MATTHEWS CHAPEL

FOUNDERING MATTHEWS CHAPEL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

After the Civil War, former slaves in the area started the Markland Presbyterian Church on Old Providence Road. Folks from the Tank Town area attended, even though it was over 6 miles to get there. By 1878, land was purchased to build a Presbyterian Church in Tank Town. It flourished until the 1960s. In 1969, with the congregation shrinking, it merged with Markland Presbyterian to form Matthews-Markland Presbyterian Church.

Rev. J. H. Gamble was the minister for the church for 17 years, serving until 1965. Gamble also served as the principal for the Matthews Colored School and his tenure is to be a period of disciplinarian.

Early Tank Town residents attended Markland Presbyterian Church, on Old Providence Road before the Matthews Chapel Presbyterian Church was built.

The second sanctuary of Matthews Chapel was built in 1952. The bell from the first church was placed beside the new structure.

COMMUNITY CENTER DREAM BECOMES REALITY

In 1986 renovations were made to the Matthews Chapel Presbyterian Church to serve as the Crestdale Community Center providing space for the 4-H during weekdays and other community activities such as instruction on sewing and canning. A grant of $6,000 was given by the Foundation of the Carolinas. The project was backed by the Crestdale Community Association, started by Sue and Viola Boyd and other Crestdale residents. Teresa McDow spearheaded the project.

Teresa McDow, from left, and Sue Lawrence talk with Howard Kempter about plans for a community center in Crestdale.

Background Photo: Courtesy Facebook

Historic Crestdale
Matthews Heritage Trail

Town of Matthews
North Carolina