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The Shenandoah Scene

The Newsletter of the Shenandoah Association - United Church of Christ

Linda Long, Editor



ST. JOHN'S IN MIDDLEBROOK DEDICATES REBUILT SANCTUARY MAY 4, 1980



Approximately 400 people - both members and friends of St. John's UCC, Middlebrook, Virginia - gathered on Sunday May 4th at 3:00 PM to worship and celebrate at the dedication service for St. John's newly rebuilt sanctuary.

Participating in the Worship Service were Rev. Kenneth D. Cherry, Pastor; Rev. George F. Gaertner, Pastor Emeritus; Rev. Dr. Bernie Zerkel Jr., Area Conference Minister and Mr. Don Dixon. The Rev. Michael Simmons, President of the Shenandoah Association was also present to bring greetings from the Association.

In his Sermon Rev. Cherry expressed the gratitude of St. John's members to the churches and community for their generous support. "We here at St. John's have continued to thank God for the outpouring of help which came to us from this community and our Christian friends in our hour of need. As fellow believers you came to us offering comfort and aid, and the compassion of brothers and sisters in Christ. It became wonderfully clear to us just how much love and caring there is among Christian people in this part of God's

Kingdom. Through you the love of God was made real, and the faithfulness of his word revealed to us everyone."

Building Fund Treasurer, Mr. Lynn Heizer reported that the cost of the new structure amounted to almost \$240,000 and that at present the remaining debt on the building amounted to \$12,000.

Building Foreman Franklyn Decker expressed his appreciation to the men of the church and community for their many hours of labor freely given for the rebuilding of St. John's Church. Mc Cheyene Swortzel, Building Committee Chairman thanked the congregation for their support and help and cited his special appreciation of the advice and counsel of Mr. A. Meade Reames. Mrs. Alvin Rosen, church historian received from Rev. Cherry, on behalf of the congregation an album containing a photographic record of the step by step construction of the new building taken by the pastor.

A lovely reception was held in the fellowship hall following the service of dedication.