

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
THE WILDWOOD CHURCH BUILDING IN
PICTURES & WORDS

Presented to the church by
Doug & Ann Andrews

Although there had been some discussions about building a new church building in Wildwood for some time, it appears that at the men's meeting of 2/5/80, some serious thought was put forth with regard to remodeling the present auditorium or building a new auditorium.

After the mid-week services on Wednesday, June 24, 1981, Charles W. Brewer made a presentation regarding a new building.

At the men's meeting of January 16, 1986, a building committee was formed to look into the possibility of securing a builder and finance for the proposed new building. That committee was made up of: H. Bone, H. Jones, L. LeMasters, J. Glenn, D. Andrews & L. Martin, plus W. Cook.

After many meetings, it was decided on May 15, 1986 to have Christian Builders build our church building and Florida National Bank of Wildwood would finance this venture beginning with a loan @ 8½%.

With the blessings of our elders; L. Martin, G. Mullins & F. Sandh, ground was cleared and construction began June, 1986. Christian Builders had predicted that it would take six months to complete; however, Bruce Smithers indicated that he could finish in four months. As fact would indicate, Bruce was right, because we had our first service in the new building in October, 1986.

It is also interesting to note that our mortgage was completely paid off in February, 1995 - thus enabling us to support our mission field work more adequately.



June 1986 – Camp property cleared, trees trimmed – construction is about ready to begin on the new auditorium which will be connected to the Sunday school classroom building.



**June 1986 – Property ready
for construction**



June 1986 – Preparing the foundation – in the early stages



June 1086 – The walls begin to appear



June 1986 – The beams were put in place and the roof was placed on the top.



July 1986 – The roof progressed and ready for shingles. It was interesting that although the new building was under construction, we were still able to worship in the old building until the middle of July.



July 1986 – A last look at the old building as it was torn down July 26, 1986.





July 1986 – We moved our worship service to the all-purpose room in the Sunday school class building. The pews were removed from the old building and placed in the room, rather close quarters at that. We continued to worship here for about two and a half months until the new auditorium was completed.



August 1986 – With the roof on, the inside remains to be finished. At least the weather would not be a factor.





August 1986 – With the old building torn down and the debris hauled off, our own Chester Strickland with all of his skill and equipment, cleaned off the front yard and parking lot at no cost to the church.



August 1986 – A problem arose where the old building connected with the Sunday school class building, but it was quickly solved with stucco. Everything was progressing smoothly.



August 1986 – The north side of both buildings were framed with Sumter County rock from Wayne Cook’s place. A rock mason was secured to do the work and it is interesting to note that while almost finished with the classroom building, the rocks came tumbling down. They were again put in place and have been very secure since that time.



September 1986 – Things are really looking good and everything shaping up. It now appears that October will be the finish date.



September, 1986 - Only thing needed are the finishing touches. Thanks to Chester Strickland, the yard & parking lot were smoothed out in a fine manner.





October, 1986 - The final touches are being applied. The building will soon be ready for our first worship service.



October, 1986 - Building completed, one of our very first services in the new auditorium.





October 1986 – One of our very first services in the new building.





Fall 1987





Fall 1987





This picture was taken in the Fall of 1987.

We give God all the glory for a nice place to worship him in. It is our prayer that all will work in the Lord's Service and not sit back on our accomplishments. All our blessings come thru the Lord and without him we are nothing!









*Belongs to Fredrick & Aida Sandh
Made in 1959 - Easter time*