

The Start Of "Kirche Daheim"

It all began at the time of the Twin City Endowment Fund campaign for Waterloo College. Every means of publicity was employed to advise people of the value of such an institution, notably the radio.

At this time there was no radio station in Kitchener although there was CKPC in Preston and CKCR in Brantford, they each provided air time to promote the Endowment Fund. On a Sunday afternoon in May 1929, Art Sandrock, who was a member of St. Matthews, and owned Schreiter - Sandrock Funeral Home, was having a conversation with Mr. Patterson, owner of CKCR. Discussion focused on the lack of interest in Brantford for the viability of CKCR. Mr Sandrock advised Mr Patterson that his station would be well received at the prosperous and progressive area of Kitchener - Waterloo.

Mr. Patterson agreed to move on the condition that he would secure the necessary transfer of his license and the promise of sufficient commercial programs to justify such a move. This was all done in relatively short order.

Mr. Patterson was so highly elated with the co-operation which he had received and the results obtained, that he promised Art Sandrock that anything which he might ever desire of him would be his for the asking.

Due to the nature of the business of Art Sandrock, and his contacts with people, who through illness or the infirmities of old age are deprived of the privilege of attending worship services, and also being convinced that to provide such services to the shut-in by means of the radio would be a worthy objective for the Brotherhood.

St. Matthews Brotherhood was organized October 25, 1928 with 62 members. The purpose of the Brotherhood was to bear witness to Christ in every way to all whom they could reach. This idea was brought before the executive committee of the Brotherhood and other members, and then proceeded to present it to the congregation.

The decision was made to give it a try, trusting in God to guide them in the uncertain future.

Mr. Patterson, a man of his word, broadcast the first service on Feb 23, 1930, exactly on the day on which St. Matthews' congregation was founded 26 years earlier.

For a moment let us turn back for a description of the machinery which was used to bring about this thrilling result. A few minutes before the radio broadcast began, some employees of the local station brought into the church two microphones, a quantity of wire, some batteries and a portable amplifier. The microphones, mounted on stands, were quickly set up; one on a tabouret near the pulpit, the other near the altar. Wires from these points led out to a corridor to the amplifier. From here a connection was made to a

temporary telephone line, which carried the service to the radio station in the town of Waterloo to be broadcast. Notwithstanding the hurried assembly of somewhat primitive equipment and the lack of experience in monitoring the broadcast of a Lutheran service, the first attempt was, on the whole, quite satisfactory.

For 90 years our service has been broadcast over 5 stations. 1930 – CKCR, 1960 CFCA, 1994 – WDCX Buffalo, 1997 – CKGL, 2007 - Faith FM