

**CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION
OF FREDERICK A. H. COATES AS A
MINISTER OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT
AND HIS INSTALLATION AS OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR**



Following several years of using seminary students as summer interns—Howard Hinman, Gary Aven, Frank Aichinger and Alex Coblentz—the session and congregation made the commitment in the late 1970s to call a full-time associate pastor for our church. On the recommendation of the session, the congregation on June 11, 1978, elected the following persons to serve as an associate pastor search committee: Mitchell Mack, chair, Reid Brodie, Pat Culberson, Christine Davidson, Dan Powell and Carolyn Thomasson. David Beaver was named to the committee the following spring to provide additional representation from the youth of the congregation.

On the recommendation of the search committee, the congregation on May 6, 1979, unanimously extended a call to Frederick A. H. Coates to serve as our associate pastor. A report of the congregational action printed in the bulletin the following Sunday included this biographical information:

Mr. Coates, 28 years old, is from Charlotte and a candidate for the Gospel Ministry under the care of Mecklenburg Presbytery. He is a graduate from the University of North Carolina and next week will receive the Doctor of Ministry degree from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia. He is married to the former Jean Caldwell of Newell, North Carolina, and they have two children, Andrew, age 2, and Ashley, 7 weeks.

After his examination by old Concord Presbytery, meeting on June 29-30 at Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC, a commission of the Presbytery of Concord ordained Frederick A. H. Coates as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church in our sanctuary during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, July 15, 1979, and installed



1979



1981



1991

him as associate pastor of our congregation. Members of the ordination and installation commission included ministers Herbert Gale, John Handley and Ed Lewis, as well as elders Cynthia Kirkman, Mitchell Mack and S. P. Stowe. Following the worship service, the congregation gathered in the fellowship hall for a picnic lunch in honor of Fred and his family.

For these last twenty-five years Fred has served our Lord and our congregation faithfully and with great dedication. He has provided creative leadership for our youth. He has been an engaging and challenging teacher of young and old, as well as a faithful and relevant preacher and leader of worship. He has provided wise and compassionate counsel to the troubled, and been a friend to us all. He has led and maintained the effort to secure and use computers and other technologies in our church's ministry. He has been a loyal and supportive staff member, a true colleague in ministry.

In addition, Jean, his wife and partner in ministry, has served us in various capacities. We are grateful, too, for their children. Son Andrew and his new wife, the former Kathryn DeBerry, will make their home in Kenosha, WI. Daughter Ashley and her husband Josh Schaeen now live in Mooresville and are expecting their first child later this month.

God has richly blessed our church through Fred Coates and his ministry to and with us. We thank God for Fred and his many gifts, and for leading us to Fred and Fred to us. We express our appreciation to Fred for his good and faithful service as our associate pastor these last twenty-five years, and we look forward to the years ahead as we continue to serve God together in this community and throughout the world.

Members and visitors are invited to a reception in honor of Fred and his family on the church lawn immediately following both the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services today.

