh all those who partake at his holy table. Feed the hunger of our hearts with the bread of heaven, and quench our deepest thirst with the cup of salvation. Strengthen us for your service in the world, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." We consecrate this table in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

*HYMN *More Love To Thee, O Christ* No. 185

DEDICATION OF THE PIANO

We present this piano to be consecrated to the glory of Almighty God and for the service in this church as a gift in honor of Martha Perry Vann.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

To sing praises to your name, O most high,

To declare your steadfast love in the morning,

And your faithfulness at night,

To the music of the lute and the harp,

To the melody of the lyre.

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;

At the works of your hands I sing for joy.

*GLORIA PATRI

Let us pray.

Eternal God, whom the generations have worshiped through the gift of music, accept our praise to you in the sound of this instrument, which we consecrate in your name and to your glory. Grant that its music may be a blessing to all who worship here, and that they may be consecrated to you, whose sound has gone out through all the earth and whose words to the end of the world. Let our music be so joined to your holy Word that your glory may surround us and empower us for the service to which you call us in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

PRESENTATION OF A GIFT OF SACRED ART

We present this gift of art to be consecrated to the glory of Almighty God and for service in this church in honor of the church's founding pastor, John Cameron West.

We accept this gift as a sacred trust and will guard and use it reverently in recognition of the faithful and devoted life in whose honor it is given.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we consecrate this gift to the glory of God.

Let us pray.

Most loving God, without you no words or works of ours have

meaning. Accept the gifts of our hands as symbols of our devotion. Grant us your blessing, as we consecrate this gift to your glory, that it may be an enduring witness before all your people, and that our lives may be consecrated in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

Alleluia

*THE DOXOLOGY

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is the blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. AMEN.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

BREAKING THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us one with Christ. Help us bring your salvation and joy to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

*HYMN *O God, Our Help In Ages Past* No. 28

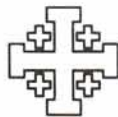
*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Ascription of Praise*

*RECESSIONAL

THE POSTLUDE



* The Congregation stands
Congregational responses in bold italics



On March 9, 1988, the **Cary News** carried the reporting of the Consecration. It read, "The first church building of Saint Francis United Methodist Church was consecrated during the morning worship service Sunday. Over 300 people attended the special service in the new building on an eight-acre site on Kildaire Farm Road near its



intersection with Penny Road. The Reverend Steve Compton, pastor of the church, presided at the services. Dr. Joseph B. Bethae, superintendent of the Raleigh District of the United Methodist Church, delivered the sermon. Also participating was the Reverend J. Cameron West, the former and founding pastor . . . A highlight of the consecration service was the presentation of an original painting of Saint Francis of Assisi by the Atlanta artist, Lane Duncan, in honor of Mr. West, the founding pastor. Several members purchased the painting and it was presented at the Consecration Service by Bill and Madra Britt, charter members. Artist Duncan also was present at the service. A piano was presented to the church in honor of Martha Vann, who founded the first music program and served as the first musical director. Dr. James Earl and Mrs. Vann were both in attendance also."

A similar article about the Consecration appeared in the North Carolina Christian Advocate, dated April 16, 1988.

The **Minutes**, March 21, 1988, illustrate the aggressiveness of the Council, ably reflecting the positive forward movement of the Church at large. The Work Areas began the session with these groups reporting: **Nurture and Membership Care**— Mr. Wolf reported that Children's Ministries were investigating the possibility of a daycare, after school, Mother's morning out and preschool programs; a day program was settled for the Daily Vacation School, but no date had been set; the new Commission on Education would meet on April 6. The Worship Committee, he continued, cited several concerns about the new building — a higher noise level, choir and piano

placements, sunlight, and lighting problems; the expansion of the Committee to 9 persons; the possible purchase of a stage dolly for the piano (\$450); the Acolytes plan for a visit to Washington, DC; and the recommendation that the UMM and UMW assist with the ushering. Further report included the Youth Ministries Recognition Day, June 5; a planned missionary activity in May, and a mission study for the Lay Academy. He concluded with the report of the Stewardship Committee concerning a representative of the Board of Global Ministry's Office of Finance and Field Service for the fall stewardship campaign. **Outreach**— John Carey, reporting, listed these items of activity; the visitation team activities; at least 8 new families are visiting each Sunday, the committee needs more visitors to call on these new people; the Evangelism Committee was very actively involved in developing programs and carrying them out to further the Retreat goal, "meeting and leading other people to Christ." At this time Alan Kerr explained how the Committee had arranged for caring for the new families showing interest in Saint Francis Church; a Mission Saturation Event is presently scheduled for September 23-25; the Dorcas Shop was moving its headquarters and the UMM will assist in their move; and 2 more youth (now 7 in number) were planning on attending the Highland Project in Raleigh. **The Financial Report**— Mr. Jamson reported that the Church continues to spend more than it is receiving. "We are," he said, "about \$700 per week in deficit and are rapidly depleting our undesignated reserves". Also the payment on Building Fund pledges was



diminishing, and, since 73% of the Budget is untouchable, only the most necessary essentials may be acquired in the future. **The Trustees**— Mr. Hinkel announced that “add ons” at closing could be as high as \$10,000, and he does not have a complete total from Mr. Smith. Relative to the paving, only when a figure is received from Mr. Smith could the Trustees act on the paving project, presently bid at \$30,000. He continued to say that the Saint Francis income at this time could not merit the hiring of a weekly cleaning service for the new building, and suggested that the various agencies of the Church do the cleaning on Saturday afternoons three weeks a month while Life Experiences, Inc., be hired to do a general clean-up on the fourth week. Likewise, he said, both the Parsonage and the Church House were in urgent need of exterior painting this year. He concluded with the request that the Council establish as soon as possible guidelines for the use of the church building. **New Business** — the Capital Funds Campaign is now in operation and it is necessary for Saint Francis Church to indicate its position in this Conference program. The matter was referred to the Finance Committee for study and recommendations. Also, Mr. Compton announced the service schedule for the Easter season:



“In observance of Holy Week, a devotional service will be held March 28 through April 1 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. at the church.

“A Maundy Thursday Service will be held March 31 at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

“Easter Sunrise Service will be on Easter Sunday at 7:00 a.m. in front of the church. A light breakfast will follow.”

The April issue of *The Franciscan*, aptly substantiates the attitude of Saint Francis Church at this time in its development. The lead article, written by Bill Haynes, Chairperson of the new Worship Committee, sets the tone of the day:

“It’s so exciting to be in our new church building! New things are always exciting — new things to try out, new things to explore, new things to talk about. Where shall my family sit? Where can we best hear the choir? What changes will we need to make in the acolyte’s contribution to the Worship? All these things are exciting to experience and share.

“Last week I was at our church in the evening. When I walked into our sanctuary, one of our church members was sitting there alone, with head bowed, obviously in prayer. It made me feel good inside! I thought: “This place is truly special! Prayer in our homes is important, prayer with our friends is important, but prayer and reverence in God’s house is truly a gift from God.

“The current excitement of our new church building may eventually fade away, but that excitement can be replaced with an even greater job of reverently communing with God in His sanctuary. ‘It is written, He said to them, my house will be called a house of prayer’ (Matthew 21:13).”

Among the many activities and services at Saint Francis, these stand out and call for action:

Church and Society, “The horror of the Holocaust is inextricably linked to the conditions of our time. . . . Remembering can instill caution, fortify restraint and protect against future evil or indifference. (From *Report to the President*, the President’s Commission on the Holocaust, September 27, 1979.) The N.C. Council on the Holocaust . . . is sponsoring a Holocaust Observance at the



Raleigh Civic Center, Thursday, April 14, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. . . . The program promises to be most meaningful to all attending, especially to family groups."

Missions, "REMEMBER, every Sunday morning and at our 'pot luck' family suppers, that there will be a box available to you to contribute non-perishable foods, paper products and grocery bags to be distributed to the N.C. Food Bank and CCA."

Leadership Training Event, "Leadership Training Event will be held April 29 - May 1 at Camp Chestnut Ridge for anyone who may be interested in organizing and leading workteams with the N.C. Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM). UMVIM sponsors short term mission trips in and out of the country. For more information contact Brenda Kerr."

Mother's Co-op Group News, "Our Saint Francis Mother's Group has begun meeting again — this time with a new name! The Mother's Co-op will meet at the church every Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to provide a time of fun and fellowship for our youngest members and their moms. . . . If you are interested, you may contact Phyllis Carey or Kay Crossett."

Financial Information (February, 1988),

Program, need: \$9,552; Actual: \$6,235.

Building Fund, need: \$3,200; Actual: \$1,324.

Disciple Bible Study Group News, "The group is progressing and is about halfway through the Old Testament. Plans are to finish the OT by the first Thursday in June."

UMW Yard Sale, Saturday, April 9, 8:00 to 12:00 noon; the Saint Francis Church grounds.

UMM Paint Up, Fix Up, Camp Chestnut Ridge, clean-up day, April 16. "Please bring yourself and your tools. . . . April 17 at 8:00 a.m. at the Church House—breakfast meeting. Please come and join us. Each breakfast is a genuine treat, thanks to the cooks!"

The **Minutes**, April, 1988, also reflect the progressive attitude of Saint Francis Church. The Council met on April 18 at the Church House with the Chairperson, Diane Averett presiding. From the Work Areas: **Outreach** reported the continuing visitation of 7 or 8 new visitors each week plus the immediate calls by the Visitation Committee with these prospective members. Likewise, a presentation by the Wake Council on Literacy was scheduled for May 29 at 7 p.m. at the church. Also, the Raleigh Council Area Ministries was requesting some additional financial assistance for the Coalition program for 1988-89. The Council responded by setting aside a Sunday in May for an offering toward this worthy service cause for Wake county poverty-stricken people. Moreover, a joint program between the Missions Committee and the United Methodist Women for Mission Saturation Weekend, entitled "Christianity in Russia", was now in its preparation. Finally, a letter had been received from the Board of Global Ministries establishing a covenant relationship between the Fogelman's family and Saint Francis Church which obligated the church to \$1,000 support to their missionary

family in Kenya. **Nurture and Membership Care** reported on the Sunday School, the Worship Committee, a children's part in the Morning Worship Service, the presence of the Children's Choir in the worship on May 1 and again in June, and the division of the nursery into three groups, thus now necessitating three families for service support. **Family Ministries** announced a talent show for May 22, the UMM "chicken pickin" on June 26, and a Gospel Sing for July. **Financial Report** indicated Saint Francis Church was still receiving less on Budgets than was needed to meet present obligations. Also, in 1989, there would be both building fund and operating fund budgets. Until the new year (September to December), a split pledge period would exist. Also, the targeting date for the 1989 Stewardship Campaign was scheduled in September. **New Business** included discussions relating to begin computerization of all paper work in the Church office as well as the costs involved; the obvious need of some system of regulation of the use of the kitchen; a training session for Administrative Council members on May 28, 9 am to 12 noon; and the definite need of bulletin boards, etc., throughout the church.

In May, 1988, *The Franciscan* reported in its lead article by Pastor Compton some highly important bits of information: "Since moving into our wonderful new church building more than 80 families or single adults have visited us for the first time. Our average attendance has been 240 persons each Sunday for our first seven weeks in the building. That's equal to 100% of our members! In addition to Sunday Worship, we had some 100 in attendance at the Maundy Thursday evening service, 61 at the Easter sunrise service, and from three to eight each day for noon devotions during Holy Week. We currently have eleven Sunday School classes meeting which means that every possible place including the Church House is being used. Sunday School attendance has risen to an average of 125 each week." Following on the Calendar of Events, a number of information notations appeared: the Daily Vacation Bible School would be held for ages 3 through grade 5 on June 20 - 24 from 9:30 a.m. until 12 noon with Jennifer Fisher, the director; the





Worship Committee requests that the use of flash cameras during the Worship Service was being discouraged; and that the new members were Albert, Marie, Matthew, and Austin Pulliam; Don, Pat, and Michele Brown; Tony and Debbie Maness. The Confirmation Class members were Matthew Compton, Chris Bridges, Christina Shenton, Jana Coble, Laurea Haynes, Mark Rushing, Garrett Britt, Jonathan Boling and Grant Anderson. Among the many familiar activities planned for the summer months was an entirely new offering: the announcement of a Saint Francis Golf Team.

On May 16, the Administrative Council convened to receive the regular reports from the Work Areas, consider any Old Business and discuss New Business, as well as accept the Financial and Trustees reports, The Work Areas reported at some length through their Chairpersons on their various activities and projects in operation during the spring months. The Financial Report, Bill Jameson representing the Finance Committee, indicated that for once in a long time Saint Francis Church was spending less than it was receiving, and "he hopes this is the start of a good trend." Likewise, the Committee was now in the process of redesigning its entire financial reporting system, since the present method was becoming cumbersome. Jameson's report also included the information relative to

pressure the Town of Cary was placing on the Trustees concerning the paving of the parking lots. Some money, approximately \$10,000 was still outstanding to Gary Smith, the builder, and about \$3,000 to Mrs. Burns, the architect. These items would be clarified, he said, and some disposition made on them. Presently, there was \$31,000 in the Building Fund account, plus \$8,000 return from N.C. sales taxes. Also, the Committee has received \$1259 from White Plains UM Church for the share for Saint Francis Church for assisting White Plains at the N.C. State Fair. Mr. Jameson concluded by stating that this would be the last time Saint Francis would receive money from the Fair activity, but "we should continue to help out at the fair and encourage them to help Genesis Church". In New Business, Diane Averett, the Chairperson, introduced a request from Triangle MELD to form a new parent-group in this area. MELD, she explained, is sponsored by Wake Medical Center where eight to ten couples and their babies need a meeting place on a regular basis. Representatives had visited Saint Francis Church the past week and would be glad to use it. Diane's request was for the Council to determine how and under what conditions outside groups might use our building. Most of the Council believed that Saint Francis Church be made available to outside groups for use as well as for the use of the church members. The matter was referred to the Transition Committee and the Trustees to establish guidelines to expedite the matter. Vivian Carey, the Church Historian, next pointed out that the historical statement in the 1988 Handbook now totalled seven pages. Her problem was whether this part of the Handbook be shortened or continued for the future. The Council recommended that the matter be reconciled between the Historian and the Handbook editor. Mrs. Carey presented a second problem, that of binding the past records as well as the feasibility of developing a yearly annual of the church's records. The Council requested a recommendation from her for future action. The Council adjourned at this time; the next meeting to be held Monday, June 20, at the Church House.

As announced in May, the Council met on June 20, 1988, to receive and act on the reports of responsible bodies of the Church. Don Holloway, for the Building Committee, reported that the architect had been paid in full and all bills due to contractors paid, except for \$3,500 held back until every contract item had been completed by subcontractors. The absorption materials, recommended by the NCSU acoustical engineer, have been ordered and will be installed as soon as these arrive; the cost would be about \$3,000, he continued. Also Mr. Holloway stated that the new church sign as permitted by the Town of Cary would be three feet high and eight feet long and would cost about \$3,000. He continued by saying that when all items outstanding were paid for, the Committee would have \$25,000 in its fund for the paving of the property parking lots. Jack Hinkel reported for the Trustees at this time also, saying that the paving would be \$6.00 per yard and

carry a one year guarantee for a total cost of \$30,000. It was decided by the Council on the recommendation of Mr. Compton that the Council set the figure for paving and striping at \$32,000, with the Finance Committee being responsible for the \$7,000 differential. It was unanimously decided to proceed on the paving of the parking lot. The Work Areas reported their usual activities at this time also, indicating the successful completion of spring activities as well as the impending future programs for the summer.

July, 1988, at Saint Francis Church reflects a decrease in regular church activities and an increased interest in activities outside the property areas. "The Calendar of Events," *The Franciscan*, listed only the primary committee activities. One new item appears, however, at this time: "Wonderful Wednesdays", a Methodist Youth program planned by the Education Committee for the youth of Saint Francis Church. This would be a summer length series of activities for all interested youth and would include picnics, parties, tours, and the like until the return to public schools in August. *The Franciscan*, also had a number of specific announcements relating to future programs: the Fall Stewardship Campaign would be headed by Warren Hamby of the General Board of Finance and Field Services. He would be at Saint Francis Church on July 20 to meet with the Finance and Building Committee, the Administrative Council and the Executive Campaign Committee. Beginning in July contributions to the Church would be done with just one check in place of several as had been the past procedure. The Youth project for the children's playground was now ready for the working and assembly stage of development. A report related the activities of the Annual Conference session in June at Methodist College, Fayetteville, N. C. Don Holloway made a statement relative to acoustical alterations in the sanctuary, the building of a new church sign, and the plans to pave the parking lot. Included also in the newsletter were the regular activity reports of the UMW and UMM, as well as "Thanks, Thanks, and more Thanks" for all who made possible the Chicken Pickin' and the Senior Day Banquet for Saint Francis Church 1988 school graduates. One new item appears, announcing a musical program "Promise" for July 10 at 7:30 p.m. "Promise" is a contemporary musical witness of five musicians and a sounds person. The group is a division of Foundation Ministries, Inc.

The Administrative Council met on July 18, 1988, under the leadership of Jim Crossett, vice chairperson. After the devotional by Ronnie Lowe, the previous **June Minutes** were approved, and following on the Agenda, the Work Areas made their reports. **Nurture and Membership Care**, Gene Wolf reporting, stated that the Sunday School teachers for 1989 were now being recruited; that Christian Education Sunday was scheduled for September 11, when all third graders would be presented with Bibles; and that a teacher training seminar would begin September 7; that the Worship Committee was desirous of a more

worshipful Sunday Morning Worship Service; and that the Daily Vacation Bible School had been a major success with 59 children in attendance, 29 of which were from non-church member families. **Outreach**, Jim Crossett reporting, stated that the Mission Saturation Sunday was scheduled to begin on September 25; the theme being "Christianity in Russia" with Alan Kerr as the leader. The **Financial Report** continued the meeting with announcements about the Stewardship Campaign and the presence of Warren Hamby, Board of Global Ministries, on July 20 at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Jameson, for the Committee, said that Saint Francis Church, now through one half the year, had spent just 33% of the 1988 Budget. He concluded for the Committee by requesting that all money requests be in the hands of the committee by August 5, for the Committee had already begun its draft for the 1989 Budget. **New Business**, Kathie Boling who now represented the Child Care Study Group, presented as the Committee Chairperson the group's report: the survey, mailed to church members and residents living near the church, indicated that a considerable number of people (some 55) were interested in a Child Care program. On the basis of the affirmative response and the apparent need, Kathie asked for a motion that a Mother's Morning program (one day per week), and an After School program be established by September 1, 1988, and a Pre-school program set up by September 1989. Also, she said, some kind of transportation must be provided for an After School program. After considerable discussion, it was voted to begin a Mother's Morning Out and an After School program with Kathie to be the Council's member on Boards for both programs. Since the Child Care report had consumed the major element of the time for the meeting, other items of business would be held over until the August 15 meeting.

A special meeting of the Administrative Council was held on July 28, 1988, to welcome the Representative of the Office of Finance and Field Service, Dr. W.C. Hamby. Bill Jameson, representing the Finance committee, introduced the proposal from the Committee relative to the Stewardship Campaign: The Committee recommended a \$115,000 Program Budget and a \$120,000 three year Building Fund Goal. After some discussion, the motion for vote was called with an amendment appended to the effect that the Program Budget run from January 1, 1989 to December 31, 1989, and the Building Fund Pledge Budget run from January 1, 1989 to December 31, 1991. The motion as amended carried unanimously. Dr. Hamby then addressed the Council saying that he was looking forward to the next twelve days of intensive activity of the first phase in the Campaign. Following the closing prayer by Pastor Compton, the Council adjourned. In August, *The Franciscan*, reported much of what had transpired thus far in the summer activities at Saint Francis Church: the Child Care Programs at Saint Francis, the impending Stewardship Campaign, the fall program in the Sunday School, a report from Kenya about the Fogelman family, and events of the UMM, the UMYF, and the UMW. The

newsletter concluded with an imprint for the Family Retreat, August 27, at Camp Chestnut Ridge.

On August 9, 1988, Mr. Compton sent to the membership of Saint Francis Church a communication relative to an article in *The Spectator Magazine*, dated July 21, 1988, reporting the awarding to Saint Francis Church an "Award of Excellence" on behalf of its new church building. This Award was one of three given in the nation by a group of Chicago architects.

The August, 1988 **Minutes** reflect the advanced planning in operation for the conclusion of 1988 and also for 1989: Christian Education Sunday and Mission Saturation, the new member integration program, the *Songs of Zion* songbook program in September, and the Crop Walk in October. **Nurture and Membership Work Area** announced the reviewing of requirements leading to two Worship Services on Sunday morning as early as possible in the fall season. **Outreach** reported that nomination letters had already been distributed for the Saint Francis Award in November, that a Bibles for Russia program was being presently formulated, that a congregational presentation would be done on behalf of the concluded Highland Service Project, and that the Missions Committee was now working on a variety of Christmas projects for the church. Mr. Crossett, vice-chairperson, then requested the Work Areas to begin considering their activities for the annual Planning Retreat of the Council on October 8, 1988. **The Financial Report** included spending problems again facing the Finance Committee, the fall Stewardship Campaign for 1989, and the pledge to the Annual Conference Capital Funds Campaign amounting to about \$14,000 over a three year period. The Committee completed its report with a statement about the immediate need to go to a worthy office automation system for Saint Francis Church. A group headed by Bill Lindsay was already looking into the possibilities of a competent copier, as well as computers, and printers. From **Child Care Program**, Kathie Boling now presented the constitutions and bylaws for two child care programs: a Pre-school Board and an After School Board, plus the request of \$500 to launch the child care programs, with the promise of repayment of the request out of the first year's registration fees. Discussion led to a motion that the requests be accepted. The vote was affirmative. Now, Saint Francis Church was moving outward into new and untried service fields. The Council adjourned following a discussion about doing something in the area of AIDS. It was decided to do nothing at this time until the official position of the United Methodist Church has been ascertained.

The September issue of *The Franciscan* announced the launching of the 1989 Stewardship Campaign; the news about the UMYF "kick-off" for both Junior and Senior groups of youth; the Prayer Chain under the leadership of Becky Coble; the annual meeting of the UMW; the Disciple Bible Study, presently in the New Testament; the inauguration of the Mother's Morning Out program, the Preschool and After School programs; the

Saint Francis Women's Study Group; the resumption of Scouting programs; the coming mission programs of the Missions Committee; the "Duty Roster" for September; and concluding with the report of the UMM and the coming Halloween Costume Party on October 29 for the entire congregation.

The September **Minutes** of the Administrative Council reported many activities completed, in operation, or anticipated for Saint Francis Church. Outstanding were the following items: the six weeks trial of two Morning Worship Services on Sunday, one at 8:30 a.m. and the second at 11:00 a.m.; the setting up of a Planning Study Committee to deal with the present overcrowding in the Sunday School; and the Personnel and Operations Policies for the Morning Out for Mothers program. **The Financial Report** indicated continued deficit spending and some possible solution for the monthly financial situation. The Stewardship Campaign was very successful at this stage of its development, as reported by Mr. Jameson; after which he presented the proposed Budget for 1989, anticipating its approval for the annual Charge Conference on November 2, 1988. In **New Business**, Diane Averett announced the Fall Festival and Auction to be held on October 29, with the proceeds this year to go to our Budget pledge of \$3200 for Genesis UM Church. Alan Kerr then presented a request by the Cary Ministerial Association, in behalf of Habitat for Humanity, that Saint Francis Church participate in their new project of building homes for poor people here in Cary.

The lead article for the October, 1988, was a report by Pastor Compton to Saint Francis Church members: "Many blessings have come from our Stewardship of Giving Crusade. Among them, a generous pledge response from our members. We are pleased to give you a report on the latest results in this regard:

Program Budget

23 Youth Pledges totaling \$699

75 Adult Pledges totalling \$98,104

Total Pledged to Program — \$98,803

Building Fund

10 Youth Pledges totalling \$642

61 Adult Pledges totalling \$112,673

Total Pledged to Building fund — \$113,315. . .

"Our sincere thanks is due to all who have worked and given sacrificially in this entire effort. We are especially grateful to Chris Peters and those who served so effectively on the Executive Committee and to the many who served as Visitors." Probably, the most informative of the announcements that concluded the newsletter were that of the Fall Festival and Halloween Carnival and Covered Dish Supper and Auction on October 29 at the church, with the program beginning at 2:00 p.m. and concluding only after the final auction items had been sold, plus that of the CROP Walk which was scheduled for October 9.

The October **Minutes** indicate that Saint Francis was

already preparing for the approaching Holy season of Christmas. In the **Nurture and Membership Care Work Area** report, this Committee recommended that the children's program be on Sunday evening, December 4. The Council accepted that date and recommended that the program begin at 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. with the children's Christmas pageant, to be followed by a covered dish meal, and conclude with the decoration of the Christmon Tree and Christmas Carols. Diane Averett, chairperson, then asked for approval of the Personnel Policy and Operations Policy for the Morning Out for Mothers Program. The motion was presented, seconded, and passed unanimously. **Outreach** reported that the CROP walk had been very successful with 23 Saint Francis Church representatives participating. The Area also was working on a money project to raise funding for Habitat for Humanity and the house planned for early in 1989. The **Financial Report** continued the evening agenda. Bill Jameson, for the Finance Committee, stated that the deficit had risen only slightly since the September report, and expected with the holiday season near, the deficit would be reduced. He then presented the proposed Budget for 1989: Program Budget, \$127,594 and the Building Fund, \$38,780 for a total of \$166,340. The Council voted to accept the recommendation, thus establishing officially the Budget of \$166,340 for the year 1989. In the **Trustee** report, Jack Hinkel stated that a new roof had been authorized for the Parsonage and Ronnie Lowe was to direct this project. Also, since there were developing problems with the newly paved parking lot, the Trustees were negotiating to have corrections finished under the one year warranty on the project. Under New Business, Pastor Compton reported that the photography company Olan Mills had given him materials for a photographic church directory, should Saint Francis Church be interested. It was agreed in the Council that Nurture and Membership Care look into the possible project and report back at the December meeting. Furthermore, Steve said that the Annual Council Planning Retreat would be on Saturday coming, so that Goals for 1989 would be established prior to the Charge Conference on November 1.

The Franciscan for November, 1988, greeted the members of Saint Francis Church with a hearty "thank you" for work well done. Reverend Compton from the Pastor's Desk said: "Saint Francis is becoming one of the most mission minded and mission active churches in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. This fact, among others, makes me very proud to be your pastor. Not only is our church a generous supporter of such causes as the Dorcas Shop, Walnut Terrace Child Development Center and Life Experiences, Inc., we have agreed to play a significant role establishing the new Genesis United Methodist Church in West Cary by assisting in the purchase of a site for its first building . . ." Numerous announcements followed Pastor Compton's accolade to the congregation. Some of the most noticeable were: the church-wide workday set for November 12; the wedding of Jennifer Perdue, daughter of Tom and Jean

Perdue to Erich Wilkinson Saturday, November 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the church; the UMW Bake Sale on December 4 on behalf of the new Church kitchen; the Administrative Council's decision to become a partner in the Cary Habitat for Humanity, the high-speed chain-saw for a local doctor going to Jamaica after the Hurricane Gilbert disaster; the Family Christmas Program on December 4; the Revelation study by Mr. Compton for six weeks ending on December 11; and the launching of the After School program on October 31, 1988.

The **Cary News**, November 9, 1988, carried the story of the annual Saint Francis Award which was given on November 6 at the Morning Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. to Robert McFeathers of White Plains UM Church for his "unsung" efforts in Christian love toward his brothers. Dr. James Bailey, pastor of White Plains Church made the recommendation in this manner: "Bob McFeathers does most of his good works in the shadows and before many rise to meet the day. He paints, repairs, drafts plans, leads work teams, re-organizes, leads and instigates projects of service for community, church, and God." The presentation was made by Brenda Kerr, who made the award plaque, in conjunction with Mr. Compton and Mary Holloway, chairperson of the Award Committee.

The Administrative Council convened for its monthly meeting on November 21, 1988. The following are some of the highlights reported at the Council: **Mission Committee**, Alan Kerr reporting- the CROP Walk netted \$725 by the Saint Francis Church Walkers; substantial contribution of food for CAA; the participation of Saint Francis Church in the Habitat for Humanity Booth at South Hills Mall with a goal of \$5000 for Habitat; the formation of a Christmas project for indigent families with Susan Zachery as chairperson; and the collection of Christmas cards for Central Prison. **Nurture and Membership Work Area**, Gene Wolf reporting, indicated that the Sunday School was settling into rearranged quarters, that the early Worship Service was being well received, that the Morning Service at 11:00 a.m. was averaging around 150 worshipers; that the Sunday School Christmas program, "Two Days Before Christmas" would be on December 11 at 4:00 p.m.: and that the annual Candlelight Service would be on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. **The Finance Committee**, Bill Jameson reporting, stated that contributions in October exceeded expenditures and that the deficit for the year was \$10,481 at the present time. **Report of the Pastor**, Mr. Compton reporting, told the Council that a new roof had been put on the Parsonage at a cost of \$2750, and that contributions to the Raleigh Jamaica Work Team were very good. Saint Francis Church had made the second highest contribution to this project by the Greater Raleigh Ministries. The Trustees reported indicating a church work day on December 3 to finish the playground and the church sign, as well as impending actions related to the repaving and repairs to the parking lot. **New Business** dealt with a spring date, April 23, 1989, for a return engagement of the Covenant Players; the subject of selling in the Narthex after Wor-

ship Services and the need of guidelines necessary for this service, and the discussion relating to the suggested pictorial directory by Olan Mills. Referring the matter for action to the Nurture and Membership Committee, the Council adjourned.

December, 1988, at Saint Francis Church was mainly centered around the traditional Christmas and holiday celebration. *The Franciscan* lists these actions: the family Christmas program, December 11; the Christmas Choir Cantata, December 18; the Christmas Eve Service, December 24, the Christmas Day Worship Service at 10:00 a.m., and the Open House at the Parsonage on January 6, 1989. Other announcements reported the continuation of the Early Sunday Worship Service into the new year, 1989; the financial books would be closed for 1988 on December 31; the After-School program has completed a month of activities, the children and leaders being very thankful for the playground; and the Cub Scouts have doubled their size this year.

The Administrative Council reported for December, 1988, by their **Minutes**, these congregational actions: the Staff-Parish Relations Committee reported that John Boling and Audrey Austin had donated their services for

the six week trial of the Early Church Service on Sunday mornings, and the committee recommended that these staff persons be compensated for the following seven weeks by \$105 each. The Council passed their recommendations with special thanks for these services rendered by the musicians. A second recommendation by the SPRC pertaining to Mrs. Austin's increase of hours of service from six to ten per week at the cost of \$1,560, was tabled until the meeting in January, 1989. Since there were no additional items of business the Council adjourned until January 18, 1989.

On December 31, 1988, Mr. Compton filed with the Conference Statistician this report:

Total Membership — 285
Baptisms — 19
Preparatory Members — 101
Confirmation Members — 11
Leaders in the Church School — 35
Church School Membership — 139
Average Attendance, Sunday School — 99
Conference Advance Specials — \$500
Grand Total Paid, 1988 — \$127,570

CHAPTER VIII

“And More Fruit”

The year 1989 at Saint Francis United Methodist Church began on the same high plain as had 1988 ended. The *1989 Handbook*, now a 35 page booklet, was in the hands of the congregation early in the year so that everyone was fully aware of what constituted Saint Francis Church. From the “Pastor’s Letter” to the “Note Pages”, it introduced and explained what “The Plant” had become, a vital organism in the perpetuation of God’s Kingdom in Greater Cary. Much of the credit for this timely tool must rest with Lynn Lewis, coordinator of communications, and her staff of volunteer assistants.

The Franciscan, January, 1989, attests to the excellent Christian witness of Saint Francis Church. In its announcements were some vivid pictures of activity: “Congratulations to Kim McPherson and husband Gary on the birth of their son, Iain, on December 15; the Parsonage Open House, January 6; Summer Camping information; and a “Thank-You” from the John Rushings “to everyone for their prayers, their many gifts and their support”. The Rushing family was finally reunited after many weeks with both John and Kelli in Peru, and Tobi and Mark here in Cary. Now they were five, as their youngest son Drew was also with them. **Missions** listed their “Thank you’s” also: for work on the Habitat Booth which added over \$2000 for Habitat for Humanity; also to Bill Britt for the wonderful design of the booth; to everyone who provided for our Christmas cheer families and to Susan Zachery and her loyal committee; for the \$900 donated to the Tornado Relief project; and for all who made the December Food Drive the fantastic success

it was.

On January 14, Saint Francis Church, as reported by the *Cary News*, January 4, 1989, hosted the Uncommonly Crazy Concert Series, a presentation by the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensemble. This was the second in a series of three chamber concerts scheduled by the Wake County Arts Council and Recreation Department which combines music, art and architecture. The musicians performing included Cary resident Paul Emerson, viola; violinists Sue Lambert and Jess Isaiah Lewis; cellist Elizabeth Murphy, and pianist Barbara Rowan. Although the performance was free, a special collection was taken, which netted \$50 for Habitat for Humanity.

The **Minutes**, January 16, 1989, listed several interesting activities completed or under completion by the Work Areas: **Nurture and Membership Care**, Mary Ann Dunham, chairperson, said that John Boling, Worship Committee, had placed an order with Cokesbury Press for twenty of the new editions of **The Hymnal**. **Outreach**, Wes Coble, the Habitat for Humanity Committee, said that about \$3100 had been received to date. This was, he continued, a big step forward toward meeting the Administrative Council’s goal for Habitat in 1989. Ronnie Lowe, the Christmas Cheer Committee, added that the three families assisted were exceedingly thankful for a Christmas that they never expected to happen. The Finance committee, Barbara Armstrong reporting, announced that Saint Francis Church had spent in 1988, \$21,739 more than it had received. For this reason the Undesig-

nated Reserve was now \$6496 instead of the goal of \$15,000. Much of this decrease, she said was because of unexpected expenses incurred after moving into the new building. The Finance Committee anticipated the future with caution and would closely monitor the financial future. **New Business**, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee recommended the pianist and music director's salary be adjusted to compensate for early Sunday Service and the youth choir. The Council voted an approval for this project. Mr. Compton asked for permission to interview church members to secure information to be used in his doctoral thesis on architectural planning. The Council agreed to his request. The Council adjourned following the request of Bill Jameson that the time for convening future Council meetings be set at 7:00 p.m. in place of 7:30 p.m.

The February, *The Franciscan*, reported these activities at Saint Francis Church: the UMM's breakfast meeting at the Church House on February 19 would have the breakfast prepared by Alan Kerr and Alan Shore; the UMW would sponsor a Spaghetti Supper for the congregation in March where the proceeds would go to the acquisition of choir robes, as well as their missions projects; the Preschool and After School programs were now in full operation; a sad goodbye to Rose and Gene Wolf who had relocated to Durham; and the announcement of the "Slightly-after-Valentine" Evening at Ballentine's Cafeteria, Raleigh, on Saturday, February 18, at 7:00 p.m. Also in February, the Sunday Service "Calendar" indicated that the Disciples Bible Study course had been completed and these Saint Francis Church members would receive a Certificate indicating their fulfillment of the requirements of the training course: Gary and Mayumi Bentson, John and Phyllis Carey, Wes Coble, Sallie Kate Gordon, Bobby Herring, Shirley Highfill, Faye Lindsay, Jean Perdue, and Alan Shore. The Reverend Troy Barrett, First UM Church, Cary was their instructor and mentor.

The Administrative Council met on February 20 with Bill Jameson, chairperson, in charge. Some of the activities of the Work Areas were planned programs for the future: several Bible Study groups had been formed during Lent; the "One Great Hour of Sharing" would be observed on March 5, and the CROP Walk, 1989, was scheduled for October 8; the Highland Work Project now had four youth and two adults enrolled in the 1989 program; investigation was underway relative to an active mission work team in Mexico, April 28 - May 7, 1989; the Easter celebration would begin with a special service each day of Holy Week from 12:15-12:45 p.m., Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m., and the Easter Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.; and a total of 132 Hymnals were now on order with Cokesbury. The Finance Committee reported, following the Work Area announcements, that the Undesignated Reserves were now depleted and some method of increasing finances or curbing activities was in order. The Council discussed the matter of deficit spending at length and recommended that the Finance Committee present recommendations to the Council after the Committee had informed the congre-

gation of the dire financial situation. The Council adjourned until March 20 at 7:00 p.m.

In March, 1989, Saint Francis Church celebrated its birthday on Wednesday, March 1, 1989. The cover article of *The Franciscan* announced the celebration in the manner: "It will be a covered dish supper, with table service and beverages provided. We at St. Francis have





much to celebrate—we have been in our church building for a year and that surely calls for a party. Hope to see you there!” With this introduction, the newsletter then spelled out some of the major activities of the month: “an indoor picnic and square dance for all”; the UMW Spaghetti Dinner on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, with the proceeds being divided between robes for the choir and the Maua Hospital Service Fund; One Great Hour of Sharing; Sunday, March 5, an offering to the United Methodist Committee on Relief in conjunction with Church World Service; the revision of the Parish Care groups, now fifteen in number; and the approaching Holy Week Services and activities. Under “News” items, these announcements stand out: Saint Francis Church has been accepted with its team in the Highland Service Project that carries out repairs to the homes of the needy elderly in Wake County. The Church now is recruiting a team to take part in the Volunteer-in-Missions program to Reynosa, Mexico, April 28 - May 7. The VIM project was to erect a second floor on the Parsonage of Templo Emmanuel, Iglesia Metodista De Mexico, in conjunction with Prob. Manuel Guzman, Pastor, and his congregation. Also, in looking ahead, the “News” reported the date of the Daily Vacation Bible School to begin June 26 - 30.

A connectional letter from the Fogelman family, Saint Francis’ missionaries in Kenya, dated March, 1989, announced their impending vacation back home to Iowa and then a six month visitation with their sponsoring churches in the U.S.A.

The **Minutes** of a special meeting of the Administrative Council, March 22, 1989, contained one major item: Ales Zahora, A Czechoslovakian refugee, was introduced to the Council by a Special Guest, Wendy Segreti, a former worker with the UM Relief Board. Alan Kerr, chairperson of the Outreach Work Area introduced Ms. Segreti who has been very active in and around Raleigh on behalf of refugees from foreign countries. Her plea was for Ales Zahora who needed a sponsor so that he might qualify for entrance into the U.S.A. and assist him in becoming a

citizen here. Mr. Zahora, 25 years old, speaks four languages: Czechoslovakian, English, Russian, and Polish. A political refugee, Zahora had been persecuted for anti-communistic connections and could not return to his native land. He was a “high school” graduate; but, because of his political leanings could not enter university study. He is a Catholic. He would be able to take work as a car or truck driver, a waiter, or a Post Office worker. Mr. Zahora had been a refugee in West Germany since July, 1987. Ms. Segreti then explained and answered questions about all particulars relating to refugee responsibility by a sponsoring institution such as Saint Francis Church, and gave Mr. Kerr a copy of the Manual of Refugee Sponsorship. After considerable questioning and discussion of the “when” and “why”, the Council voted to accept the refugee, Ales Zahora, as their responsibility until he was fully able to care for himself as an American citizen. In conclusion, Vice Chairperson, Jim Pomeanz, requested Mr. Kerr to make his report of the progress made on Mr. Zahora as Saint Francis Church’s refugee dependent.

The regular March meeting of the Administrative Council met on March 28, 1989, first as a Charge Council, and then as the monthly meeting. The Charge Conference — Pastor Compton presiding at the permission of Dr. Tom Collins, the District Superintendent — was addressed by Mr. Jameson. Bill explained that there needed to be Charge Conference approval in order to accept the final grant of assistance funds from Duke Endowment, since Saint Francis was no longer qualified as a rural or small church. The grant would be for \$25,000 and probably would be forthcoming in July. Jim Pomeranz made the motion to accept the grant, and with a second, it passed unanimously. Consequently the Charge Conference adjourned and reconvened as the Administrative Council, Mr. Jameson presiding. With the devotional and approval of former **Minutes**, John Carey was given the floor to speak for the Missional Study Committee, which had been studying Saint Francis Church since before January 1, 1989. He said that the Committee needed further guidance relative to several conclusions the Committee had deduced: “one clear message from the Church was ‘the need to take care of and nurture the warm, close, family-like feeling in our church. Members feel we should make no major changes, just strengthen and deepened the programs we have’.” These needs, he continued, fall into two categories: functional and relational: “the functional needs can be addressed right now but the relational needs are a little harder to decide what is needed at this time. The main functional need is space. This is an immediate need and requires active and timely response. Relational need focused on youth and family programs. More help is needed in support, training, recognition, and relief of these people.” Also, the Committee saw the immediate need of a higher financial awareness. “There were,” Mr. Carey continued, “three objectives before the Committee for consideration: (1) build a 1,600 square foot educational building. (2) increase staffing to meet the needs of the

congregation; and (3) be able to meet the anticipated requirements for educational programs and worship services". He then addressed in some length, these three objectives. Mr. Carey also said that the Committee would meet in about ten days and would finalize its report at that time for the Council's consideration. Jim Pomeranz, reporting for the Transitional Committee, addressed the Council relative to the projected policy for use of the Church Building, Church House, and Grounds. After considerable discussion, the Council requested the Transition Committee present a formal report of their conclusions for the next Council meeting. The **Trustees** reported that their Board had received the gift of a computer for the church office, and are now looking into the issue of lights for the completed parking lot, a protective chain fence for the playground, some sort of walkway between the church building and the Church House, and landscaping around the church. The **Financial Report** was presented by Barbara Armstrong. The Report indicated the urgent need to reduce the 1989 Budget by \$13,800 and recommended the Council's prompt action. The Report concluded with discussion on the Committee's recommendations, and asked for approval at the April meeting. **Old Business** was then addressed by Mr. Jameson's reference to Proposed Administrative Structure which he had distributed at the February meeting for study and action.



After discussion over the procedures required to deal with all the problems raised through the Proposal, the Council adjourned until April 17, 1989.

April, 1989 began with a multitude of church activities at Saint Francis Church: "Bring a Visitor" Sundays, Work days, Choirs, Brownie and Boy Scouts, Bloodmobile, Picnic and Square Dance, District Lay Rally, Covenant Players, and all of the scheduled meetings of the Church. Two additions to the regular program were added in April. A Membership Orientation Class would begin April 2, during the Sunday School hour. Reverend Compton would be the leader of this group. The second addition was a new United Methodist Women's Circle, the Morning Circle, which would meet on April 14 at 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. The Morning Circle would meet at the Church and all interested ladies were invited.

On April 10, 1989, Saint Francis Church learned from their Pastor, Mr. Compton, that he was to be released from his duties as the ministerial leader of their Church. "It is with a great mixture of feelings that I write to inform you of my departure from Saint Francis in July. On Saturday, Bishop C.P. Minnick invited me to accept the position of Team Leader for a new . . . project for church vitalization in the North Carolina Annual Conference. Over the next four years I will direct the development of a program involving nearly two hundred congregations. I will work under the direct supervision of Bishop Minnick and will, in turn, supervise fifteen part-time consultants and five alternate consultants . . . Both the District Superintendent and Bishop assure me that the best available pastoral leadership will be provided for Saint Francis Church. We must all trust that God will give us every strength we need to keep the mission of this great church before us in the months to come. Your prayers, presence, gifts, and service will be vital. I know that you are ready for this challenge and will prove your faithfulness in these things."

On April 19, 1989, a second letter to the membership of Saint Francis Church from Pastor Compton dealt with a wholly different matter; that of financial giving by the membership. In a careful selection of sentences Mr. Compton explained to everyone the financial difficulties at Saint Francis Church created by rapid expansion and fund shortages. He concluded his pastoral letter with these challenging words. "I invite you to join me and the Administrative Council in a prayer vigil for our church, its ministry and its financial needs. We will pray at the church from five o'clock on Saturday evening, April 29, until nine o'clock Sunday morning. I suppose the things that disturbs me most about all of this is that our church does not have a **money** problem . . . We do (however) have a **giving** problem. Too few of our members carry too much of our budget. Far too many of our families give far less than, with God's help, they are able . . . Please let every . . . family read this letter . . . talk about your giving, pray about it . . . and step out into faith to do your part."

Minutes for April, 1989, reported much of the torrent of emotions released through Mr. Compton's pastoral

letter of April 10 concerning his leaving Saint Francis Church. Nevertheless, other matters were also the topics of business: **Trustees**, Gail Jameson reporting, announced that the Board had accepted a 19" television from the Bentson family, and that the Board proposed buying a movable cart, but hesitated in light of the present, precarious financial difficulties. Also, since the paving of the parking lot was now completed, the Board was investigating the striping of the lot as required by the Town of Cary.

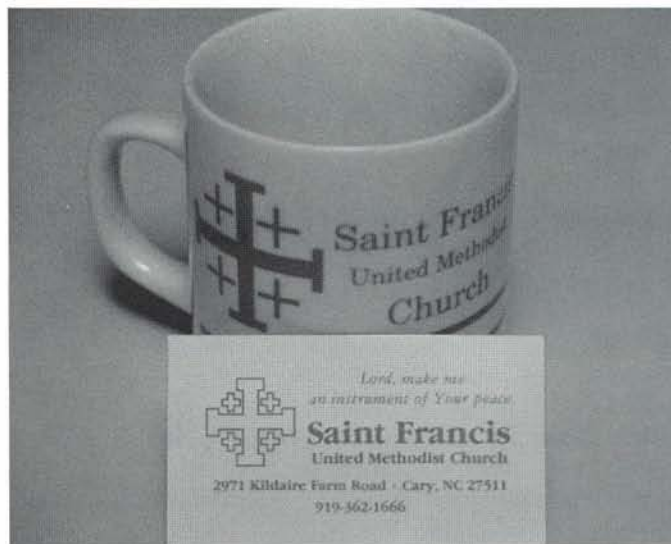
Outreach, Alan Kerr reporting, said that the Refugee Committee has found temporary employment for Ales, Saint Francis Church's refugee, at Applebee's; and that the Missions Committee was preparing for the third semi-annual food drive in May or June. Alan Shore, for the UMM, said that the annual "Chicken Pickin" would be July 16, and that the Junior UMYF had agreed to have a car wash to benefit the Daily Vacation Bible School. Kristy Rice reported that the Habitat for Humanity Yard Sale would be held May 20. "Lots of help and sale items are needed", she said. As she concluded, Kristy announced that the UMW's Spaghetti Dinner had netted \$852; the choir and Maua Hospital would receive \$426 apiece.

Financial Report, Barbara Armstrong reporting, said that Saint Francis Church presently was on "the plus side, thanks to the fourth quarter advancements" from the congregation. But the Committee still desired the Council to make the suggested \$13,800 cut as announced previously in March. General discussion followed in the Council, and it was decided to continue the plea of caution in spending, and emphasize tithing. **Old Business**, Jim Pomeranz, reported again on the Building Use Policy, saying that the alterations the Council had requested in March had been made. The amended report with some slight changes was voted to be the policy of Saint Francis Church. Mr. Pomeranz followed by presenting a set of guidelines for the application of the policy. Again, there was some discussion and questions about the Guidelines. After some amendments, the Guidelines were approved. Finally, Jim presented the Wedding Policy also requested by the Council. Some small changes were suggested, and this amended Policy was also accepted. **New Business**, Mr. Compton recommended that Kathie Boling be named Chairperson of the Child Care Board, and also that the two present Committees for PreSchool and After School prepare by-laws for a new Child Care Board. Mr. Compton announced that we would have one of the Bishops of the United Methodist Church for an 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on April 30. On April 30, Bishop and Mrs. Charles Hancock were in attendance at the Morning Worship Service. Bishop Hancock preached the sermon and assisted Pastor Compton in the service of Baptism and Confirmation Renewal. (Bishop and Mrs. Hancock are the parents of Laura Osiecki, a member of Saint Francis Church.) Mr. Compton concluded by saying the N.C. Annual Conference would meet June 15 - 18 at Methodist College, Fayetteville, N.C., that June 25 would be his last Worship Service. He and Lala and family would be moving



on June 28. With these announcements, the Council adjourned until May 15.

The Franciscan for May, 1989, does not reflect a church who knows its Pastor of six years is about to move their church. "The Calendar of Events" listed all the regular activities as well as a number of special occasions, such as the Family Ministries Committee program on May 3, the Habitat for Humanity Yard Sale, May 20; two Lay Academy programs, May 24 and 31; and Student Recognition Sunday on May 28. **Announcements** for May included the inauguration of the "friendship cup", a fundraising project for the Work team going to Reynosa, Mexico, and a gift coffee cup for first time visitors to Saint



Francis Church. The profits from the sales of Lala Compton's sourdough bread were also the benefit of the Workteam. The Confirmation Class, the newest members to Saint Francis Church received on April 30, were Ryan Stagner, Preston Springer, Laura Armstrong, Ryan Cochran and Brian Nason. On Student Recognition Sunday the following students would be acknowledged as graduat-

ing High School seniors: Gina Tripp, Athens High; Joseph Bondos, Apex High; Tara Olhoft, Apex High; and Bryan Whaley, Fuquay-Varina High.

The regular Administrative Council met on May 15, 1989, with chairperson Bill Jameson in charge. **Outreach Work Area**, reported by Alan Kerr, expected the Fogelman family would be in the Raleigh area from July 29 to August 8, and the Missions Committee hoped to have them at Saint Francis Church for a Wednesday night family supper. Gail Jameson reported for the **Trustees**,



saying that John Paulos had given a car to the church for Alex (Ales), our refugee, and that the Trustees had transferred the title, etc., to Alex on behalf of Saint Francis Church. Mrs. Jameson continued by stating that the Parsonage needed some repairs and a new bedroom suite needed to be purchased. Next, Gail raised the problem of church cleaning. After discussion the Council decided to ask the Neighborhood Groups to become the caretakers until better arrangements could be provided, and instructed the Finance Committee to provide \$250 for cleaning equipment. Barbara Armstrong, reporting for the **Finance Committee** said that because of the efforts to overcome the Budget deficit, results in April showed the undesignated reserves to be \$13,442. After discussion about future budget problems, the Council decided to operate under the original Budget for 1989. The last item of the report dealt with Pastor Transition, and, since there were no such designated funds, the Council authorized the sum of \$3000 for transition expenses of Pastor Compton, work at the Parsonage, and the new Pastor. **New Business** included the announcement of Mr. Compton that beginning June 4, there would be one Morning Worship Service at 10:00 a.m., with Sunday School beginning at 9:00 a.m. This schedule would be effective during the summer months. The Council then voted that the summer schedule be as requested by Pastor Compton from June 4 to September 3.



June, 1989, at Saint Francis Church was a month of saying "good-bye" to the Compton family. **The Franciscan** reported the monthly Family Night, June 7, as a very special night for the congregation, one that no person or family would want to miss. In reality, Family Night was an official way of saying "Aloha" to a wonderful and loved parsonage family. With Wes Coble as Master of Ceremonies the occasion took on that kind of feeling that only Wes could generate. His culminating "speech" was the presentation of the farewell gift from Saint Francis Church, a TV set for Lala, Steve, Matthew and Clay. Other activities reported in the June newsletter included the gift from UMW for Habitat for Humanity to be \$4133, an impressive portion of the 1989 Church goal. Another bit of information told about the change of date for the

July Family Night. The program would be held following the July 2 Morning Service, when the Frazier family — Carl, Mary Ellen, Elizabeth and Ellen — would be officially welcomed to Saint Francis Church with a covered dish meal. The Daily Vacation Bible School would begin, according to *The Franciscan*, on June 26, continuing through June 30. The theme for 1989 would be "The Bible: The Book of God's People", and the volunteer leaders were



Sue Lowe, Jennifer Fisher, Cheryl Burk, Kristy Rice, Janiet Roser, Kim White, Laura Haynes, Becky Hayes, Bryan Nason, Jonathan Boling, Kathie Boling, Tammy Coble, Diane Averett, Susanne Rallis, Pat and Jean Perdue. Additional announcements told about the Highland Project MYF team, the visit of the Fogelman family on July 30, a combined Adult Mission Study on the Bible books of Esther and Ruth, and a preview presentation of the Reynosa project on June 4, working toward a delegation from Saint Francis Church as Volunteers — in — Mission August 11 - 20.

An article in the *Cary News* announced the pastoral transition in its June 18, 1989 issue: "The Rev. Stephen C. Compton, pastor of Saint Francis United Methodist Church since September 1983, has been named Team Leader of the North Carolina Annual Conference Vitolization Program for local congregations in the United Methodist Church. Compton, 38 will preach his last sermon at St. Francis June 25. He will be succeeded by the Rev. Carl Frazier, now pastor at Battleboro Clark Street United Methodist Church in Battleboro. Compton's appointment is for four years."

The *Minutes* of the Administrative Council for June reported a number of items other than those related to pastoral transition. Some of these were: Kathie Boling's request for a church van which might also be used by the expanding After School Program. Kathie said that she



and David Montgomery (a Trustee and member of the After School program) had been in contact with Mr. Ralph Marion of Cary Van concerning a used 12 - 15 passenger model. Mr. Marion later reported to Kathie that a van fitting the Church's needs was available for \$10,000 with a \$1,000 deposit. The After School Board, she said, had \$650 in their budget for the downpayment and was requesting what the Church could do to secure the van at this time. Considerable discussion followed about insurance, drivers, etc., as well as the budget freeze. Finally a vote was called for on the motions of Alan Kerr and Gail Jameson to purchase a van and have it in service by August 28, the first day for the After School program. The

van would be the property of Saint Francis Church and would be available for all church activities. The motion passed and the details of the procurement were given to the Finance Committee to expedite. The **Trustees** reported other actions also. Life Experiences, Inc. had been contacted about cleaning of the church building. A report was forthcoming. Financial receipts to the Trustees were \$302 from the Hot Dog Supper for the playground fencing, plus donations to total \$325. The Children's Sunday School offering of \$365 could be included, as well as \$519 in designated reserves. This was, Mrs. Jameson continued, enough for the materials and labor, and action would be taken to complete the playground fencing at the next Trustee meeting. Gail concluded with the report about the Parsonage preparations, which were a bedroom suite, mattress and springs, and two lamps, totalling \$2700 which would be delivered on June 27. Nurture and Membership Care, John Boling reporting, said that Acolyte Recognition Sunday would be held after Reverend Frazier had assumed his pastoral duties.

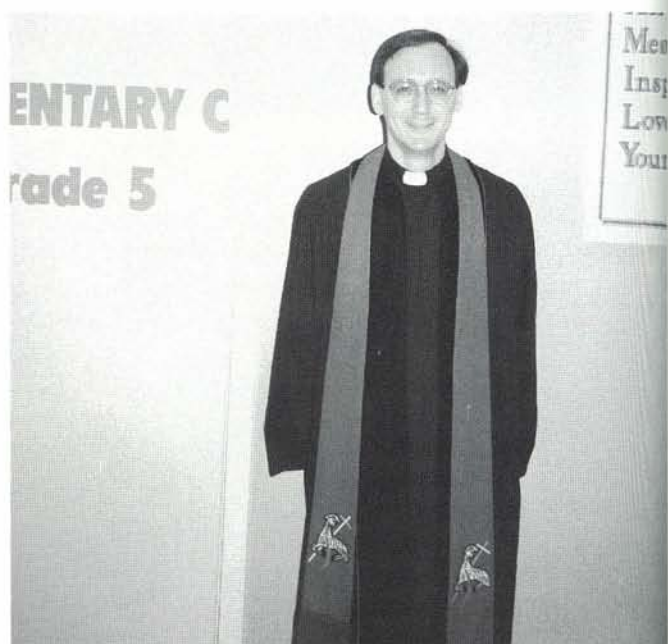
In July *The Franciscan*, "The Calendar of Events" listed a number of announcements: the Anne Highfill, Rick Hollenback wedding; the Welcome Luncheon for the Fraziers; Church Cleanup by the Dean, Olhoft, and Woody/Shore Groups; the UMM's "Chicken Pickin"; the Highland Project; the ice cream social for the Fogelman family; as well as the regular monthly meetings. A special news item of general interest reported in this same issue was the award to the winner of the Neighborhood Group Food Contest, the Averett Group. Honoring this Neighborhood Group for their work was the presentation to the church library of *No More Shacks*, by Millar Fuller, author and founder of Habitat for Humanity.

The **Minutes** of the Charge Conference, July 17, 1989, convened at 7:00 p.m. at the Church with the District Superintendent, the Reverend Belton Joyner, presiding. The purpose of the Conference was to consider the purchase and financing of a church van. Gail Jameson, chairperson of the Board of Trustees, presented the printed proposal to the membership and guests. Having presented the proposal, the District Superintendent called for discussion which centered mainly around the financing of a church van. The Finance Committee agreed on the need of and advisability of a van for the programs of Saint Francis Church. As for the financing, this Committee would finance the necessary payments, etc., since the After School Board also planned to underwrite part of the cost. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

At 7:30 p.m. the July meeting of the Administrative Council came to order with Bill Jameson presiding as chairperson. Gail Jameson, the **Trustees**, suggested that the Board be expanded from six to seven members and that one member be added every third year. The Council voted the increase. Next, a number of projects completed or in progress were introduced by Gail, including one relating to the dire need of storage places for all agencies

utilizing church space. Jim Crosset, for the **Finance Committee**, reported that the income-outgo assets of the Church were going well under the \$160,000 revised Budget. Likewise, it was time now to begin the Budget planning for 1990. Mary Ann Dunham, for the Nurture and Membership Care Work Area, announced that Pat Brown was handling the Olan Mills Program Directory, and that the photographing dates would be October 12, 13, 14. Mary Ann also reported that presently there were fourteen acolytes, and a date in the fall would be established for their consecration. At this time Bill Jameson said that the old hymnals of Saint Francis Church had been given to a new church at the coast, Seaside UM Church. **Outreach**, Phyllis Carey reporting, announced that Saint Francis Church would be co-hosting with White Plain UM Church a National Evangelism Workshop. This would be through the Stephen's Ministry, and would be held at Saint Francis Church on September 15-16. **New Business**, Pastor Frazier reporting, said that the Conference Summer School at Methodist College, Fayetteville, would be held August 3-6; that the Administrative Council Planning Retreat would be held Saturday, October 14, at 8:30 a.m. in the church; and that Habitat for Humanity would be able to build five houses instead of four on the land purchased in Cary; and that the first house would begin the groundbreaking on September 29. Mr. Jameson then announced the next Council meeting would be August 21, after which the Council adjourned.

The Franciscan for August began with a word from Pastor Frazier and his family under the heading of "From the Pastor": "Hospitality and welcome to the stranger in your land has always been a mark of the people of God. It is truly a mark of this people of God at Saint Francis. The warmth of your welcome, the openness of your spirit, the generosity of your hearts have quickly elevated us from stranger to family. We are grateful to you for all the food,





acts of love and kindness, and the blessings you have shared with us. We look forward to sharing with you in the ministry of Christ's church in this good place." Family Ministries announced the Family Night to be a picnic on August 2, at 6:30 P.M. at Montague Lake on Penny Road. In case of rain, the picnic would be at the church. Another announcement, Music Notes, related to "The Gathering", a choral musical on September 17. Choir Director Audrey Austin also added these words: "With so many talented people here at Saint Francis, I'm sure we will have a very musical year. There is always a place for you." "The Calender Event" carried a special service for Saint Francis Church, the McClary/Johnson wedding on July 5.

On August 21, the Administrative Council met for the monthly meeting with Chairperson Bill Jameson presiding. Alan Shore led the devotions, after which the various agencies began their reports.

Trustees: Gail Jameson presented an amended van policy which was approved and adopted, and brought up the possibility of installing a second phone line and new telephones. This, too, was accepted and adopted.

Finance: The Committee indicated that spending was again exceeding contributions and recommended that spending be kept down until a change occurred. Nancy Stagner, Chairperson of the Stewardship Committee, presented the calendar of events for the 1990 campaign.

Nurture: The choir robes are expected very soon, Sunday School Promotion Day would be September 10, and "The Gathering" would be presented September 17.

Outreach: The Work Team has returned from Mexico and at the Family Night on September 6 the Team would present its report. We are reminded of the Stephen Ministries Workshop on September 15 - 16.

Nomination and Personnel: Mr. Frazier reported that, because of her moving out of Cary, Vivian Carey had resigned as Church Historian. The Committee had recommended Lorenzo "Joe" Plyler for the opening until the new year. The Council affirmed the request.

Missional Study Report: Dixie Paulos, with the assistance of Larry Bailey and Tim Whaley, presented the findings of the 1989 Missional Study committee. The report showed in detail the need for additional space and staff to meet the spiritual needs of the Church. The Council accepted the report and recommended its implementation as soon as possible. Bill Jameson would name a task force toward working on the report and to present these to a special "mini council" meeting on August 27. After several additional matters of a secondary nature, the Council adjourned until its next scheduled meeting in September.

"From Our Pastor", in *The Franciscan*, September, 1989, announced to Saint Francis Church these special Worship Services: September 10, Promotion Sunday in our Sunday School, plus a presentation of a Mission Recognition Pin by the UMW. On September 17, the Choir cantata, "The Gathering" will be presented at both Worship Services. September 24, the Acolytes will be consecrated for their tasks as leaders of worship and





“bearers of the light”. A special Family Night supper will be held at 6:00 p.m. to receive the Finance Committee’s 1990 Stewardship Campaign. Several other additional projects need to be itemized also: the beginning of Pre-School on September 5; the securing of nominations for the Saint Francis Award; and the announcement of the October Family Ministries “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?” to be held on Saturday, October 21.

On September 18, 1989, the Administrative Council met as scheduled with Vice Chairperson Jim Pomeranz in charge. The **Minutes** began with Wes Coble, representing the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, presenting a report from this Committee concerning filling the position of church secretary, as Barbara Armstrong desired to begin full-time secretarial work. Mr. Coble desired a transition period of two weeks with both Barbara and the new secretary working together. Also, was it possible for severance pay to be given to Mrs. Armstrong. The council held some discussion on the matter before the Council voted to have a transition period of two weeks, and pay

Barbara two weeks salary as severance pay. The **Child Care Board**, Kathie Boling reporting, then presented the constitution and bylaws for the Child Care Board to replace their former constitution and bylaws. Discussion followed on the proposal before the Council. A motion was made by Alan Kerr for passage of the proposal; it was seconded, and the vote was affirmative. The **Finance Committee** reported at this time, indicating that Saint Francis Church had come into the fall season without dire financial problems. Of the \$160,000 “frozen” budget, Saint Francis Church was between \$5,000 to \$10,000 down, at the current rate of giving. **Announcements** concluded the Council Meeting: the Council would meet on October 14, in the annual Planning Retreat at the church, the Charge Conference would be on November 8, and the next Council would meet October 16, 1989.

The October program at Saint Francis Church followed as scheduled in the October issue of *The Franciscan*. The “Calendar of Events” listed the regularly scheduled meetings of the Church. Special announcements included



the UMW Fall Retreat, the CROP Walk, photographs for the Directory by Olan Mills, the Administrative Council Planning Retreat, Laity Sunday Worship Service, and “Guess Who Is Coming to Dinner”. Additional announcements dealt with the Saint Francis Award on November 5, “Hobo” night on November 3, the Christmas dinner on December 3, and the Family Night “Spud-O” on January 20, 1990. One very special item was from the Careys: **To The Members of St. Francis**, “We will miss you all, but it’s not goodbye, just ‘so long’ until we see you again. Thank you, St. Francis, for all you are to us! Love, the Careys.” An explanation followed: “John and Phyllis Carey and family moved to Texas on September 29. Their new address is 1805 Leona College Station, TX 77840. Vivian Carey’s new address is Oakhurst Towers, Apt. 213, 8030 East Girard Avenue, Denver CO 80231. Let’s remem-

ber all the Careys as they adjust to new environments.”

The **Minutes** of the Administrative Council for October 16, 1989, reflects much of the efforts of Saint Francis Church and the attitude of the congregation at this time. Bill Jameson, the Chairperson, presented the results of



the Planning Retreat and requested Mr. Frazier to speak about the recommendations of the Planning Retreat which had been distributed to the Council. Mr. Frazier commented on the list of 1990 goals which were:

Nurture —Disciple Bible Study

Shepherding/Fellowship

Outreach —Continue mission awareness at Saint Francis Church by:

- a. coordinating workteam to Reynosa;
- b. offering three mission studies;
- c. sponsoring a scholarship for a needy child to the After School Program;
- d. increase community awareness of our presence.

Building/Staff/Administration

Develop an ongoing Five Year Plan

Hire an Educational Assistant

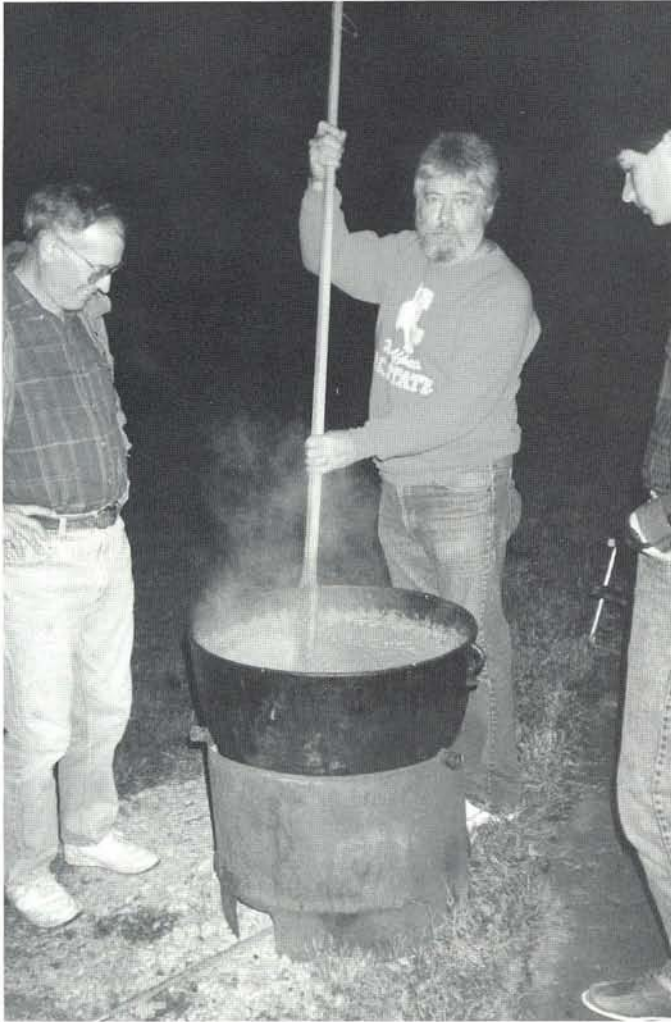
Purchase of the Church House

Erection of an Educational “pod.”

Alan Kerr motioned for adoption of these items as the goals for 1990. After seconding, the Goals were passed

unanimously by the Council. The **Finance Committee** report followed. Mr. Crosset stated that reserves were very low, and the “freeze” on spending was again in effect unless there was some absolute emergency. Next, he distributed a proposed Budget for 1990, and requested its finalization by Charge Conference. He hoped to see the Council set the Budget at \$184,100 for 1990 and also find some kind of fundraisers to augment the weekly offerings, but since the Church Policy frowned upon public “money-raisers” it would take the Trustee Board to make any changes at this time. Pastor Frazier then requested that, in light of the financial plight, the Trustees review the Policy. **New Business** listed several suggestions by Mr. Frazier: Since Saint Francis Church had been chartered on January 10, 1982, he would like that Saint Francis Church celebrate this date in some manner each year, and hold a major celebration, the 10th anniversary in 1992. Also, he proposed that the Reverend J. Cameron West be the anniversary preacher in 1990, the Reverend Stephen Compton in 1991, and if possible Bishop Minnick in 1992. It was his idea also to secure portrait pictures of former pastors of Saint Francis Church to be placed on display in the Church. The Council agreed to his suggestions and unanimously voted these ideas as part of the future program of the Church. **Dates to Remember** were November 8, the Charge Conference at 7:30 p.m. with no Administrative Council in November, but a special December dinner meeting for the 1989 and 1990 Administrative Councils. It was so agreed and there the Council adjourned.

“From the Pastor’s Desk” greeted the congregation of Saint Francis Church to the November, issue of **The Franciscan**: “Yes, we will receive reports from different committees and work areas; and yes, we will vote on nominations for church offices for next year. And yes, it sometimes seems that everything is cut and dried before we even get to the meeting. On the other hand, we’ll also sing some hymns. And we’ll celebrate the connection. And we’ll renew our covenant to be the church in mission and ministry. . . . The 1989 Charge Conference is November 8 at 7:30 p.m. Our new District Superintendent, Belton Joyner, will be on hand to lead us through the evening. We invite you to join us for a time of looking back and celebrating of looking ahead and envisioning. . . . Grace and peace, rcf.” **Special Announcements** included the announcement of the Children’s Christmas Musical on December 17, at 3:30 p.m. Each Sunday evening, beginning at 6:30, November 5, practice sessions were scheduled for the musical “Two Nights Before Christmas”. All children ages 2 through elementary school were invited to participate, as well as adults to help with props, costumes, and practice sessions. Also a Welcome to the New Church Assistant: “Please welcome Sandra Weaver, our new church secretary and administrative assistant. . . . We are pleased to have “Sandi” with us and hope that each of you will drop by the Church House to welcome her to the staff. “Likewise, the notice Hitch a Ride to the Hobo Dinner!:



Plan to join your friends in and around the church on Friday, November 3. (Rain date November 4). **Every Family** is needed for this event!" Two additional notices concluded the newsletter: "The Habitat for Humanity project in Cary is currently underway, and help is needed each Saturday. Contact Ronnie Lowe or Wes Coble if you would like to help." And this "Thank-you": "Dear Members of Saint Francis, What a great service you have performed by giving us your hymnals for our new church. The love and concern for this church has been so generous. On behalf of Camille and the members, thank-you so much. . . . Sincerely, Mary Grover for Seaside UMC, Sunset Beach, NC."

Additional Notices from Weekly Calendars: A band of brass and woodwind instruments is being organized to present music for the December 17 Morning Worship Service. Contact Jim White or Audrey Austin if you are interested in participating. A mid-week Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, November 8, with Carl leading the study. The Mission Committee is collecting new Christmas cards for Central Prison inmates through December 3. The Cary Ministerial Association is sponsoring a Community Thanksgiving Service, Wednesday eve-

ning at 8 p.m. in First Baptist Church. On December 10, Saint Francis Church will have an After Church Pancake Dinner prior to the joint meetings of both the '89 and '90 Administrative Councils.

The Saint Francis Award presentation was one of the highlights of the November 5, 1989, Worship Service at 11 a.m. The Award was given to two persons, Mr. and Mrs. Shin Kwon, "The Angel Couple" of the Korean Mission, FBC in Raleigh, N.C. Their recommendation as the Award recipients came from Pastor Daniel Park and Mrs. Bynn Soon Kwon. Of the "Angel Couple", Pastor Park had these comments: "They do not speak good English. Mr. Kwon works at the Auto Body Shop. They are known in our church and among the Korean community as the "Angel Couple". They are not educated nor have good health and a lot of money. However, Oh! how many Korean people received their love through prayer, visitation and financial aid like Saint Francis helped others around him. . . ." The Award was given by Reverend Frazier, Brenda Kerr, and Mary Holloway, Chairperson of the Award Committee.

The Franciscan inaugurated the Christmas Holiday at Saint Francis Church with the announcement of Holiday Activities: Sunday, December 3 marks the First Sunday in Advent and begins our season of preparation for the Christmas celebration. We will begin our Advent tradition of lighting the candles on the Advent wreath. Following the 11 a.m. service, everyone is invited to remain for a covered dish lunch, a wrapping party, and the decorating of the Christmon Tree. Sunday, December 17, the 11 a.m. service will celebrate the season in song as the Chancel Choir, the brass band, and the children will lead us in worship. We will reassemble at 3:30 p.m. for the children's presentation of "Two Nights Before Christmas". Sunday, December 24 following our regular Sunday





morning service, the congregation is invited to gather again at 5 p.m. for a Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion and Candlelighting and a second service at 11:30 p.m. Sunday, December 31, our Christmas celebration will be capped off by a special Service of Lessons and Carols during the 11 a.m. service. This service is adapted from the King's College Chapel, Cambridge order, a service conceived by Archbishop Bereson for the Truro Cathedral in the late nineteenth century.

On December 31, Pastor Frazier filed the following report with the North Carolina Annual Conference of United Methodists;

Total Membership — 321

Average Sunday Attendance — 202
 Baptisms — 15
 Preparatory Members — 111
 Educational Leaders — 30
 Church School Membership — 168
 Average Attendance, Sunday School — 79
 Value of Church Property — \$543,500
 Value of Parsonage — \$130,000
 General Advance and World Service Specials — \$2757
 World Service and Conference Benevolences — \$3631
 Other Benevolences — \$1847
 Total Expenditures — \$165,009



CHAPTER IX

“Now, Both Fruit and New Seeds”

The new year 1990 came to Saint Francis Church with the glad tidings of celebration; not that of the celebration of Christmas, but that of an anniversary. In “From the Pastor’s Desk”, *The Franciscan*, January, 1990, Pastor Frazier addressed his congregation in this manner: “On January 14, we will observe our Charter Sunday . . . This year, St. Francis UMC will be eight years old — and like an eight year old we’ve learned a lot, grown a lot and are outgrowing a lot. And that is a lot to celebrate! Cam West, our first pastor who gave birth to much of who we are will be here to lead the Service of Word and Table. And, like



any good family birthday party, we’ll have a meal and share the joy together . . . I look forward to seeing you at the birthday party . . . Grace and peace, rcf.” **Outreach**, reported by Alan and Brenda Kerr, the outgoing chairpersons’ for Outreach and Mission, showed some of the past year’s activities and accomplishments: sixteen walkers in CROP Walk netting \$829 for World Hunger; a successful trip to Reynosa, Mexico, as Volunteers-in-Mission from Saint Francis Church with plans already formulating for a





return in 1990; a "Thank You" from the chaplain of Central Prison for the donated Christmas cards for prisoners; a "Thank You" from CCA for the Saint Francis Church food basket and the continued plan for this Cary relief agency; and a personal note of 'thank you' from the Kerrs to Saint Francis people for their undaunted support for the successful completion of the Missional goal for Outreach in 1989. A very special **Announcement** from the Worship Committee concerning *The United Methodist Hymnal appeared next*: "Since early in June, our services of worship have been enhanced by use of *The United Methodist Hymnal*. This new hymnal, approved by the 1988 General Conference, contains more worship sources and a wider variety of hymns than any previously used by the church. The use of *The United Methodist Hymnal* has been possible at Saint Francis by the generosity of many of our members and friends." Actually 150 hymnals contributed by 88 members and friends of Saint Francis Church. (Saint Francis Church was one of the very first group of United Methodist Churches in the North Carolina Annual Conference to put into use this new hymnal.) A final "Thank You" concludes *The Franciscan* for January, 1990. It was that of Family Ministries: "Thank you from the Family Ministries Committee to every one who made the Christmas Dinner on



December 3 such a success. The beautiful green and red tablecloths on the food tables were given to the church by Jim Pomeranz. Thank you Jim. The church decorations were beautiful, thanks to the efforts of many. . . ."

A newsletter dated January 3, 1990, mailed by the Lay Leader, Ronnie Lowe, established a pattern of activity for the new church year. Ronnie set his epistle within the arena of WORK. No longer, he said, would the Neighborhood Groups be responsible for church cleaning each week. At the December meeting of the Administrative Council, he continued, the Trustees reported that to contract the cleaning it would cost Saint Francis Church \$420 per week or \$5,040 for 1990. Instead of paying out such an amount for cleaning, Ronnie suggested the plan of "36", that is 36 people from the church to clean. That would amount to about eight people for each Saturday for 3-4 hours. Each group would clean every six weeks. I would like to emphasize that this is not just to save money, he continued, but it allows each of us to really have a chance to get to know each other and also a good way to support our church with our time and gifts and service.

The 1990 Handbook as well as a *Pictorial Guide*, set forth the continuing actions for Saint Francis Church. Thirty two full members constituted the Administrative Council, with seventy four full members making up the Work Areas, Committees, and Board of Trustees. The Budget, set by Charge Conference, was \$184,056.

The *Minutes* for January 22, 1990 reported 25 members of the Administrative Council in attendance with Bill Jameson, Chairperson in charge. Mr. Frazier had a short installation service for the new Council in place of the regular devotions.

Trustees: Tom Perdue reporting stated that the Trustees would like four Work Days throughout the year: February 3, March 31 (alternate, April 7), September 8, and December 1. The major concerns for the Trustees were: Exterminating Service, which would be done by the Trustees in order to save this expense; desludging of the

sewage disposal system and readjustment of the pressure heads, costing \$100 per year; property service contracts for the church building, Parsonage, and the Church House, estimated at \$700 to \$800 this year; and a landscaping plan before Spring. Mr. Frazier distributed a requirement list and time line for the new building project. After some discussion, it was agreed that February 7 was the earliest possible time to have a Charge Conference to approve the new building project. Likewise, it was stated that Mrs. Smith must be contacted concerning the purchase of the Church House. Kathie Boling, for the Child Care Board, said she would like the Day Care License building codes to be approved by the Town of Cary on the building projects. No other items being presented, a motion was made and seconded to request a Charge Conference at the earliest possible time to begin the building project and purchase the Church House. Ronnie Lowe concluded the Trustee report by saying that presently six groups were organized to clean the church building for the year ahead.

Worship: Ginny Hicks, reporting for the Committee, said that the Worship Committee desired to have three new services during the Lenten season: Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and a Prayer Vigil lasting from the Good Friday Service until the Easter Morning Worship Service. The motion was made, seconded, and voted to hold these services during Lent.



Education: Becky Hayes, reporting for the Education Committee, announced that Debbie Maness would direct the Daily Vacation Bible School in 1990 and needed co-directors. A parents group, Shannon Oakes in charge, was already in operation for a Youth Fellowship for grades 4 and 5. Also, she requested a motion to set up covenant groups for the congregation to meet once a week for six weeks during Lent for a meal, Bible study, and discussions. Seconded, her motion passed unanimously.

Child Care: Kathie Boling, for the Child Care Board, reported that the program at this time was progressing very satisfactorily. An additional staff person had been added, and presently there were four persons for 25 children. She concluded by saying that the Board expected to give a scholarship to a needy single parent.

Missions: Barbara Helman reporting stated that the Food Basket project was continuing. Presently, seven youth and two adults expected to take part in the Highland Service Project. The month of May, 1990, will be the annual group food contest and the CROP Walk would be in October. She concluded by stating that she and Mr. Frazier would be attending the Raleigh Area Ministries.

Finance: John Paulos, reporting for the Finance Committee, circulated the 1989 year-end statement and the financial statement for 1990. He also suggested that Saint Francis Church continue to make contributions to a variety of charitable agencies throughout the year and Barbara Helman would suggest what these would be. Likewise, John recommended the continuation of all programs in operation at this time.

Publicity: Chairperson Jameson suggested that Saint Francis Church begin the Capital Fund Campaign. Also, \$1,000 would be needed by March to upgrade drawings for Phase 2, the Church House, and the driveway. He suggested that fund raising begin the evening of the Charge Conference which would approve the new building project. A motion made and seconded transferred \$1,000 from the General Fund to the new Capital Fund to be repaid at a later date. Paul Oseicki, reporting for Stewardship, stated that \$4,300 is due now for the Spirit of Tomorrow Campaign. The Council adjourned after Jim Crossett read a Thank You note from Sandi Weaver for her gift.

February, 1990, continued the accelerated pace in activity at Saint Francis Church. This is well attested to by the February issue of *The Franciscan*, and Mr. Frazier's statement in "From the Pastor's Desk": "Time flies! February is an important time for us this year. It is time filled with opportunities. The first three Sundays of the month will afford us a moment to reflect on the gospel's teaching of the way Christ is revealed in the world and in time in the lives of his disciples. The last Sunday will offer a glimpse at an incident in which past, present and future met in Christ's Transfiguration. The last day of the month calls us to Lent, a season of preparation and penance . . ." "Coming Events" in the February, *The Franciscan*, indicated a very special and necessary change in the regular monthly Saint Francis Church planning meetings. All committees would now meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and all Work Areas one hour later, at 8:00 p.m. **Announcements** in detail included that of the annual Valentine Dinner, February 9, at the Ramada Inn in Apex at 7:00 p.m. ("Pray for NO SNOW. Remember being snowed out twice last year?"); the organization of Mini-Methodist (M&M), a youth fellowship group for fourth and fifth graders and their parents on February 4 in the Jr. High Sunday School room; the reorganization of

the UMW Prayer Chain — As Kristy Rice says, “If you are interested in being a prayer, call me!”; the UMM National Bowlathon, February 10, and the Church Work Day on February 3; a request from our Kenya Missionaries, the Fogelmans for emergency drugs and supplies for their hospital; the Daily Vacation Bible School; and the continuation of the Saint Francis Food Basket for the Dorcas Shop. The newsletter concluded with a big THANKS from the former Pastor of Saint Francis Church, Mr. Stephen Compton, for the very generous donation to Habitat for Humanity.

On February 18, 1990, as anticipated, the Charge Conference convened at 12:15 p.m. with the Reverend Carl Frazier presiding. Two motions were placed before the Conference:

1. Ronnie Lowe, Lay Leader, making the motion: “Pursuant to paragraph 25433 of *The Book of Discipline* of the United Methodist Church, I move that the Charge Conference of Saint Francis United Methodist Church approve and authorize a project of construction for additional educational space, and that the following persons be hereby elected to serve as the Building Committee for said project: Jim Pomeranz, chairperson; Russell Briggs; Mark Dunham; Nancy Hemphill; Ray Hicks; Mark Johnson; Debbie Maness; David Montgomery; and Dixie Paulos.” The motion was seconded and all present who were eligible to vote responded; “Yes”.

2. Tom Perdue, Chairman of the Trustee Board, made the following motion: “I move that the Charge Conference empower and authorize the Board of Trustees of the Saint Francis United Methodist Church to exercise the church’s option to purchase the “Church House”, that being the property at 2971 Kildaire Farm Road, in Cary, pursuant to approval from the District Committee on Church Location and Building and a Church Conference”. Seconded, the motion passed with a “Yes” vote. An offering was taken so that the Conference members could start the Capital Fund Campaign.

The Administrative Council **Minutes** for February, 1990, report these activities and actions:

Nurture: Mary Ann Dunham, Chairperson, distributed committee reports from her Work Area. Becky Hayes, reporting for the Education Committee, said that a VCR had been purchased for use of the church-at-large. She also requested greeters for the early Worship Service, for the Sunday School, and for the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service also.

Missions: Barbara Helman, Chairperson, reported that the UMM have set up a scholarship for the After School program and that the committee plans to have a Poverty program at Saint Francis Church the end of April and into May.

Evangelism: Mayumi Bentson reported that a new Cary map had been purchased for the use of the Visitation teams.

UMW: Laura Osiecki stated that presently there were two Circle groups, with a joint meeting once a quarter.

UMM: Jim Pomeranz announced that there would be a Pancake Supper March 17. Also at this event, the MYF would present a skit as well as wait on the tables for the diners. The proceeds will be used for the After School program.

Staff-Parish: Jim Crossett said that the Committee had recommended to the District Superintendent, the Reverend Doctor Belton Joyner, that Pastor “Carl” be returned to Saint Francis Church.

Following on these reports a number of items relative to future activities, security of the buildings, and maintenance of the property as a whole were discussed at some length. After these discussions, the Council adjourned until the announced date in March.

Saint Francis Church in March turned its mind and actions toward somewhat of a different posture than it had been previously maintaining. “The Pastor’s Message” *The Franciscan*, set the theme and the tempo for the next six weeks: “It is a season of penance. We pause during these next forty days for somber moments of reflection on our mortality and our inability to save or justify ourselves. Lent reminds us that we do in fact need a savior — and that the Savior has come with offers of new life and forgiveness . . . It is a season of preparation. We shall spend the next forty days with the Church universal,



making ready . . . Lent prepares us with the opportunity to prepare our lives for the resurrection gift which Easter brings . . . It is a season of promise. It is a holy season filled with meaning and opportunity.” *The Franciscan* continued in its reporting, as the official newsletter for Saint Francis Church, through the announcements of its various bodies, commissions, and committees, that it expected



to follow the admonitions of its Leader. One such announcement concluded its Lenten preparations. This was the special "Wednesday Evenings" program planned for the six weeks of Lent, March 7 through April 11. The "Wednesdays" would begin with a delicious dinner served in the Fellowship Hall from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. A minimal fee for the dinner would be taken at the door. From 6:30 to 7:00 games would be provided for the children in the Narthex. From 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. all would go to their designated classes for a planned program. Pastor "Carl" would lead a Bible Study in the Book of Psalms for the adults, after which all would meet together for a short prayer and worship moment. "Bring you family, your friends, your appetite and your Bible."

The **Minutes** of the Administrative Council, dated March 26, 1990, cited reports from nearly all its Boards and Committees. Among the recommendations of the Council were those to the Education Committee to establish a budget for the Finance Committee, and to the Trustees to set up a Key Policy for both the Church and the Church House, plus a Kitchen Use Policy.

Building Committee. J. Pomeranz, reporter: The Committee is presently moving away from the "pod" toward a wing addition to provide more space for the

Church educational needs. An architect is under selection at this time and the Stewardship goal is to raise the cost of the addition prior to any construction.

Finance. J. Paulos, reporter: The Financial Summary for February indicated that current offerings are below year to date, indicating a short fall, unless altered quickly, of \$15,000 for the current year.

Pastor's Report. Mr. Frazier, reporter, requested the purchase of two of the new Hymnals for use at Conference events. Passed by Council; Pastor will attend a meeting for local farmers to set up a market to sell their produce. More specifics would follow; Holy Week Services: Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Service; Passion Week noon day devotions; Maundy Thursday Worship Service; Good Friday Evening Worship; Prayer Vigil from Friday night until Easter Sunday morning; Easter Sunrise Service; Easter Worship Services at the regular worship hours. Also, the Wednesday evening Lenten services were progressing very satisfactorily.

Education. M. Shenton, reporter, said that the Daily Vacation Bible School would be held July 9-13 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Debbie Maness and Kristy Rice would be co-directors.

The Council adjourned following the recognition of Ronnie Lowe "for his excellent work on Habitat for Humanity". Ronnie is both Director of the Cary Habitat for Humanity Project and a board member of the Wake County Habitat for Humanity.

The month of April, 1990, continued the Lenten motif introduced by Pastor Frazier in the March newsletter. "The Pastor's Message" in the April, *The Franciscan*, stated: "At the very center and heart of our faith stands the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the formative event of the Christian Church; it is into that event that we are baptized, and, it is that event which gives hope, meaning and structure to our life. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are set free from sin and death — that is our confession of faith, and it is one we must renew."

Announcements of Note were: the Junior Hi UMYF report of \$168 donations for Leyland Cypress trees for Nancy Phelan's house, and with the aid of the UMM their planting; an Easter Egg Hunt for all children ages 2 and upward from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the Church on April 14; the Habitat for Humanity Yard Sale on April 21; the Acolyte trip to Washington, D.C., April 20-22; and a special Maundy Thursday Worship Service, A passover Celebration where 24 Saint Francis Church members depicted "The New Passover is Easter."

On April 26, the Administrative Council met in its scheduled session with 21 members present. According to the **Minutes**, Bill Jameson called the meeting to order and Paul Osiecki presented the Devotion. Reports were received from all reporting bodies. Some of the highlights follow:

Building Committee. J. Pomeranz, reporting, said that Wes McClure had been selected as the architect to

update the Master Plan and design Phase 2.

Finance Committee. J. Paulos, reporting, distributed the Statement of Funds for 1990 Budget through March, 1990, as well as a Financial Summary for March. First quarter spending has been about one quarter of the budget. However, giving continues to be a problem, and many members are not meeting their pledges. The Committee is presently studying the problem and will make recommendations to improve the situation.

Lenten Wednesday Committee. M. Shenton, reporting, said that these weekly activities have exceeded expectations to date, with an average attendance of 72. Excess food on four occasions have been given to local food shelters. All meal profits have been divided between the UM Committee on Relief and Saint Francis' local project, the CCA.

Missions Committee. B. Helman reported that \$6,200 had been collected from the Habitat for Humanity Yard Sale. Saint Francis Church Volunteers to Support Cary Meals on Wheels has been organized by Linda Treadway. A planning meeting for the Reynosa Work Team is scheduled at Saint Francis Church on May 23.

Pastor's Report. Mr. Frazier listed a number of future events at Saint Francis Church: May 2, a meeting with the Reverend Joe Mann to discuss Seeds of Hope and the possibility of Saint Francis Church becoming a location for a Farmer's Market in the Cary area; May 6, Children and Youth Sunday, and the recognition of Sunday School teachers; May 20, Mr. Joe Mann will preach the Sunday sermons in the absence of Mr. Frazier; June 3, Pentecost Sunday and the reception of the Confirmation Class into full membership. The Confirmands for 1990 are Todd Boling, Veronica Anderson and Shaune Reynolds. Also the Confirmands will be the Communion Assistants at the 11 a.m. Worship Service. The Graduating Seniors will also be honored at this time; and June 10, a pulpit exchange has been arranged with Genesis U.M. Church. Mr. Wilkerson will lead the Worship Service at Saint Francis and Mr. Frazier will do likewise at Genesis.

The Council then adjourned until its regular meeting time in June.

In the June *The Franciscan*, the "Pastor's Message" set forth another facet of the life of Saint Francis Church: Mr. Frazier wrote: "Last week, Bishop Minnick announced the appointment of four new District Superintendents in our Annual Conference. That announcement was the official opening of the appointment season — a season of conversations among pastors, of speculation among churches, and of excitement rivaled only by the NCAA tournament. It is a unique feature of Methodism that we deploy pastors as we do, and that perhaps, leads to all our attention to these matters . . ." The lead article was Additional Educational Space for Saint Francis — Update: "The Saint Francis UMC Building Committee was established earlier this year and was directed to pursue additional educational space. A Mission Study, completed last summer, made as one of its findings the suggestion

that a detached facility of about 1600 square feet be built, using our church members as the primary labor force. The facility should be located southeast of the church building. At the top of our list of things to do was the selection of an architect. Six firms were invited for informal interviews and that list had been narrowed to three who gave complete and formal presentations to the committee. As a result of those presentations and many, many members of the church, several decisions were made: 1) The architectural firm of BOHM-NBBJ and the architect Wes McClure have been selected to work on this project. 2) the idea of building a detached facility has virtually been eliminated in favor of adding educational space onto the church building. 3) A timetable that called for the completion of this space by December 1, 1990 has been slowed to allow more study of our needs, both short term and long range. 4) The Master Plan of our physical structure . . . will be addressed by the Building Committee and the architect, and the entire congregation will be invited to take part in this discussion through workshops and other ways." Another announcement of note was that of the new Acolyte robes which the Acolytes were now wearing at the morning Worship Services. A hearty "Thank You" was given to the following people for their help in making the robes: Diane Averett, Kathie Boling, Nancy Hemphill, Kim McPherson, Mary Jo Nason, Nancy Stagner, and Joy Wilkes.

On May 1, 1990 the North Carolina Advocate carried a very interesting article for all members of Saint Francis Church under the heading of Book Looks, R. Carl Frazier, Jr. The article was a book review of James F. White's book, *Protestant Worship: Worship in Transition*, published by Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.

The **Minutes** of the Administrative Council for May 28, 1990 indicate a variety of concerns and events at Saint Francis Church as spring moves towards summer.

Finance: Contributions for April were above expectation, but May giving again was in deficit.

Capital Improvement Fund: The topographical study for the new building would cost about \$2,000.

Trustees: A work day is planned for June 2 to correct a leaking window and repair the portico. The cost for these repairs would be between \$500 - \$600 with Saint Francis Church supplying the labor. Also, the recommendation to paint the church building in the fall was received. The coats of paints, about 250 gallons, would be needed.

Staff-Parish Relations: The Committee, having reviewed the pastoral transition, found it generally positive. Also the Committee expected to establish a Parsonage Committee to care better for the residence of the pastoral family. The Committee presented the motion for the employment of a Duke student, beginning September 16, 1990, for 15 hours per week at a cost of \$1600. Seconded, the motion carried.

Youth: The Highland Service Project will have seven youth and two adults this year from Saint Francis Church. At present the group needs about \$500, which would also

include the cost of lettering the church van. The team leaves July 15 for the project.

Outreach Work Area: The Seeds of Hope project is currently becoming a reality. A Farmer's Market is contemplated for the church property to begin July 14. Also a recycling organizational meeting was set for June 11.

Missions: A meeting of the UM Volunteers-in-Mission was held April 29. Four or five volunteers will participate this year for Saint Francis Church to Reynosa, Mexico. Also UMCOR Refugee Placement has contacted the Committee relative to sponsor and support for another refugee — a family. At the suggestion of Mr. Frazier the Committee should begin now for future placement.

Future Projects: Planning for 1991 would begin in July. Nominations Committee, to meet in July also; Administrative Council Planning Retreat, in August; Budget for 1991, to begin in September; Stewardship Drive, October; and a Charge Conference in November.

The Franciscan, June, 1990 indicated a heavy schedule at Saint Francis Church. "The Calendar of Events" listed all the regular and scheduled meetings of the Church, plus the following: Work Day at the Parsonage; Senior Recognition Day and Confirmation; the Life Experiences, Inc. Annual Meeting; Daily Vacation Bible School Teacher Workshop; Pulpit Exchange with Genesis UM Church; the Committee to Recycle Now; Annual Conference, Fayetteville, N.C.; the K-3 Grade Movie Afternoon; UMM Father-Child Breakfast; and the Annual "Chicken Pickin". Additional announcements consisted of these events and activities: a reminder that both Worship Services would continue throughout the summer season, 8:45 and 11:00 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. The Saint Francis Prayer Chain now included Kristy Rice, Nancy Phelan, Jean Perdue, Marilyn Shenton, Lisa Bright, Pat Brown, Peggy Cole, Jennifer Fisher, Kay Crossett, Becky Coble, Faye Lindsay, Vicky Lynn Coon and Lynn Lewis. The UMM plan to hold a Father's Day Breakfast on June 17, the item of business would be the "Chicken Pickin" scheduled for July 15 at Montague Lake. The Daily Vacation Bible School, planned for July 9-13 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, would be called "Island In the Son" after the materials scheduled for use this year. A workshop for all teachers and staff would be held June 5 at 7:00 p.m.

The *N.C. Christian Advocate* for June 5, 1990 carried another Book Review by Pastor Frazier. The book was *Clergy Stress: The Hidden Conflicts In Ministry*, Mary Anne Coate, SPCK, 1989.

The Administrative Council met on June 25 with Bill Jameson chairing the session. Jennifer Fisher presented an exciting Devotional, after which the May session had its minutes corrected. Reports and Business in the June Minutes were the following:

Finance Committee: Bill Jameson reported that offerings are still falling behind the material needs of the Church.

Nurture Work Area: Mary Ann Dunham reported for

the Area saying the Senior Choir would fund the new Acolyte robes and that some reorganization would follow relating to the Neighborhood Groups and their functioning. A Shepherding Program was suggested to improve the activities of the Neighborhood Groups.

Youth: Marilyn Shenton said that Highland Project members were working industriously to raise their expenses during the week of July 15. A Consecration Service would be held for the Team at the Early Worship Service, and a Work Day was being planned in late summer at the home of Nancy Phelan.

Education: Becky Hayes reported that some concern was indicated concerning classroom assignments. It was the action by the Council that the Education Committee make the classroom assignments after addressing class size and space requirements. Also, the staffing and recruiting of leaders and teachers for the fall was now in process.

Missions: Barbara Helman stated that Saint Francis Church had four representatives in the Work Team, Volunteers-in-Mission, registered for the Reynosa, Mexico, mission in August. These members were: Tim Whaley, Ronnie Lowe, Alan Kerr and Wes Coble.

Trustees: Tom Perdue recommended the acquisition of the Church House at the request of the Trustees. His motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous for the purchase as soon as arrangements with the property owner could be made. Mr. Perdue also indicated that an appraisal of the property and house are approximately \$70,000 and has a tax value of \$40,430.

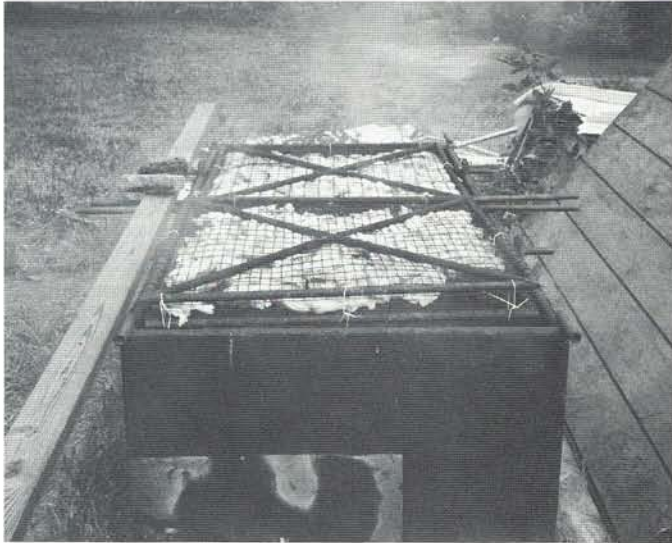


Child Care: John Boling, reporting for both the Pre-School and After School programs, said that both schools had completed their year with positive financial results, and a financial statement will be filed with the Trustees in July. He continued by saying that the Pre-School would expand in the fall by adding a four year old class. The After School was not holding a Summer Day Camp due to low

registration. However, the fall registration was 95% full at this time. John concluded by saying that both schools wished to recognize publicly Barry and Linda Ziegenfus for their gift of the Tandy computer system; it would provide the schools with unlimited opportunities for the future.

Alan Shore: reporting for both the UMM and Parsonage, said that the "Chicken Pickin" is scheduled for July 15 at Montague Lake, and a new washing machine and dishwasher are presently being installed in the Parsonage at a cost of about \$750.

Pastor's Report: Mr. Frazier reminded the Council of some key dates and activities during the summer period. These were the annual council Planning Retreat, tentatively set for August 11, an all day session; "Carl" would be preaching a revival of Spring UMC July 23-26, and attending the Continuing Education program at Lake Junaluska, August 13-18; an ice cream social is set for July 8; the consecration of the Highland Service Team on July 15, and the Daily Vacation Bible School Program with **topical attire** at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service also on July 15. The Reynosa Work Team would be consecrated at the 11:00 a.m. Service on July 29.





Financial Report: John Paulos reported to the Conference that the June deficit was \$46, with a surplus of \$1457 at the present time.

The Franciscan for July, 1990 reflected the movement of the Saint Francis Church to activities beyond the arena of the church property. Socials, organizational picnics, outings and general "good fun" in the out-of-doors held sway during the month. "From the Pastor" contained a copy of Mr. Frazier's personal letter to his "secret friend, Theophilus." In part he said: "I find it hard to believe that we have been here one year already. So many things have happened, yet it seems only a few days ago that we moved here as strangers. We aren't strangers anymore; we're all family now . . . It has been a good year my friend. Thanks for helping me make it so. It has been nice to discover, friend of God, that you were already here when we arrived. Grace and peace, rcf."

The *N.C. Christian Advocate* on July 3, 1990 carried a third Book Review by Pastor Frazier. The book he reviewed was *To Dance with God: Family Ritual and Community Celebration* by Gertrude Mueller Nelson, Paulist Press, 1986.

According to the **Minutes** the Administrative Council for July met on July 23 at 7:00 p.m. Bill Jameson, chairperson, guided the meeting and presented the Devotional as well. Reports came from the following areas and committees: Finance, Building, UMM, Child Care Board, Worship, Education, Church Historian, UMW, Stewardship, Missions, Staff-Parish Relations, and Communications. A survey of these reports indicate the varied nature of Saint Francis Church as it worked to further the 1990 Goals of the congregation. Some of these were: the 1991 Budget Process Schedule; the Child Care Program for 1990-1991, the on-going educational program of the Church School for the summer and fall seasons, the activities of both UMM and UMW for the summer season, and the mission activities at home — the Farmer's Market — and afar — the Reynosa VIM departure, August 2.

The News and Observer, Raleigh, N. C., for July 15

reported the development of the Farmer's Market at Saint Francis Church, as well as "all over Wake County". The first Market reported six local farmers and over 100 buyers.

The *Cary News*, July 15, reported a special summer activity of the Saint Francis Church Scout Troop 202. On June 17 the troop hiked some 50 miles of the Appalachian Trail along the North Carolina and Tennessee borders, returning to Cary on June 23. Fifteen Scouts and seven Leaders made the trip. Besides receiving the Historic Trail Award, the Troop worked on backpacking, camping and hiking merit badges.

In August, *The Franciscan* reported the soon return of the closeness and comfort of the church building, now seemingly bursting from all corners. There is one trend which, however, does not ever disappear, the monthly current expense account, an ironic factor for United Methodist Churches. "From the Pastor", these words appear quite realistically: "You know, I wish the church would . . ." concluding with "Will you support the church with your prayers, presence, gifts and service? That is a conversation all of us have had at one time or another about our church. Whether your gift and service is an idea or an office, August offers you a chance to answer (these)



questions again with a resounding yes. Grace and peace, rcf." **Announcements** in the August, *The Franciscan* were many and varied in nature but all consciously or unconsciously relate to the namesake of the Church, Saint Francis of Assisi: "Family Labor Day Retreat" at Jordan Lake for Sunday, September 2, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. when the District Superintendent, the Reverend Doctor Belton Joyner would direct the Vespers Service. For those who desire, camping reservations have been made to camp overnight and spend the Labor Day holiday at the lake resort, Again, "Attention, Parents of Rising Third Graders if you have a rising third grader, contact Becky Hayes or the church office, so your child might be officially recognized on Christian Education Sunday, September 9." And "New Adult Sunday School Class Meeting", "Recycle Now", "The Gift of Life: Become a Bone Marrow Donor", plus several "Thank you" greetings from the Christian Community in Action and the Cary Food Bank of the Dorcas Shop.

On August 27, Vice Chairperson Jim Pomeranz convened the Administrative Council at 7:00 p.m., and also presented the Devotional moments. Twenty members of the Council were in attendance. Reports of Committees, etc., began the business before the Council:

Education, Becky Hayes presented a list of leaders for the Church School for 1990-91. After reviewing the list, the Council voted their approval.

Finance, John Paulos reported that July financially had been a better month than anticipated and that the deficit stood at \$908 with current undesignated reserves, \$1,222. At this time, he distributed copies of the initial 1991 Budget which had been reorganized to indicate group by work area, improving the readability of the Budget.

Nominations, Reverend Frazier, on behalf of the Committee, submitted the name of Tobi Rushing, for the At Large Youth Member to the Council. Motion was approved, and Tobi was so elected.

Building Committee, Jim Pomeranz announced that the suggested Questionnaire for the new building development had been distributed to the Church, and he requested they all be returned by September 5. Further, a workshop is planned for mid-September for both the Building Committee and the Three Year Planning Committee. Likewise, the Architecture Committee will, by mid-October, have developed a Master Plan which will be presented to the membership prior to December 1. Finally, current funds for the new construction are \$8,000 but \$15,000 is needed for the development of the total site plan; consequently, the Council will be requested to assist in this "short-fall".

Trustee Board, Tom Perdue announced a church-wide Work Day for September 5, and also reported on the progress toward securing the Church House, as well as the efforts relative to concerns about the present Fellowship Hall with Norma Burns, the architect.

1991 Goals, Mr. Frazier commented on the Goal Planning Sessions on Saturday, August 25. After much



discussion the Council voted the following by Work Areas to be the 1991 Goals for Saint Francis Church;

Nurture — Emphasize Parish Care Groups and Adult Education.

Outreach — Emphasize Church and Society and sponsor community classes.

Evangelism — Spread the Word to the local community, develop and enhance Visitation Teams with "follow-up", and emphasize evangelism of church members.

Age Level/Family Ministries — Emphasize increased fellowship gatherings, emphasize nursery support from outside, and increase intergenerational programs.

Administration — Address a reorganized church administrative structure, increase staffing, increase internal communications, study Sunday School space needs, and increase cash reserves.

Pastor's Report, Mr. Frazier announced the Charge Conference on October 21 at the 8:45 a.m. Worship Service, with coffee and fellowship to follow. The Stewardship "kick-off" program would feature at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. All Council members were requested to be present at both services.

Stewardship, Paul Osiecki announced the various members of the Committee and outlined their responsibilities as leaders in the Circuit Rider campaign: Circuit Master, Brenda Kerr; Youth Coordinator and Out-of-Town Members, Mike Wilkes; Publicity, Sidney Thompson; Financial Secretary, Sandi Weaver; and Pastor Carl Frazier.

Computer Committee, Paul Osiecki distributed a listing of the membership of the Committee and their duties: Hardware, Wayne Smith; Membership, Cathy Barrows; Attendance, Rich Overton; Contribution, Paul Osiecki; and Accounting, John Hoehn.

Following these aforementioned announcements, the Council adjourned until its scheduled September meeting.

Again, the *N.C. Christian Advocate*, August 4, 1990, carried a Book Review by Mr. Frazier in it's **Book Looks** column. The review was done on Robert E. Cushman's *John Wesley's Experimental Divinity: Studies in*

Methodist Doctrinal Standards, Kingswood Books, 1989.

September, 1990, began on a high pitch of activity, "the Church Retreat at Jordan Lake", in Chatham County. Thus begins *The Franciscan* for September. "From Our Pastor" quickly drew the membership's eyes to the emphasis activity for September, Christian Religious Education: "She believed in studying the Bible. I found three in her bedroom. Each had a marker. Each had been read . . . She believed in prayer. I can remember hearing her pray for me . . . She believed in the church. I remember the times she would come to hear me preach and watch intently throughout the service, the smile never left her lips . . . In short, she was a woman of faith . . . Faith was shared in our home. Instruction in the Bible, in prayer, and in the church was part of that faith . . . Sunday . . . Christian Education Sunday . . . The church's role in nurturing the faith will be highlighted. It is 'meet and right so to do'." In Personal Notes, there appeared this Thank You: "Your many expressions of love and sympathy over the past few weeks have been especially helpful for our family. (The death of our grandmother.) The prayers, cards, flowers, and especially your presence have sustained us through a very difficult time. Thank you! Sincerely, Beth and Bob Frazier, Mary Ellen and Carl Frazer, Elizabeth and Ellen." It is "meet and right so to do!" **Saint Francis Award** Nomination Time stood out clearly and distinctly among the many other announcements of *The Franciscan*: "Consider nominating that special someone, who may go unrecognized or who works quietly in the background to receive the 1990 Saint Francis Award from our church."

On September 25, 1990, the *N.C. Christian Advocate* in its column BOOK LOOKS carried yet another book review by R. Carl Frazier, Jr. This review was *The Gift of Asher Leo*, Chaim Potok, Knoff Publishers, 1990.

The Administrative Council met on September 24, 1990 for its regular session with twenty members in attendance. Mr. Jameson, Chair convened the meeting and Jennifer Fisher provided the Devotion.

Staff-Parish Relations. Jim Crossett announced that the yearly pastoral review had been completed and then he introduced to the Council Seminarian David Youngblood, Duke Divinity School, the new student associate. David, he said, would be working at Saint Francis Church on Sunday and Monday until May 1991. The Supervision Committee would be: L. Osiecki, P. Rice, B. Hayes, M. Wilkes, and Mr. Frazier.

Youth Ministries. M. Shenton reported that the UMYF, if permission were granted, would sponsor a dance at the church during the Christmas season; that ten youth are signed up to participate in the Cary CROP Walk on October 14, and they make the challenge to ten adults also to make the Walk; and that to date the youth have repainted three classrooms in the Sunday School in the past week.

Missions. Barbara Helman indicated the closing of the

Farmer's Market on September 15, with a follow-up meeting to discuss the Market again in 1991. Also, she stressed the CROP Walk on October 14 because the 1990 goal was \$20,000, an increase of \$6,000 over 1989. Further, Ms. Helman said a Directory of Missions was being prepared for all agencies of Saint Francis Church. She concluded by saying that the UM Volunteer-in-Mission Rally was scheduled for October 13 in Wilson, NC.

Education. Becky Hayes reported that the Wednesday Night Study Series on Methodism with Mr. Frazier as leader had already begun. Also, she reported that Sunday School attendance was now at its highest level, 154 students and 17 teachers on September 30, 1990, as an example. Space for the constantly growing Sunday School has become critical, especially with the creation of another Adult class.

Additional Reports from the Building Committee, Finance Committee, and Stewardship Committees followed.



Pastoral Report. Mr. Frazier concluded the business of the Council with the following list of announcements:

October 15 — Laity Sunday

October 21 — Charge Conference at the 8:45 a.m. Service

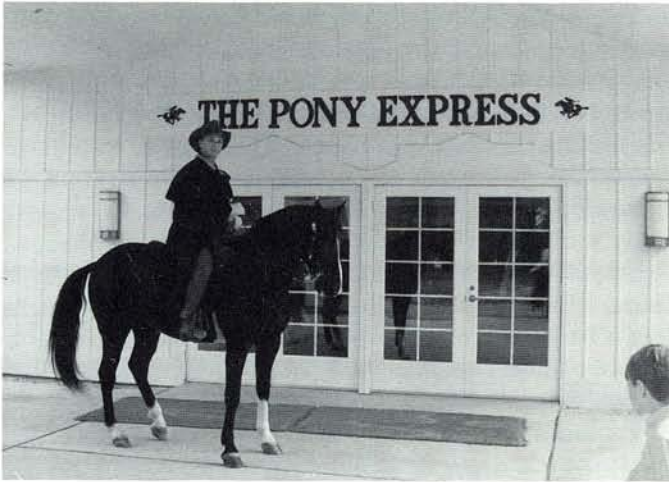
Stewardship Sunday at the 11:00 a.m. Service

November 4 — All Saints Sunday: the Saint Francis Award

November 11 — Conclusions of Stewardship Campaign

November 21 — Student-Laity Sunday. David Youngblood would preach.

The Franciscan for October, 1990, contained a wide variety of announcements and reports. Standing among



all were those dealing with the "Pony Express" Stewardship Campaign starting on October 21 during the 11 a.m. Morning Worship Service, including riders, saddlebags, even a horse, no less.

Additional Announcements. The UMW reported the formation of another Circle into their service at Saint Francis Church. "This particular circle will concentrate on craft projects for the church such as church banners, altar hangings and chrismons." The UMM need volunteers to assist at the NC State Fair booth this month. Also, they reported on two other activities of a different nature for Saint Francis UMM: a church Softball Team Appreciation Night on October 12 and their First Charity Golf Classic on October 13.

"Gleanings" from the Church Calendars for October, 1990 also reveals these interesting items: the Saint Francis UMW invite you to help us help NC Migrant Workers. Volunteers are needed to assist in the Dorcas Shop. Please Call! "Thanks" to Ronnie Lowe, our Lay Leader, for **Celebrating the Ministry of the Laity** on Laity Sunday, October 14; the All Hallowed Saints Party, October 31; and "Thank You" to the M'n'M Singers, Association for Retarded Citizens of Wake County for their

special music at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on October 28.

In November, 1990, *The Franciscan* introduced the members of St. Francis Church to something of a surprise in its "From Our Pastor": "As Sandi and I worked on the calendars of the newsletter, I made the comment that November looked like a 'slow month'. Compared to October before and December to follow, it does seem slow. Then I took a second look. Did you know that we have fourteen count 'em - fourteen activities that take place every week at St. Francis? And that doesn't include regular monthly gatherings like the United Methodist Men, the Circles of the United Methodist Women, the committees and work areas, the Administrative Council, etc. Fourteen each week. That represents a 'full' month any way you look at it. It also tells us that people of God in this place have a rich and varied life. . . ."



The Franciscan then reported on much of what pastor Frazier had said about a "slow month"; an introduction to David Youngblood, the Duke Associate Student Minister; the Community Thanksgiving Service; the Pony Express Stewardship Update; the Free Fiesta ("all donations accepted"); the summer VIM to Reynosa team presents a make-your-own Taco Dinner; the UMW Genesis Circle and its activities; the UMM and their Christmas Tape by John Boling; the UMW and their Christmas gifts for Dorothea Dix Hospital; the beginning of the winter Wednesday Night Suppers and Family Nights; the Susanna Wesley Circle and their Christmas project; the Christmas Luncheon, December 2; and a piece from Volunteers Emergency Families for Children of Wake County for people who would be willing to accept a child-in-crisis into their home . . . overnight . . . a weekend . . . never more than 21 days. A slow month was November.

The *Cary News*, November 7, 1990 reported on the annual Saint Francis Award. "Ronnie Lowe, Chairman of the Habitat for Humanity Committee and the Lay Leader of Saint Francis United Methodist Church, received the

Annual Saint Francis Award from Saint Francis Church during the Sunday Worship Service on November 4, 1990." "Ronnie is the type of person that we all admire and are thankful for the hard work he has done here and in our community" said Mary Holloway, chairman of the Award committee. She and the Reverend Carl Frazier presented the Award to Ronnie on behalf of the Saint Francis Church.

The **Minutes** of the Charge Conference held November 26, 1990 reported the recommendation of these people to the Conference for election for 1991: Superintendent, Church School — Jeanette Cooper; Coordinators of Communications — Ronnie and Sue Lowe; Coordinator, Children's Ministries — Sharon Reynolds; Board of Trustees (1991) Don Holloway; Committee on Nominations and Personnel (1993) — Gail Jameson, At Large Member to the Committee on Finance — Jim Casper; Committee on Worship and the Acolyte Sponsor — Judy Casper. The recommendation was accepted, voted and approved.

The Administrative Council met, following on Charge Conference, under the leadership of Mr. Jameson, the Chairperson for the past two years. Reports constituted the business of the Council:

Building Committee. J. Pomeranz announced a Men's Bake Sale for December 15 from 10 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. Three alternate building plans will be on display. Proceeds from the bake sale will be used evenly between funding for the architect and a mission project.

Missions. B. Helman reported that 20 walkers from St. Francis Church took part in the October CROP Walk, and presently over \$700 had been received by these walkers. Also, three Christmas Families have been selected for 1990 assistance. The families include three single parents and 10 children. Gifts will be wrapped on December 5 and delivered December 16. Volunteers to deliver are needed.

Education. B. Hayes said that the All Hallowed Saints party was very successful and thanked all who assisted in the community effort. Continuing she announced the approach of the Wednesday Night Advent Studies. Church groups were needed for December 5 and 19 to care for the evening meals. All funds donated for the suppers, beyond expenses, would be given to the Raleigh Rescue Mission.

Family Ministries. M. Shenton reported that the youth of Saint Francis Church had presented \$141 to the Raleigh Rescue Mission. Also, the M&M's had won the Bulb Sale this year, \$400 having been raised through the sales and contest. Volunteers were needed to plant \$40 worth of bulbs designated for the cemetery on the church property.

Finance Committee. J. Paulos circulated the financial statements, after which he made these comments: October had a \$4,000 spending deficit; and the 1990 Budget of \$183,500 is expected to be close since anticipated receipts for 1990 are around \$179,000. The proposed budget for 1991 would be \$210,842 which included an item for purchase of the Church House. He recommended the

\$210,842 figure as the 1991 budget. The Council voted unanimously to accept this figure. Mr. Paulos made the motion at this time for financing the purchase of the Church House; which included closing costs, road costs, and \$5,000 for renovations to the Church House by a sale of bonds to ten people. The motion passed but with one dissenting vote.

Pastor's Report. Mr. Frazier indicated that the 1991 Budget did not include monies for cleaning of the Church, and also added that Ronnie Lowe was seeking additional teams to do the weekly clean up.

Important dates for the future were: the combined Administrative Councils, covered dish dinner for the families and the Councils on December 17 at 6:30 p.m.; program training workshops from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on January 20; and a training session for the 1991 Council after the New Year.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. The December session would be on December 17 at 6:30 p.m. if needed.

December, 1990 according to *The Franciscan*, was one solid round of activities: sixteen regular gathering — Worship Services, M&M's, UMYF, Choirs, Girl, Cub and Boy Scouts; plus 24 special programs and activities; another "slow month" as was November. "The Pastor's Message" opened the Holy Holiday month with a challenge for all Christians: "What are the colors of Christmas?" I asked liturgically, 'Red and green', they replied





answering secularly. Red and Green! Whatever happened to white and gold, the liturgical colors? I began to ponder just who was in charge of Christmas anyway — Christians or the merchants?" **Announcements** contained the space of the December newsletter: Advent Celebrations began:

December 2 — covered dish lunch and decoration of the church following the Advent Worship Service.

December 16 — Children's Christmas Service at 10:00 a.m., "What Would You Give Baby Jesus?"

December 5,12,19 — Wednesday Night Advent Studies in the Gospel of Mark after the 5:45 congregational supper.

December 30 — special Adult Assembly Study at the 9:45 a.m. Sunday School hour. Additional activities were

December 1 — Work day at the Church and the Peacock—Gunderson Wedding at 2 p.m.

December 6 — the Long Range Planning Committee at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

December 7 — the UMW Christmas Brunch at Courtney's

December 10 — Building Committee, Committees of the Council, as well as those of the Work Area meetings.

December 14 — UMYF Christmas Dance for all Methodist Fellowships of the Cary area.

December 16 — UMM Christmas Breakfast.

December 17 — Administrative Council Banquet.

December 20 — Pack Christmas Meeting and Dinner

December 24 — Holy Communion at 5 p.m. and at 11 p.m.

December 25 — Merry Christmas!

Another "slow month"! A "Personal Thank You" in the newsletter sobered many of the congregation: "Dear Members of Saint Francis, The time I spent working with you was greatly rewarded by a special warmth and sincerity. You gave your support and made me feel very much at home, even though I was not a church member. Obviously, the decision to leave was a difficult one and was not made in haste. The music programs at Saint Francis are growing and have such a potential. I am confident that you will find excellent leadership in your Music Ministry. I wish to extend my best wishes to the choirs, their leaders and to each of you. Sincerely, Audrey B. Austin." (Oh! what an empty space now exists at Saint Francis, BUT God acts in mysterious ways, his will be made known!).

On December 25, 1990, the *N.C. Christian Advocate* published in its column, "Book Looks", another book review by Mr. Frazier: *Tough Minds, Tender Hearts, Six Prophets of Social Justice*, William O. Paulsell, Paulist Press, 1990.

A congregation letter from Paul Osiecki, Chairperson, Stewardship Committee gave to Saint Francis Church a very welcome Christmas present: "The work is over, the pledges are in, and our pleasure is tremendous. I want to share with you the results of the combined efforts in the Pony Express Stewardship Campaign. Out of the 147 families that received a saddle bag, over 88% responded for a total of \$188,252 committed for 1991. This is over a 20% increase from last year's response. . . ."

On December 31, 1990, Mr. Frazier filed the yearly report of Saint Francis Church with the Secretary of the N.C. Annual United Methodist Conference. Some of that report follows:

Total Membership — 368

Baptisms — 11

Preparatory Members — 132

Confirmands — 3

Average Attendance at Sunday Worship — 238

Church School Membership — 316

Church School Leaders — 35

Average Attendance, Sunday School — 113

UMM — 20

UMW — 31

UMYF — 36

Paid to Local Benevolences — \$1,555

Paid to World Service and Conference Benevolences — \$5,540

Grand Total, Expenditures — \$176,451

CHAPTER X

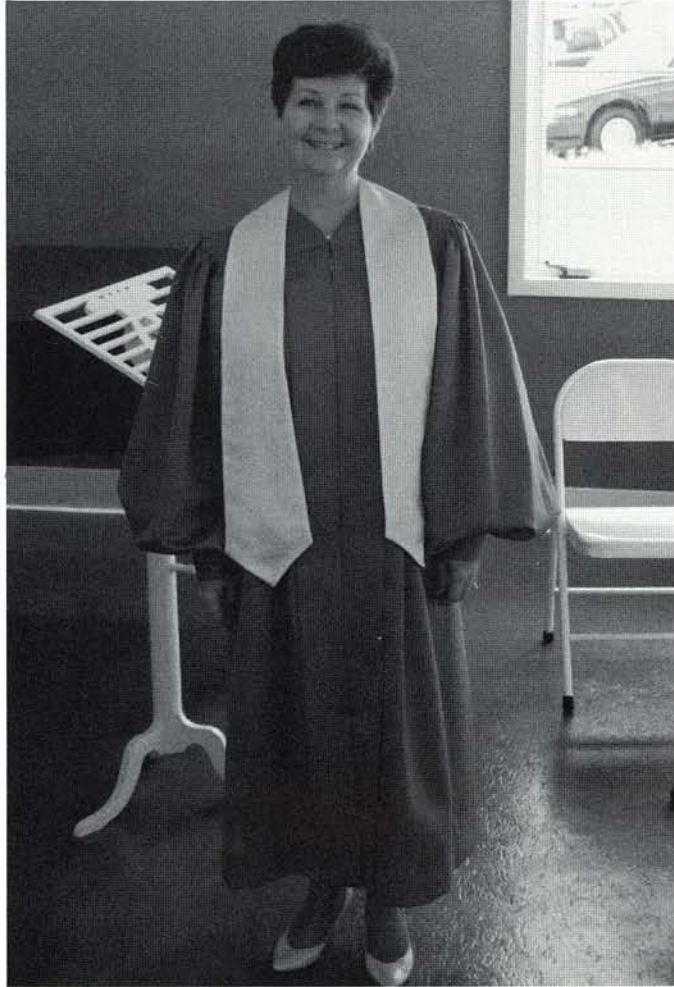
“And Now It Is Jubilee”

The year 1991 began on a somber tone at Saint Francis Church. January 6 had been named by the Raleigh District Superintendent, Dr. Belton Joyner, as the District Day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace in the Middle East, and all members of the congregation joined with other United Methodists in the District in beseeching Almighty God to act in this world-wide crisis in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. However, as *The Franciscan*, January, 1991, announced in its lead article “From Our Pastor . . .”, the emphasis changed quickly to one of celebration: “Charter Sunday — Homecoming — Anniversary Sunday. Call it what you will, on January 13, we will gather to celebrate our ninth year as a chartered congregation of The United Methodist Church. Steve



Compton, our pastor from 1983 - 1989, will return to lead our service and we look forward to welcoming Steve, Lala, Matthew and Clay back 'home'. It will be a time of worship, a time of fellowship, a time of celebration . . .!" Other announcements followed: Prayers for Mike and Becky Hayes in their move to Canada, the organizational meeting of Saint Francis Church Volunteers -In-Mission, again, to Reynosa, Mexico in the fall; the Saint Francis Church Master Plan meeting on January 16; and the change of leadership in the Missions Committee. Barbara Helman had “stepped down” on behalf of Chris and

Sterling Williams, the 1991 co-chairpersons. Reports of some of the Christmas events indicated that the United Methodist Women's gift to Dorothea Dix Hospital had been around \$520. By their gift, the Hospital Volunteer Guild was able to give each patient at least seven gifts; also, the United Methodist Men's Bake Sale had raised over \$1,300, half of the proceeds going to Capital Improvements and the other half to a local charity. "Thank Yous" were forthcoming from Audrey Austin, the former choir

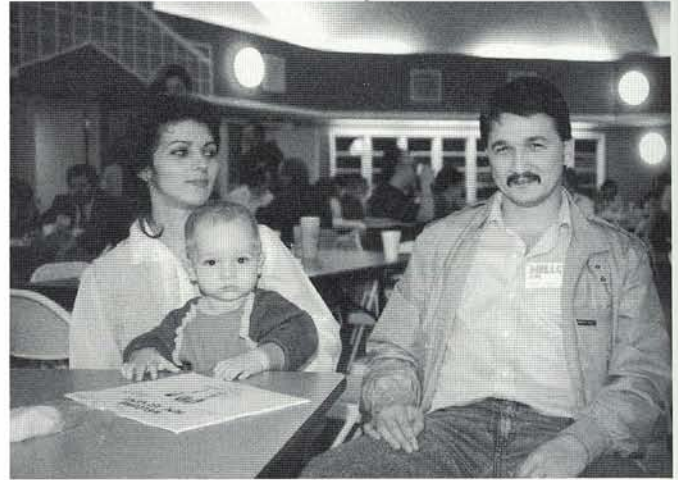


director, for the certificate and check she received on November 18. Likewise, a statement of deep appreciation to Saint Francis Church from the Kuwaiti Shawa family — Jihad, Howayda, Ashraf, and Hayah — for the automobile given to them through arrangements by the Trustee Committee and the congregation.

A special meeting of the Administrative Council, according to its **Minutes** met on January 6, following on the 11 a.m. Worship Service, to elect Mary Metzler as the Chairperson of the Education Committee.

The **Cary News** in its weekend issues, January 6, 1991, reported that Saint Francis Church would launch a Prayer Vigil for World Peace, January 14 - 15, relative to the

unstable situation in the Middle East. The Vigil began in the church Fellowship Hall on Monday, January 14, at 4:00 p.m. and continued through 4:00 p.m. on January 15. Some 50 members, as well as many non-members, participated in prayers for "our men and women in Saudi Arabia and for World Peace."



On January 20, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, co-chairpersons of the Missions Committee, circulated an announcement concerning the Romanian refugee family. The Munteans — John, aged 20, Julia, aged 20, and Robert, aged 11 months — would have, according to United Methodist Committee On Relief, only the possessions they could bring by plane. As the sponsoring church, Saint Francis Church would be responsible for this family until they could care for themselves. As had been the case with Alex, the Church sprang to action and within a very short time assimilated the Muntean family within its fellowship.

On January 23, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, John Paulos, informed the congregation by letter of the situation relative to the purchase of the Church House by selling bonds within the Church in units of \$2,500 to raise \$75,000. If anyone was interested, he or she should give their names to Pastor Frazier, Alan Kerr, chairperson of the Administrative Council, or himself by February 10 in order to receive a Prospectus.

The scheduled meeting of the Administrative Council came to order, according to the **Minutes**, on January 28, 1991, under the direction of Alan Kerr, chairperson, who led the Council in a New Year devotion. Reports, after the approval of former **Minutes** for November-December, 1990, had been approved, were the activity of the Council meeting.

Nurture. Kristy Rice reported that monies were needed to begin the Lenten Wednesday evening programs and requested a funding for both food and curriculum materials. A charge would be, she said, made for the supper, and any funds received over costs would go to missions. The Council voted Kristy her request. Also, Mrs. Rice said that

the Parish Care Groups were at present being reorganized and would be under a new name. She asked for the necessary acquiescence from the Council. It was so voted.

Stewardship. Paul Osiecki requested that the various committees, etc., who desired information from the latest Talent Sheets contact him within the next three weeks.

Worship. Ginny Hicks told the Council that her Committee requested more Hymnals for the Worship Services; as many as 50 more, she said, since the average Sunday attendance has been over 300. And there would be Brunswick Stew, made by the Choir, available for everyone on February 2 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Staff-Parish. Laura Osiecki reported that money has been requested for additional staffing, a person as Christian Education leader. The matter was returned to the Committee for further consideration.

Age-Level and Family Ministries. Marilyn Shenton announced that the Youth were planning a St. Valentine's Day dance, and Saint Francis members are invited to attend the activity.

Evangelism. Mark Blackley reported that the Committee believes Saint Francis Church must increase its community awareness. Discussion followed and the Council recommended more information be forthcoming for the February meeting. Mark also said that more visitation teams needed to be organized, since there were only ten at the present time. The report concluded with discussion in the Council relative to some kind of preaching mission or spiritual renewal for August. The Council suggested more information be available for the next Council meeting.

Outreach. Carlin Johnson said that a meeting was planned for February 7 with local framers concerning the continuation of the Farmer's Market in 1991. John Paulos, chairperson of the Finance Committee, requested that the Work Area present his Committee with a schedule of mission payments so that mission payments might be evenly distributed across the year.

Child Care Board. Kathie Boling reported that the Preschool and After School programs were going very well with excellent staff directing and leading the schools. Preschool is adding a four-year-old class to reduce the student load in the three-year-old category. Next year, more space will be needed; there is insufficient space presently available for the three-year-old program. There will be, she continued, no summer program for the After School.

UMW. Barbara Trapnell requested the privilege of sponsoring a Blood Drive at Saint Francis Church. The UMYF had volunteered to be "baby-sitters" for this project. Mr. Frazier and Mr. Kerr both agreed to the request, and suggest the UMW make what arrangements they might want with Don Holloway of the Board of Trustees. Future programs included: A Yard Sale during one of the Saturday Farmer markets; a course in infant CPR is under investigation; a UMW Cook Book is being considered; the Suzanne Wesley Circle plans a Retreat on April 21; the Genesis Circle will offer corsages for sale for

Mother's Day; and a new circle group is forming and will meet on January 28 for the first time.

Finance. John Paulos circulated a summary for 1990 and pointed out that although expenses in some areas were below budgeted amounts for last year, this is not expected to be the case in 1991. There was, he added, room for improvement in giving at Saint Francis Church. Also, plans are progressing with the purchase of the Church House. The purchase price has been set at \$77,000 less the credited rent payments, which sets the final price at \$71,500, if the church closes by April 1. The Trustees are now selling bonds to pay for this additional indebtedness.

Pastor's Report. Mr. Frazier said that the Building Committee plans to have a Master Plan ready for the spring season; the Three Year Long Range Planning is one-half through its developments for 1991-93, and will present a report at the next Council meeting; the District Lay Rally on February 24 is scheduled for Louisburg College; a matter of guidance relative to the Handbook statement about "Selling During Worship Time", by Mr. Frazier, touched off general and conflicting discussion in the Council. On the motion of Mr. Plyler and seconded by John Paulos, the Council voted to strike out this stipulation as printed and Carlin Johnson, Nancy Pomeranz, and John Boling agreed to rewrite this passage. Mr. Frazier concluded with some matters of staff scheduling and announced that the UMM would provide a rose and bud vase to all parents of newly born babies in the church, a gift from the UMM. The meeting adjourned until the scheduled session in February.

Gleanings from the weekly church Bulletins for January, 1991 included the introduction of the new Choir Director and Director of Music Ministry, Anthony Jackson, who serves as choral director at Sanderson High School, Raleigh, and who has recently served as choral director at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cary, N.C. "Tony" is married to Veronica and they have a one-year-old son, Phillip. Also included were the Sweetheart Dance on February 16, sponsored by the UMYF and Family





Ministries; plus the announcement of the continuation of the Wednesday Night Family programs, beginning January 30: "Plan to come—For dinner or for the night—BUT COME!"

February, 1991, at Saint Francis Church, took on an entirely different tone. The atmosphere was aptly captured by Mr. Frazier in his "From Our Pastor" in *The Franciscan* for February: "This is the second 'Pastor's Message' I have written for this month's newsletter. I had written an earlier one . . . but the war started and it no longer seemed appropriate. War changes things . . . whether you are for this war or against it, whether you believe it to be right or wrong, and whether this war changes our world forever or not, I pray for you that you may receive the peace of God which passes all understanding, and I invite you to join me in praying for peace for our world. I hope by the time you read this that we have peace and this Pastor's Message is out of date. Peace changes things, too. Grace to you — and peace. rcf."

The Highlights for February, according to *The Franciscan*, were the arrival of the Romanian Refugee Family, the Ash Wednesday Service, the Wednesday Night Gatherings, the Sweetheart Dance, and the Brunswick Stew Sale.

The Administrative Council met on February 25, 1991 with the Chairperson, Alan Kerr, in charge. After the customary opening, Mr. Kerr introduced Wes Coble, Chairperson of the Long Range Planning Committee, to present its study report and recommendations. The Committee first established the major and moderate strengths of Saint Francis Church and second its weaknesses. These were as follows;

Major Strengths: corporate, dynamic worship, specific missional (the mission of the church and all aspects of its life) objectives, strong leadership and open accessibility.

Moderate Strengths: pastoral/lay visitation, participatory decision-making, competent programs, high visibility, adequate facilities.

Weaknesses: relational groups, solid financial resources, parking and landscaping.

Recommendations (for the next three years): specific missional objectives, strong leadership, pastoral/lay visitation, participatory decision-making, competent programs.

Age-level and Family Ministries. Marilyn Shenton announced that on April 13 and 14, the Reverend Michael Safley, Vice President for Student Affairs, Methodist College, Fayetteville, N.C., would be conducting programs for Junior and Senior High students and all interested parents concerning sexual awareness and education were invited to attend.

Evangelism. Mark Blackley said that Tom Vass of his Committee was developing a marketing plan for Saint Francis Church. A proposal would be forthcoming at the March meeting.

Nurture. Kristy Rice recommended that there be no charges for staff members at the Wednesday Evening fellowships; their families and invited speakers were likewise exempt from charge. At the recommendation of the Education Committee no charge for baby-sitting would be made since this expense was being met out from the proceeds of the evening.

Outreach. Carlin Johnson reported that the Farmers Market would begin operation in mid-June, that congregational members should now call Ronnie or Sue Lowe to assist in the help for the Munteans, the refugee family, and the One Great Hour of Sharing program would be on Sunday, March 10.

UMYF. Marilyn Shenton announced that the Highland Project, July 14-20, had ten youth from Saint Francis Church enrolled. Also, there was a critical need for adult leadership in the program.

Building Committee. Alan Kerr stated that the Phase II Plan would come before the Committee on February 26 for final approval and on March 13 this plan would go to the Conference offices for approval, after which it would come before the Church Conference (probably on March 17) and at a Charge Conference at the Council meeting in April.

Trustees. Mark Johnson reported that Don Holloway has been elected chairperson, Mark Johnson as vice-chairperson, and Dixie Paulos as secretary.

Finance Committee. John Paulos reported that the closing on The Church House would be March 25, that bonds for the purchase price are presently under-subscribed, and that after only two months of 1991 Saint Francis Church has a critical money problem since the Church is now \$5,200 below what is needed to meet the Budget. Also, he said, giving support has not increased over last year. A two month summary of giving is being prepared for the congregation by Paul Osiecki, chairperson of the Stewardship Committee.

Pastor's Report. Mr. Frazier stated that the 1991 **Handbook** would be available to the congregation on Sunday, March 3. Also, Mr. Youngblood would be the preacher on April 7, and his last Sunday at Saint Francis Church would be April 14.

Gleanings from the Sunday Calendars for February included these items, the Confirmation Class would hold its first meeting on February 3, as well as an Acolyte Training Session for new members, the Ash Wednesday Lenten service at 7:00 p.m., the Coalition date is Saturday, February 23; and the Reverend Michele Merchant on the staff of Soapstone UMC and Vic-Chair of the Conference Board of Ministry would preach on February 24.



On March 12, 1991, a congregational letter was received in the homes of Saint Francis Church from Jim Pomeranz, Chairman of the Building Committee, announcing the Church Conference, Sunday, March 17 after the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. A covered dish meal would precede the Church Conference, after which the Building Committee would present their Master Plan to the Church and their proposal to increase the space of the Church through an educational building of some 14 to 17 rooms. If approval comes from the Church conference for such a program, then the Building Committee would establish a timetable and a fundraising campaign to be presented to a future Charge Conference. The Church conference voted that the Building Committee proceed in its Phase II plan for an educational building north and east of the present building as far as financially feasible at this time.

The weekly Calendar for March 17 carried additional important information for Saint Francis Church members, the Holy Week Services:

March 24, Palm/Passion Sunday — a procession of palms and the reading of the Passion Narrative at both services.

March 27, the Passover Supper at 5:45 p.m.



March 28, the Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7:00 p.m.

March 29, the Good Friday service, the Tenebrae or "shadows" service. Following the darkening of the Church, a Prayer Vigil would continue until the beginning of the Easter Vigil, a service of Light, Word, Water, and Bread and Cup, at 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 30, when the "darkening" would be reversed by the return of "light" to the Sanctuary, the First Easter service.



March 31, Easter Day services, the Second Service of Easter would be celebrated at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Reports from the March Committee meetings cast further light on the movement of Saint Francis Church at this period in 1991:

Nurture Work Area. Kristy Rice announced a Pictorial Directory by Olan Mills, Inc., would be done in the fall, October 18 - 19 and the need of NAME TAGS by each member at the Morning Worship Services and the Wednesday evening Fellowships.

Outreach Work Area. Carlin Johnson reported that the refugee family, the Munteans, had been moved into their own apartment on March 16. Also, \$8,500 would be needed to send the Reynosa work team, at present eleven people, to Reynosa, Mexico, August 2 - 11.

Evangelism. Mark Blackley announced that Deb Overton had assumed all the duties of visitation assignments and that a training session for visitation teams would be held on March 21, 7 to 8 p.m. Also, the marketing plan for new members had been discussed.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Laura Osiecki said that Administrative Assistant, Sandra Weaver, would have her hours increased to 30 hours per week beginning April 1, with new office hours at The Church House to be 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Also, two other items were also included in the report: at the Wednesday night fellowship on April 17 the Staff-Parish Committee would discuss the Open Itinerance document from the UMC North Carolina Conference, and the committee had requested the Trustees to purchase a folding machine for the church office.

The Financial Summary for March, 1991, reported other interesting information: the surplus to date, \$1,928 for the Unified Budget and Current Undesignated Reserves, \$4,377. At this time the Current Designated Reserves was \$51,796.

The Franciscan, April, 1991, in "From the Pastor's Desk" reported four Sunday Worship Services with more than 300 people in attendance. Likewise, the April *Franciscan* reported the departure of David Youngblood, the student Assistant Minister since September, 1990.

Jim Pomeranz, Chairperson for the Building Committee, as he had earlier announced, presented the members of Saint Francis church with the Phase II Building Program and its allied Financial and Stewardship campaign. The project would get under operation in April-May, 1991, with meetings for financial commitment to be held April 27, May 4, and May 19. The theme for the Campaign was: "My Gifts Breathe Life Into Our Wings!"

The Board of Trustees, by the hand of its chairperson, Don Holloway, called the membership of Saint Francis Church to a Work Day on April 20 for an outdoor planting, etc., session to begin at 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Some 50 people responded to the Call.

The Weekly Calendar for April 21 carried the announcement of the 1991 Acolyte Trip to Baltimore, MD. on April 26 - 28. The group would leave Saint Francis Church on Friday, April 26 at 4 p.m. by church van and private cars. The adult leaders were John Rushing, Ed Barrows, Judy Casper and Melinda Dillard.

The Administrative Council met on April 22 with Wes Coble in charge. Four members of the Confirmation Class were in attendance to observe the Council at work. The meeting began with the Council dividing into three groups to discuss the Missional Objectives earlier reported. Discussion would continue at the May Council meeting. Following on the reports of the Committees, Mr. Frazier

announced to the council that three resignations has been received from members, and, since one was a Trustee, it would require a Charge Conference to replace them. The Nominations committee would meet on May 6 at 7:00 p.m. to consider replacements for these positions.

A called meeting of the Administrative Council was held May 5 after the 11 a.m. Worship Service to discuss the situation of the implications of Phase II Building Plans and the Saint Francis Day Care program. Since there was no direct input from the Day Care Board, it was the decision of the council that the Board present a statement of direction for the future of the Day Care program at Saint Francis Church. The motion passed 7 to 6.

The Franciscan, May 1991, contained in the main a variety of announcements relative to the preparations for the summer programs of the UMW, UMM, UMYF as well as the Wednesday Family Gatherings, 5:45 p.m.-8:00 p.m. These Family Wednesday sessions would feature four Mission Studies on Islam prepared by Alan Kerr, Chairperson of the Administrative Council. The weekly topics scheduled were: "Islam, the Video", "Why is it Important to Know about Islam?", "Islamic Patterns of Life", and "When Christians and Muslims Meet".



On May 25, 1991, the announced Charge Conference was called to order at 7:00 p.m. to care for the Report of the Nominating Committee concerning official offices to be refilled. Vacancies on the Administrative Council were filled by these Members-at-Large: Class of 1992, Blair Bost and David Wood and Class of 1993, Marie Pulliam. The vacancy on the Board of Trustees, class of 1991, was filled by Ralph Jacobs. The vacancy on the Committee of Finance was filled by Blair Madren, Member-at-Large. The vacancy on the Committee on Worship was filled by Tobi Rushing as Acolyte Sponsor.

Following after the Charge Conference, Chairperson Alan Kerr called the Administrative Council into session. A primary action of business was the election of the

Decennial Celebration "Task Force": Mary Holloway, Chair; L. "Joe" Plyler, Historian; Ginny Hicks, Worship; Bill Cole, Family Ministries; UMW, Barbara Trapnell; UMM, Alan Shore; UMYF, Brad Abrams; Communications, Ronnie and Sue Lowe; Exofficio members: Carl Frazier, John Rushing, and Alan Kerr.

Gleanings from the Weekly Calendars in May revealed these items: the date for commitment to "My Gifts Breathe Life Into Our Wings" would be observed on May 19. On May 12, a gift of 61 additional new copies **The United Methodist Hymnal** were placed in service at the Morning Worship Services. May 19, at both Services. The new Bulletin format was placed into service for the first time and would become regular following on the completion of the past bulletins supplied by the UM Publishing House. The new bulletin on its front and back displayed the Saint Francis Church, Phase I and Phase II. Also, the Daily Vacation Bible School would begin on July 22 through 26. A Workshop for teachers and assistants would be held May 25 from 9 - 11 to complete plans and program. The co-chairpersons this year would be Karen Berry and Diane Averett. The May 26 Calendar reported the summary for "My Gifts Breathe Life Into Our Wings": It was:

	Goal	Gifts to Date
Cash Donations: May 5-Sept. 8	\$180,000	\$63,930
Total Commitments: 1991-1994	\$720,000	\$290,154
Numbers of families: 187	53	

Also, the May 26 Calendar announced the first planning meeting of the V-I-M Reynosa Team on Monday, June 3, at 7:00 p.m.

June, 1991, now again turned the members of Saint Francis Church to the out-of-doors, especially since it shortly would be vacation time. The mood was set in the lead article of **The Franciscan** for June, when Pastor Frazier, in "From the Pastor" said, "Dear Theophilus: As I write this there remain only 33 more days until I leave on vacation. I can already feel that cool mountain air and see that wonderful view that refreshes and restores my soul. I know that you, too, are planning to get away for a little 'R&R' this summer—and well you should. I hope you have a wonderful time . . . You know, in some places vacation is called holiday. Think about it, Theo, Holiday, Holy day. May yours be blessed. And bring me back a bulletin for my collection. Grace and peace. rcf."

Concerns for June. The Confirmation Class, as they join Saint Francis Church, will be confirmed on June 9. They are: Tamara Cochran, Chris Doane, Sam Galphin, Elliot Jameson, and John Meredith. Our seniors, as they graduate from high school and college Julie Shenton and Jeff Killian and Pat Hills Grove and Scott Shankle, as these begin married life together. And, the laity and clergy members of our Annual Conference.

Announcements included the organization of a new Adult Sunday School Class, the New Spirit Class; the UMW Yard Sale, June 22; also, on the same day and time:



Opening Day of the Farmer's Market, Reynosa Work Team Bake Sale, and the Highland Work Team Project Car Wash (WOW!!!). The Mexico Trip, thirteen members of Saint Francis Church will leave on August 2 for Reynosa, Mexico. This is the third year that members of Saint Francis Church have participated in the construction of Templo Emmanuel, Iglesia Metodista De Mexico under Pastor Manuel Guzmán, Prob. The team this year consists of Wes Coble (BOMBA "boss") and Brenda Kerr, the team leaders, plus Alan Kerr, Ronnie Lowe, Bill and Faye Lindsay, Kelli Rushing, Hal Belk, Tim Whaley, Carl Frazier, Sharon Reynolds, L. "Joe" Plyler, and Ed Barrows. The team will return to Cary on August 11. Also, there was a special call for HELP! for on June 16, 17, 18 and 19 the Church would be closed for Summer Clean-Up. Floors will be stripped and rewaxed, as well as a host of other "goodies". Finally, there appeared in the listing the announcement of the first meeting of the Decennial Committee on Tuesday, June 16 at the home of the Chairperson, Mary Holloway, at 7:30 p.m.

College News announced that three college students



and members of Saint Francis Church would be honored at the Worship Service on June 2. They are Marianne Shenton, Patrick Lindsay and Tara Olhoft. Our graduating senior high schools would be recognized at the same service. They are Beth Cox, Laura Deleur, Michal Saucedo and David Whaley.

The Franciscan for July, 1991, began with an interesting insight from Pastor Frazier. In his "Pastor's Message", he said, "As I write this, three of my closest friends and their families are preparing to move to new churches. I have teased them ruthlessly, making much of the fact that I wasn't moving anywhere this summer and how pleasant it was. And although it is true that I'm not moving, we are! . . . We're moving, you and I . . . And the best thing is that we don't have to pack a single box because we'll travel light. Just bring along a willing heart. Start packing—and I'll see you on the road. Grace and peace. rcf."

Announcements, in **The Franciscan**, included these items: "Wear Your Duds, Dudes! Friday night, July 26, at 6:30 p.m. is the time for cook-out for fun and celebration; the occasion being the conclusion of the highly successful 1991 Daily Vacation Bible School, the biggest yet." Also included were the travel needs for both the Highland Youth Project and the Reynosa Mission teams; for the Youth tools, with which they might repair and build and for the Reynosa Team—supplies for the El Templo Sunday and Bible Schools; likewise, the UMM's "Chicken Pickin" at Montague Lake on July 28.

An insert from the **Historical Record** for Saint Francis Church for July, 1991, announced a wholly different kind of program and Worship Service, "A Service of Death and Resurrection" held on July 2, 1991, at the Church, a Memorial Service for Joseph Kevin Faricy, brother of Terri McCabe. Joseph had come to the congregation for support after he realized that he had been attacked by AIDS. After a short sojourn in the congregation, Joseph Kevin Faricy joined a greater congregation, "the cloud of witnesses".

The Administrative Council met on July 22 with 19 members present. Alan Kerr, the Chairperson, opened the meeting and introduced Alan Shore who led the devotional period.

Evangelism. Mark Blackley said he would meet this week with Mr. Frazier for more planning for the fall Spiritual Renewal services.

Outreach. Alan Kerr advised the Council that the Reynosa Work Team was over budget at this time. Additional funds would need to be raised before August 2.

UMM. Alan Shore announced the annual "Chicken Pickin", Sunday, June 28 from 2:00 p.m. at Montague Lake.

UMW. Barbara Trapnell reported that their Yard Sale had netted them over \$500. Also, she continued, the Genesis Circle planned to sell decorated baskets at Cary Lazy Days, August 24.

SPRC. Laura Osiecki stated that her Committee was presently involved in accepting applications for a Program



Director who would join the church staff in September.

Building, Phase II. Mr. Frazier announced that the Committee would meet on August 9 to receive the final plans for Phase II; the District Committee on Church Location and Building would meet at Saint Francis Church on August 28; the approval plans should be let out for bids in September; a Church Conference was planned in October to give final approval to Phase II. On September 8 ground breaking ceremonies would follow the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service with District Superintendent, the Reverend Belton Joyner, Jr., in charge.

Trustee Board. Don Holloway thanked the Scouts of Troop 202 for their many hours of cleaning around the outside of the Church and their efforts in landscaping at the front of the Church. He also announced that the exterior of the Church would be painted prior to the arrival of fall. The committee overseeing the repairs and painting were Mark Johnson, Ralph Jacobs, and Jack Hinkel. Likewise, a remodeling program, under Ray Hicks and Dixie Paulos, would be ready by September for The Church House. The Scout program would need to move into two classrooms of the Sunday School and Mark Johnson would coordinate with the Scout leaders the needed move. Also, a policy for the Day Care program under the duress of the building development, would be forthcoming from Debbie Maness and her sub-committee.

Finance committee. John Paulos provided the Council with the June summaries. Surprise! June receipts showed a surplus of \$3,600. But, the year through June showed a deficit of \$800. Also, he said, 1992 Budget requests were due following on the Administrative Council Planning retreat in September.

Stewardship. Paul Osiecki earlier had relayed his report to the effect that the active Building Fund campaign was completed, and the 1992 Budget Campaign in November would be a "low key" activity. More information would be announced at a later time.

Pastor's Announcements. Mr. Frazier announced the 1992 Planning Retreat for both the Administrative Council and the newly formed Council of Ministries would be held September 21 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Methodist Home for Children in Raleigh. The leaders would be Mr. Frazier, Alan Kerr, and the Program Director. The Missional Objectives adopted at the May Council meeting would be the guidelines for planning. These Objectives were:

1. **Missional Objective in Worship.** To address the need for spiritual renewal in our community and deepened discipleship without our congregation.

2. **Missional Objective in Nurture.** To meet the need of persons to have a "community" in which they may be involved and find meaning for their lives.

3. **Missional Objectives in Outreach.** To minister to the needs of single parent families, blended families, and families in need.

Nurture. Kristy Rice announced the revamping of the Wednesday Night Fellowship. The first gathering would be a "potluck" meal prior to the Spiritual Renewal Service on September 11. The first meeting of each month would also be a "potluck" dinner and the remaining weekly Fellowships would have preset menus with Church groups preparing the food, etc. No meeting would be held on Nov. 27, December 25, Jan.1, or March 4. Margaret Johnson will head up the food program. An assistant was currently under investigation. Kristy concluded by asking the Council to establish an official name for the Wednesday Nights. Her suggestions were Zesty and Zestful Wednesdays or Wonderful Wednesdays. The Council decided on the latter, Wonderful Wednesdays, a name earlier utilized for the summer program of the UMYF.

The Council adjourned at 8:00 p.m. until the scheduled meeting for August.

On June 20, 1991, Mr. Pomeranz informed the church by letter that the next step for the Building Committee was to present the schematic plans for Phase II to a Church Conference which had been scheduled for Monday, July 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the Church. At this time, his letter continued, the District Committee on Building and Location had agreed to a contingency approval. Simply put, this was that Saint Francis Church could build as much as their funds allowed. The total estimate for Phase II was set at \$720,000. At the present time, Saint Francis Church had donations and pledges for \$343,000 from 80 out of 170 church families. The Church Conference responsibility rested in how far for how much could the Church build at this time. He outlined four possibilities from his Committee to the membership. At the Church Conference on July 15, the congregation would decide what the Church should do, and looked to the membership for a worthy number to be in attendance to vote on the future of Saint Francis Church.





“Gleanings” from the weekly Calendars for July included these pertinent items: July 14, the consecration of the Highland service team from Saint Francis Church. They were Alan Shore (adult leader), Brad Abrams, Jana Coble, Jeni Cole, Jason Hucks, Randy Lindsay, and Carl Rocap. Also, a called Church Conference, July 15, to receive the recommendations of the Building Committee appeared in that July 14 calendar.

August began with the arrival of *The Franciscan* in the homes of the Saint Francis congregation. Its leader “from the Pastor” was another tome to “Dear Theophilus: By the time you read this, I will be with twelve other members of our church in Reynosa, Mexico. I have been excited about going and have been anxious about the opportunities for mission and ministry which this trip provides. The thirteen of us truly believe that we represent everyone at Saint Francis as we go about our tasks in Mexico for nine days. And we are grateful for the support we have received— financially, spiritually, and emotionally— from the congregation . . . Yes, Theo by the time you read this thirteen of us will be in Mexico helping to build a church. But there will be at least 300 still building a church in Cary. We’re all doing what we sang about that Sunday before we left— we’re holding God’s people in our hearts. Grace and peace. rcf.”

Announcements included the following: “Time to Renew” — Three evenings of services of Spiritual Renew-

al will be held on September 9, 10 and 11 in the Church from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The visiting Minister will be the Reverend Langill Watson, former Durham District Superintendent. A covered dish supper will be served on Wednesday, September 11, prior to the service. In addition, “Thanks Pardners” — a big thank-you to all the pioneers on the trail of SONWARD HO! Vacation Bible School was a success because of great students, great teachers, and giving church members . . . Karen and Diane.”

On August 25, 1991, the Administrative Council met for the scheduled session at 7:00 p.m. with Alan Kerr, chairing the Council and presenting the devotional moment. After the approval of the July Minutes, reports were heard from Trustees, Lay Member to the Annual Conference, Evangelism, Nurture, Outreach, UMM, UMW, UMYF, SPRC, Finance, Stewardship and Pastor. Highlight items came from SPRC and Pastor. Laura Osiecki, for Staff Parish, reported that Larissa Witt has been employed as Program Director at Saint Francis Church. Larissa will work 20 hours per week, beginning on September 3, and be introduced to the congregation on September 8. She will also be employed in the After School programs. Another was the Spiritual Renewal Services which were announced by Mark Blackley, Chairperson for Evangelism. The services are on the evenings of September 9 through 11. A Prayer



Vigil will precede these services, and a covered dish supper will be served on September 11, prior to the concluding service. Pastor Frazier said that the Nomination committee was meeting on September 4 to begin nominations for 1992; the Administrative Council will be held September 21 at the Methodist Home for Children. Current Council members plus the newly nominated members of the Council on Ministries should be in attendance. The September Administrative Council would meet September 23.



Probably the third most anticipated event in the history of Saint Francis United Methodist Church occurred on September 8, 1991. The first event was Charter Sunday on January 10, 1982; the second, the move into and consecration of the present Fellowship Hall on Kildaire Farm Road, March 6, 1988; and the Ground Breaking for the Educational Unit of Phase II on September 8, 1991. In "from the Pastor", *The Franciscan*, September, 1991, Mr. Frazier announced the event to the congregation. He wrote: "The second Sunday in September is traditionally observed here at Saint Francis as Christian Education Sunday . . . In addition to all of the usual 'doings', this year we will also celebrate the groundbreaking for our new educational wing. The culmination of a year and a half process, the 11 a.m. worship service will be led by our District Superintendent, Belton Joyner. We will affirm our commitment to the nurturing and faith development of our children, youth and adults as we break ground for much needed classroom space. Everyone is invited to BYOS (bring your own shovel) and help turn some dirt. . . ."

It is little wonder, then, that at the Decennial Committee meeting at the home of Mary Holloway, Chairperson, the committee voted to recommend to the Administrative Council to declare the year 1992 at Saint Francis Church be named the JUBILEE YEAR. AMEN.

