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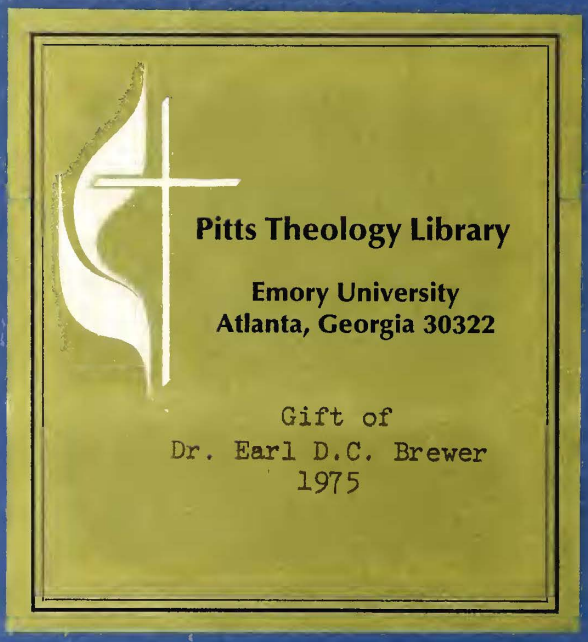
A STRATEGY FOR METHODISM

1971

ROBERT L. WILSON

J.M. ORMOND CENTER
FOR RESEARCH, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
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SURRY COUNTY A STRATEGY FOR METHODISM

At the request of the Reverend John H. Carper, Superintendent of the Winston-Salem Northeast District, and of the churches of that district located in Surry County the J. M. Ormond Center for Research, Planning and Development undertook a study of the Methodist congregations in the county. The purpose of the study was threefold; (1) To provide an overall picture of the Methodist Churches in the county. (2) To assemble information that would be helpful to specific congregations which are facing decisions in the near future and (3) To assist the local church and denominational leaders in organizing the churches of the county to minister most effectively.

The report consists of two major parts. The first section will deal with the overall trends in both the county and the churches. It will focus on some specific issues facing Methodism as a whole. It will discuss in more detail certain congregations which may be facing major decisions in the near future.

The second section of the report is an appendix which contains a series of charts on the larger congregations which provided the necessary data. These show certain information about the membership of the church, the church school enrollment and the program of regular giving.

A study of this nature can only be undertaken with the assistant of many people. The District Superintendent the Reverend John H. Carper, has been most helpful in all stages of the study. The pastors and their laymen of the churches provided much of the basic data on which this report is based. Mrs. Frances Parrish typed the report and Mr. Kenneth R. Channel prepared the charts. It is the desire of all who had a share in this study that the congregations in Surry County may find the material of value as they attempt to minister to the people for whom they have primarily responsibility.

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Surry County

Surry County is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Winston-Salem. The county is characterized by rolling hills in the eastern portion. Pilot Mountain dominates the southeastern section. The western part is more mountainous. A small segment of the Blue Ridge Parkway goes through the northwest corner.

Surry County is a center for the production of textiles and electrical appliances. A large number of electric toasters are manufactured in Mount Airy.

Surry County in 1970 had a population of 50,112. This represents a gain of 2,087 persons over the 48,205 reported in 1960. Thus the county had an increase of 4.0 percent. The county grew approximately half as fast as North Carolina which increased 8.9 percent during the decade 1960-1970.

Surry County's population is predominantly white. In 1960 only 5.8 percent of the residents of the county were non-white.

The growth which occurred in Surry County during the nineteen-sixties took place in the rural areas. Of the two larger towns, one had a slight increase in population and the other had a small loss. The largest city, Mount Airy grew from 7,055 to 7,252, a gain of 197 or 2.8 percent. Pilot Mountain decreased from 1,310 persons in 1960 to 1,274 in 1970, a loss of 36 or 2.8 percent. Elkin decreased from 2,868 to 2,752, a loss of 116 or 4.1 percent.

What apparently is happening is that a considerable number of persons are moving to the rual areas of the county. This is evident to the casual observer as one drives along the hard surface roads throughout the county. New brick suburban type homes can be noted, particularly in the southeastern part of the county and in the sections outside Mount Airy. Such development is not found on the dirt roads, except within a couple hundred yards of the intersection with a hard surfaced road.



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The persons who are making up this population increase in the rural sections of the county apparently commute to work in either one of the factories in Mount Airy or drive to Winston-Salem. The latter can be reached by a limited access highway. The increase of the rural non-farm population has significant implications for the churches located in the rural sections of this county.

Methodist Churches

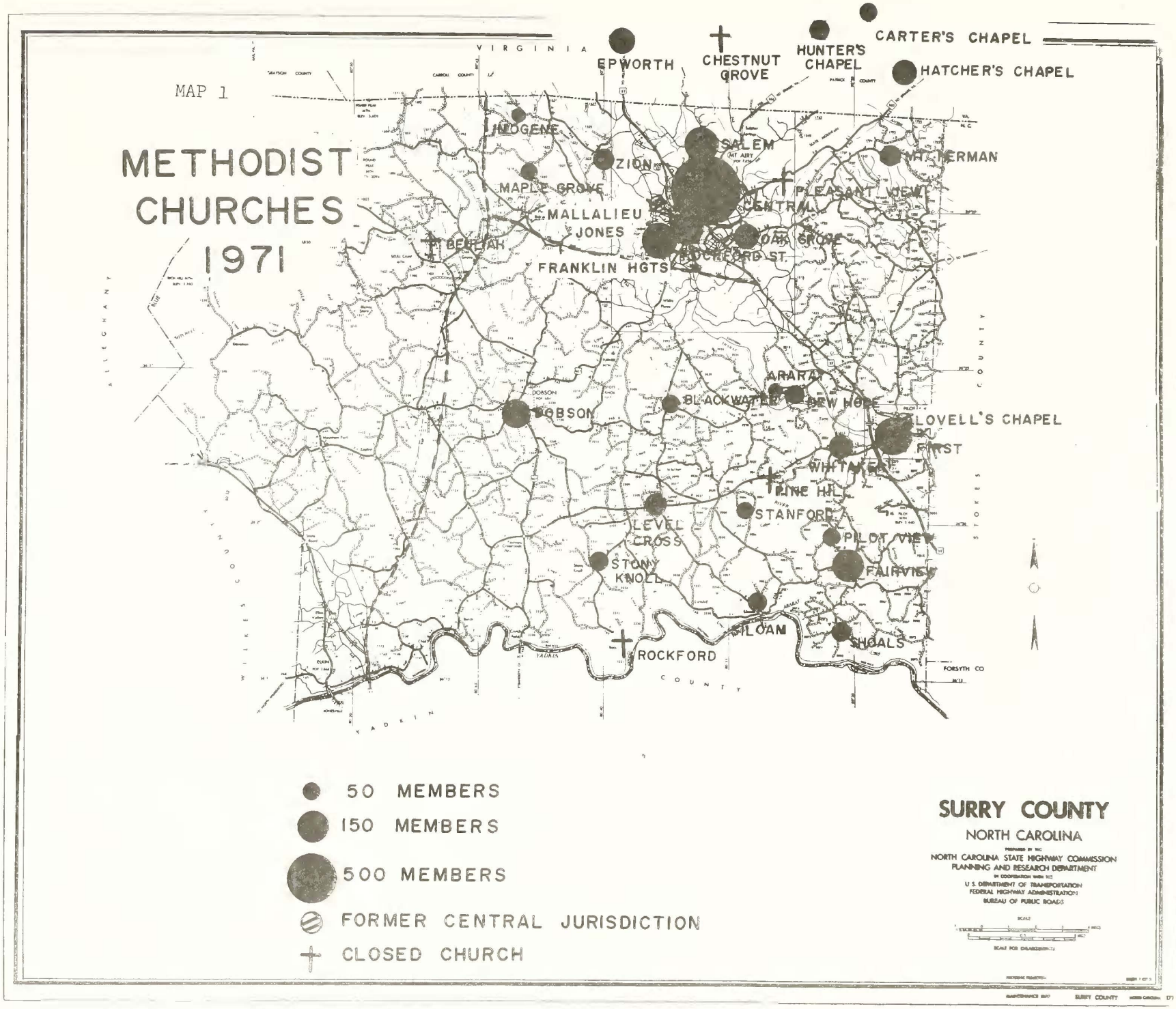
Thirty-three United Methodist Churches are included in this study. Of these five are closed or partially closed. Five are located just north of Surry County across the state line in Virginia. Six churches in the southwestern section of Surry County are in the North Wilkesboro District and are not included in this study.

Map 1, page shows the location and the relative size of each of the Methodist Churches in the study. The larger the circle representing the church, the larger is the membership. The churches indicated by a cross are those which are closed or no longer have regular worship services.

The map shows that there are two general clusters of Methodist Churches in Surry County. Thirteen congregations are located in the southeast section of the county. There are twelve churches in Mount Airy and vicinity. Dobson tends to be somewhat isolated from both of the above groups. Hunter's Chapel and Carter's Chapel in Virginia also tend to be outside the Mount Airy cluster of churches.

Church Membership Trends

In 1950 the congregations included in this study had a total of 3,111 members. In the ten year period that followed, the membership of these churches grew to 3,676, a gain of 18.1 percent. However, the next ten year period, 1960-1970, saw a membership decline to a total of 3,281 or a decrease of 10.7 percent. Thus in a twenty year period, the total Methodist membership managed to just about hold its own. The members reported in 1970 total 170


MAP 1
METHODIST CHURCHES 1971
VIRGINIA
EPWORTH
CHESTNUT GROVE
HUNTER'S CHAPEL
CARTER'S CHAPEL
HATCHER'S CHAPEL
HEDGENE
ZION
SALEM
MT. HERMAN
MAPLE GROVE
MALLALIEU
JONES
BERTHAH
FRANKLIN HGTS
PLEASANT VIEW
CENTRAL
OAK GROVE
ROCKFORD ST.
ARARAT
BLACKWATER
DEW HOPE
DOBSON
LOVELL'S CHAPEL
FIRST
WHITMIRE
PINE HILL
STANFORD
LEVEL CROSS
PILOT VIEW
STONY KNOLL
FAIRVIEW
SLOAN
SHOALS
ROCKFORD
FORSYTH CO
ALLEGHANY
WILKES COUNTY
YADKIN
COUNTY
STOKES
50 MEMBERS
150 MEMBERS
500 MEMBERS
FORMER CENTRAL JURISDICTION
CLOSED CHURCH
SURRY COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
NORTH CAROLINA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION
PLANNING AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

more than the number in 1950. Thus in twenty years Methodist Churches gained 5.5 percent.

Of the 33 congregations included in this study, five closed in the decade 1960-1970, sixteen has a loss of members and 12 gained in membership. The membership for each of the churches for the years 1950, 1960, 1970 are give on Table 1.

Of the five churches which closed, Beulah still holds a church school. There is a nucleus of people in the Rockford community who still maintain that church building.

Membership Characteristics

Each of the congregations prepared an age distribution of the church members. These data are shown graphically for a number of individual congregations in the appendix. Chart 1, page 6 shows the age distribution of the church membership and the persons enrolled in the church school program. This graph represents all of the congregations included in the study which provided the necessary data.

The church membership graph including preparatory members (baptized children) represents 3,297 persons. Of these, 55.7 percent are women and 44.3 percent are men. This chart indicates that the Methodist membership is representative of all age groups. A substantial number of members are in younger age groupings. Slightly more than one member in five (21.3 percent) is between 20 and 34 years of age. There are more persons in this age category than there are in the group 65 and over. Members 65 and over make up 15.6 percent of the total.

The graph on the right of Chart 1 shows the age-sex distribution of the persons enrolled in the church school. This chart represents 2,213 persons or 61.7 percent of the total membership. As would be expected, there are more children and youth in the church school although members of all age groups are represented.

TABLE 1
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
1950-1960-1970

CHURCH	1950	1960	1970
Ararat	92	64	30
Beulah	52	39	closed
Blackwater	81	80	59
Carter Chapel (Va.)	39	48	52
Central (Mt. Airy)	714	725	816
Chestnut Grove (Va.)	44	50	closed
Dobson	119	189	136
Epworth (Va.)	150	127	96
Fairview	94	131	159
First (Pilot Mt.)	190	245	248
Franklin Heights	98	156	219
Hatcher's Chapel (Va.)	65	44	60
Hunter's Chapel (Va.)	80	55	67
Imogene	27	39	30
Mallalieu Jones	-	79	56
Level Cross	59	79	89
Lovell's Chapel (Pilot Mt.)	-	75	55
Maple Grove	34	44	36
Mt. Herman	74	48	59
New Hope	54	73	48
Oak Grove	115	130	119
Pilotview	100	55	40
Pine Hall	38	58	closed
Pleasant View	37	19	closed
Rockford	67	74	closed
Rockford Street (Mt. Airy)	166	311	180
Salem	170	220	217
Shoals	100	76	50
Siloam	58	83	56
Stanford	19	34	34
Stony Knoll	82	95	72
Whitaker	30	67	81
Zion	64	64	69

CHART 1

TOTAL METHODIST MEMBERSHIP
Surry County, N. C.
1970

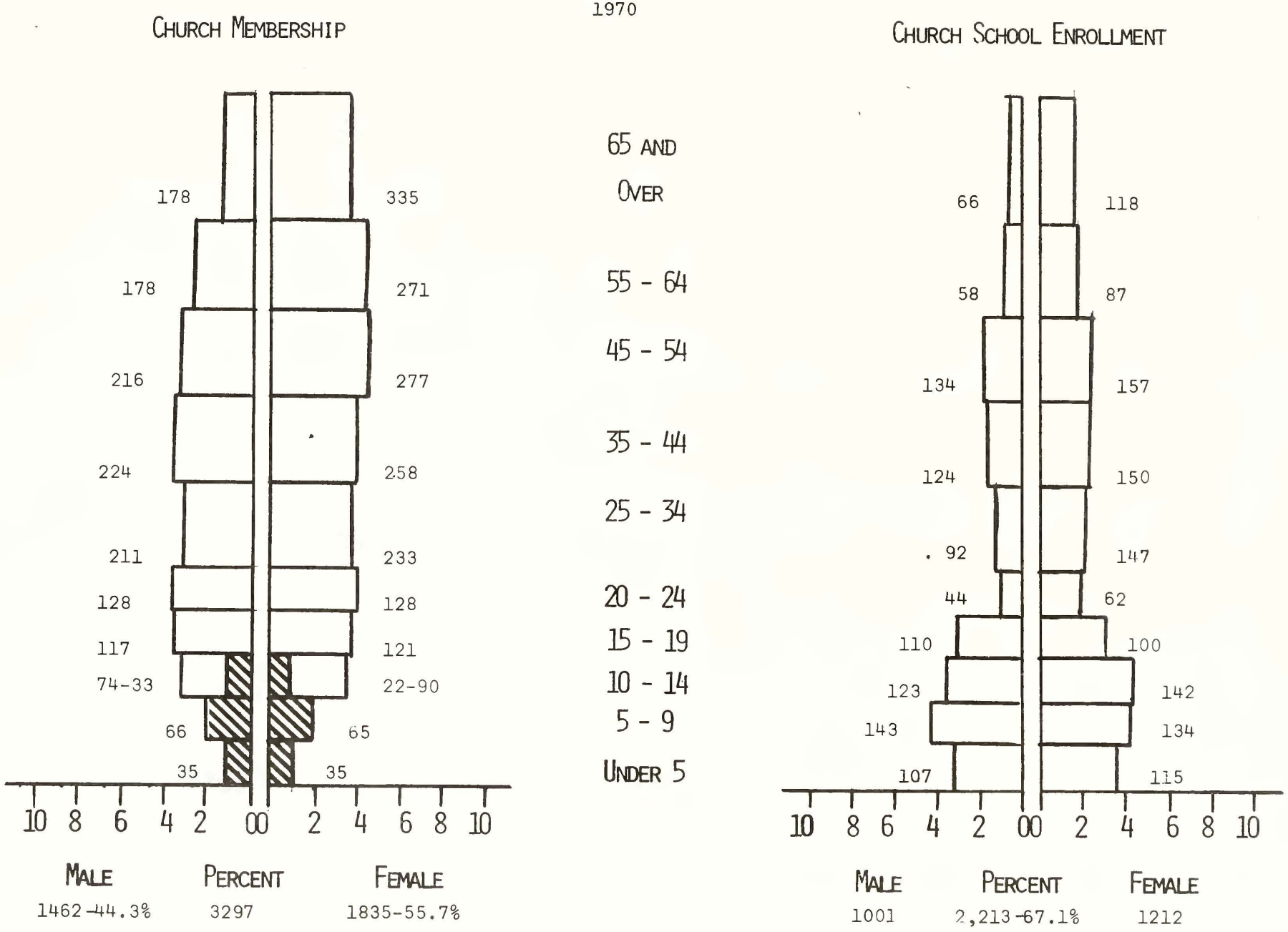


TABLE 2
METHODIST MEMBERSHIP
AGE DISTRIBUTION BY PERCENT
1970

CHURCH	Under 35	35-44	55 & Over	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
Ararat	20.0	13.3	55.7	30
Blackwater	27.1	50.9	22.0	59
Central (Mt. Airy)	41.6	27.9	30.5	690
Dobson	44.4	28.2	27.3	153
Epworth (Va.)	21.4	37.8	40.8	98
Fairview	53.7	26.9	19.4	175
First (Pilot Mt.)	47.9	24.6	27.5	265
Franklin Heights	25.0	37.8	37.2	220
Hatcher's Chapel (Va.)	44.8	17.3	37.9	66
Imogene	41.7	25.0	33.3	36
Level Cross	27.0	42.7	30.3	89
Lovell's Chapel (Pilot Mt.)	52.9	22.4	24.7	85
Mallalieu Jones	31.8	28.9	39.3	66
Maple Grove	32.5	35.0	32.5	40
Mt. Herman	28.3	31.7	40.0	60
New Hope	34.8	47.8	17.4	46
Oak Grove	33.8	33.1	33.1	106
Pilotview	31.0	38.0	31.0	42
Rockford Street (Mt. Airy)	29.8	38.9	31.3	131
Salem	45.4	23.6	31.0	225
Shoals	26.5	42.9	30.6	49
Siloam	44.0	34.0	22.0	59
Stanford	40.0	33.3	26.7	30
Stony Knoll	38.3	24.7	37.0	73
Whitaker	49.0	35.0	16.0	88
Zion	35.5	30.5	34.0	59

The age distribution of each of the churches is shown on Table 2, page 8 . On this table the percentage of the membership is given for three age groupings: under 35, 35-54, and 55 and over. A study of this table will indicate that there is a large proportion of young adults in many of the smaller rural congregations. In only one congregation is more than half of the members 55 years of age and older. In contrast there are fifteen churches with more than one-third of the members under 35 years of age. These include some of the small rural congregations.

TABLE 3
METHODIST MEMBERSHIP
PROPORTION MEN AND WOMEN
1970

CHURCH	MEN		WOMEN	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Ararat	11	36.7	19	63.3
Blackwater	21	35.6	38	64.4
Central (Mt. Airy)	322	46.7	368	53.3
Dobson	74	48.4	79	51.6
Epworth (Va.)	37	37.8	61	62.2
Fairview	72	41.1	103	58.9
First (Pilot Mt.)	127	47.9	138	52.1
Franklin Heights	102	46.4	118	53.6
Hatcher's Chapel (Va.)	22	37.9	36	62.1
Imogene	15	41.7	21	58.3
Level Cross	32	36.0	57	64.0
Lovell's Chapel (Pilot Mt.)	35	41.2	50	58.8
Mallalieu Jones	22	33.3	44	66.6
Maple Grove	18	45.0	22	55.0
Mt. Hermon	16	26.7	44	73.3
New Hope	24	52.2	22	47.8
Oak Grove	42	39.6	64	60.4
Pilotview	18	42.9	24	57.1
Rockford Street (Mr. Airy)	52	39.7	79	60.3
Salem	87	38.7	138	61.3
Shoals	23	46.9	26	53.1
Siloam	27	45.8	32	54.2
Stanford	15	50.0	15	50.0
Stony Knoll	30	41.1	43	58.9
Whitaker	46	52.3	42	47.7
Zion	29	49.2	30	50.8

The proportion of men and women in the church membership is given for each of the congregations on Table 3 above. This table shows that with only one exception, women outnumber the men in every congregation. Women tend to outnumber men in the total population. However, there are proportionally more women in the church membership than in the total population.

TABLE 4
CHURCH SCHOOL AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
1960-1970

CHURCH	1960	1970
Ararat	14	12
Beulah	34	closed
Blackwater	64	35
Carters Chapel (Va.)	39	30
Central (Mt. Airy)	240	405
Chestnut Grove (Va.)	30	closed
Dobson	73	125
Epworth (Va.)	60	33
Fairview	101	91
First (Pilot Mt.)	96	65
Franklin Heights	83	92
Hatcher's Chapel (Va.)	35	36
Hunter's Chapel (Va.)	24	13
Imogene	26	22
Mallalieu Jones	30	21
Level Cross (Pilot Mt.)	56	50
Lovell's Chapel	73	65
Maple Grove	35	29
Mt. Herman	33	33
New Hope	36	45
Oak Grove	40	37
Pilotview	20	16
Pine Hall	35	closed
Pleasant View	27	closed
Rockford	20	closed
Rockford Street (Mt. Airy)	106	85
Salem	82	81
Shoals	35	37
Siloam	35	40
Stanford	25	24
Stony Knoll	60	60
Whitaker	53	45
Zion	23	4

Church School

Of the 33 churches which were operating ten years ago, twenty had a church school average attendance smaller in 1970 than in 1960. When it is remembered that five churches closed during the decade, only eight congregations had a gain in church school average attendance.

As a whole the churches in the study showed a decrease in church school average attendance. In 1960 the average attendance was 1,743; ten years later it was 1,636. This represents a decline of 107 or -6.1 percent.

TABLE 5
CHURCH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
As Percentage
OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
1970

CHURCH	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	CHURCH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	PERCENT OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
Ararat	30	14	46.7
Blackwater	59	71	120.3
Central (Mt. Airy)	690	375	54.3
Dobson	153	71	46.4
Epworth (Va.)	98	67	68.4
Fairview	175	146	83.4
First (Pilot Mt.)	265	110	41.5
Franklin Heights	220	135	61.4
Hatcher's Chapel (Va.)	58	44	75.9
Imogene	36	46	127.8
Level Cross	89	88	98.9
Lovell's Chapel (Pilot Mt.)	85	68	80.0
Mallalieu Jones	66	41	62.1
Maple Grove	40	38	95.0
Mount Herman	60	69	115.0
New Hope	46	53	115.2
Oak Grove	106	59	55.7
Pilotview	42	37	88.1
Rockford Street (Mt. Airy)	131	51	38.9
Salem	225	127	56.4
Shoals	49	41	84.7
Siloam	59	51	86.4
Stanford	30	54	180.0
Stony Knoll	73	61	83.6
Whitaker's	88	89	98.9
Zion	59	34	57.6

Many of the church schools are small. Six of the 28 churches have fewer than 25 in attendance while eight others have between 25 and 40 persons. Only two reported an average attendance of more than 100 persons. These data for each church are shown on Table 4, page 10.

The church school enrollment as a percentage of the church membership is shown on Table 5 above. Five churches report that the church school enrollment is larger than the church membership. The majority of the churches report an enrollment between 60 and 100 percent of the total church membership.

TABLE 6
CHURCH MEMBERS
DISTANCE FROM CHURCH

MILES

	Less than 1	1-2	2-3	3-5	Over 5	Non-Resident	TOTAL
Number	1,146	675	287	252	150	506	3,016
Percent	38.0	22.4	9.5	8.4	5.0	16.8	100.0

TABLE 7
CHURCH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT
DISTANCE FROM CHURCH

MILES

	Less than 1	1-2	2-3	3-5	Over 5	Non-Resident	TOTAL
Number	900	446	253	222	100	27	1,948
Percent	46.2	22.9	13.0	11.4	5.1	1.4	100

Membership and Church School Distribution

Each church was asked to prepare a map showing the location of the residence of each member and person enrolled in the church school. The summary figures are shown in Table 6 and 7.

These tables show a most significant finding. The majority of the members live close to the church they attend. Two out of five members (38.0 percent) live within a mile. Three out of five (60.4 percent) live within two miles.

The church school enrollment shows a similar pattern. There are 46.2 percent of this group living within a mile and 69.1 percent living within two miles.

TABLE 8
CHURCH MEMBERS
DISTANCE FROM CHURCH

CHURCH	LESS THAN 2 MILES	2 - 4 MILES	OVER 4 MILES	NON-RESIDENT	TOTAL
Ararat	15	2	3	10	30
Blackwater	31	6	5	17	59
Central (Mt. Airy)	628	58	2	163	847
Dobson	96	10	39	-	145
Epworth (Va.)	35	25	16	26	98
Fairview	84	25	16	33	158
First (Pilot Mt.)	146	22	21	57	246
Franklin Heights	135	55	17	10	217
Hatcher's Chapel (Va.)	37	-	4	17	58
Imogene	10	12	11	3	36
Level Cross	24	40	12	13	89
Lovell's Chapel (Pilot Mt.)	56	-	-	-	56
Mallalieu Jones	27	15	14	-	56
Maple Grove	13	11	3	9	36
Mount Herman	43	6	3	8	60
New Hope	14	18	3	11	46
Oak Grove	60	17	4	25	106
Pilotview	18	5	5	17	43
Rockford Street (Mr. Airy)	45	14	8	-	67
Salem	127	49	9	30	215
Shoals	23	1	5	20	49
Siloam	28	16	-	11	55
Stanford	13	2	7	8	30
Stony Knoll	47	5	16	-	68
Whitaker's	33	28	16	8	85
Zion	35	8	6	10	59

Table 8 above gives the church membership distribution for each congregation. While there is some variation between churches, the same overall pattern can be noted.

These findings are extremely significant. They indicate that the individual congregations are closely tied to the community in which they are located. They tend to be neighborhood institutions. It will mean that much of the church planning by both local church leaders and denominational officials will have to begin with the fact that the churches are closely tied to their local neighborhoods.

TABLE 9
DISTANCE FROM CHURCH
CHURCH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

CHURCH	LESS THAN 2 MILES	2 - 4 MILES	OVER 4 MILES	NON-RESIDENT	TOTAL
Ararat	14	-	-		14
Blackwater	50	12	9	-	71
Central (Mt. Airy)	334	24	5	-	363
Dobson	52	4	1	-	57
Epworth (Va.)	38	24	14	-	66
Fairview	78	44	20	4	146
First (Pilot Mt.)	82	12	16	-	110
Franklin Heights	67	23	1	-	130
Hatcher's Chapel (Va.)	46	5	3	-	54
Imogene	12	28	6	-	88
Level Cross	24	40	11	13	88
Lovell's Chapel (Pilot Mit)	68	-	-	-	68
Mallalieu Jones	25	-	5	-	30
Maple Grove	19	17	3	-	39
Mount Herman	58	8	3	-	69
New Hope	26	18	-	9	53
Oak Grove	41	17	1	-	59
Pilotview	-	-	-	-	-
Rockford Street (Mt. Airy)	22	16	9	-	47
Salem	87	26	9	8	130
Shoals	37	-	4	-	41
Siloam	25	23	3	-	51
Stanford	21	15	21	-	57
Stony Knoll	34	5	3		42
Whitaker's	37	30	20	2	89
Zion	20	4	5	-	29

Table 9 above gives the geographical distribution of church school enrollment. These tables show a pattern similar to that of the church membership except that there are virtually no non-residents carried as enrollees in the church school. In contrast virtually all the congregations have some non-resident church members.

Analyses of Regular Giving

Data on the regular giving to the churches in the study are shown on Charts 2 and 3. The graph on the left of Chart 2 shows the proportion of members in each age group who pledge or give regularly to the budget of their local church. Pledges are made by 1,458 church members. This represents less than half (44.2 percent) of the total number of members. When a pledge is made by a husband and wife both are counted in their proper age category.

The proportion of pledgers is less in the age groupings under 35 than in those over 35. However, a substantial proportion of members in each age group do not pledge or give regularly. While some of these no doubt contribute, many probably do not. This should be a matter of concern to those congregational leaders who have responsibility for church finance.

The graph on the right side of Chart 1 shows the amount contributed by members in each age group. A relatively small proportion of the total comes from person under 35. Of the $138,308 contributed annually, 59.7 percent is donated by women and 40.3 percent by men. When a pledge represents both a husband and wife one half of the amount is credit to each.

Chart 3 shows the number and amount of pledges. The total include joint husband-wife pledges as one. The figures differ from Chart 2 because some churches did not provide complete data.

The largest number of pledges (173) are for $26.00 per year or less ($0.50 per week). The next largest number of pledges (112) were in the $260.01 to $520.00 per year ($5.00 to $10.00 per week). The average pledge was $208.85 per year or $4.02 per week.

CHART 2
ANALYSES OF REGULAR GIVING

Surry County, N. C.
1970

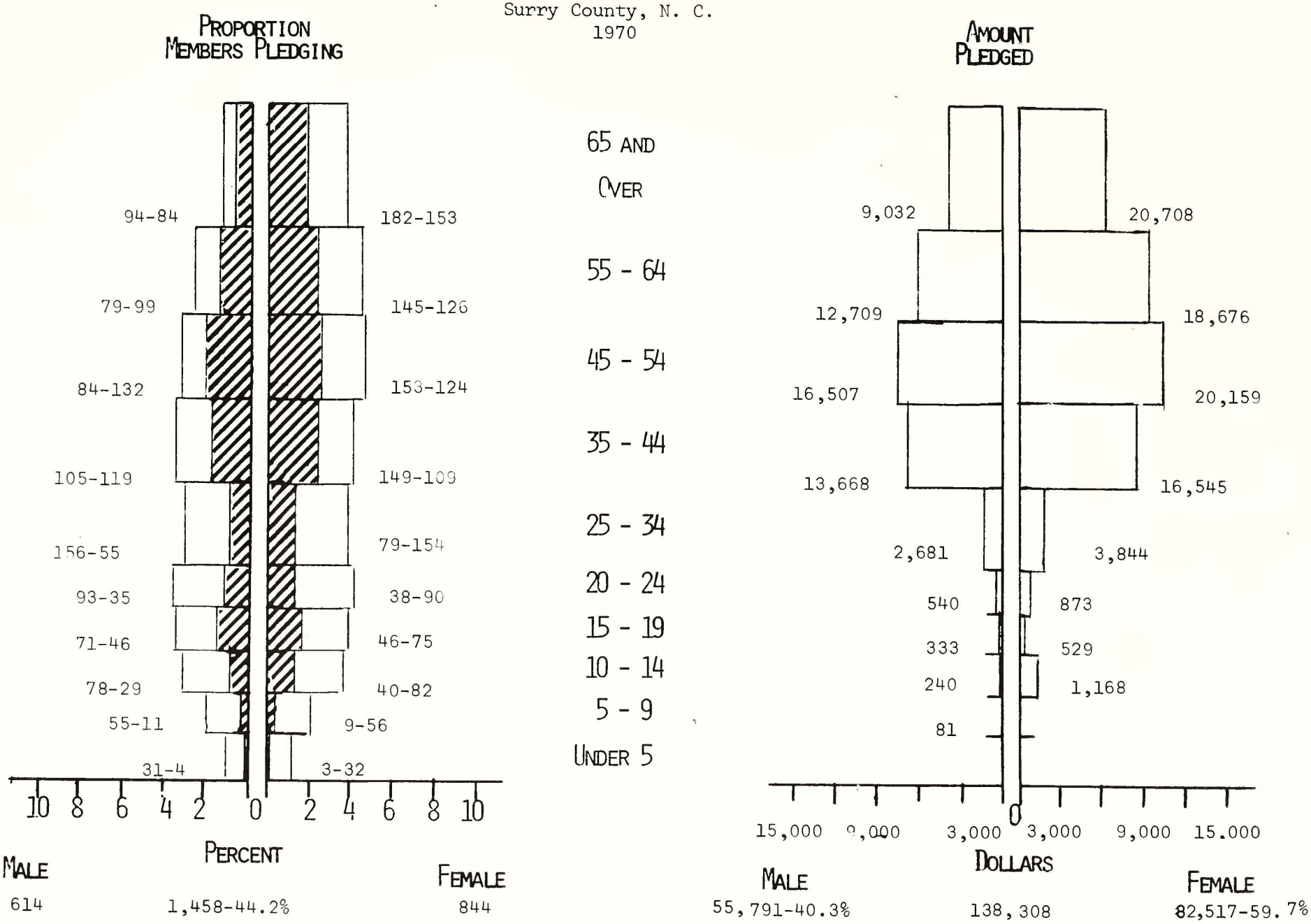
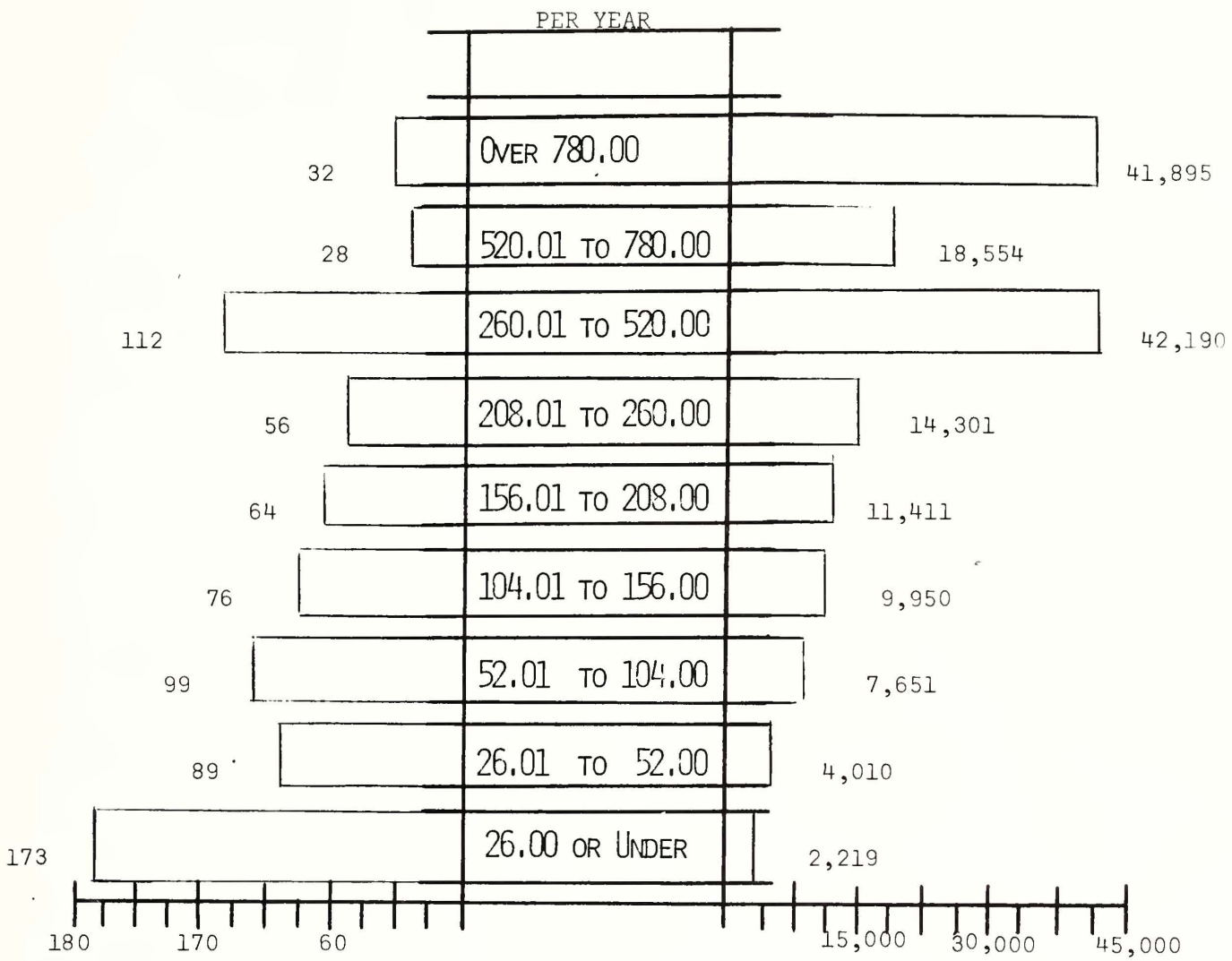


CHART 3

TOTAL PLEDGES
Surry County, N. C.
1970



TOTAL	729	152,181

TABLE 10
PASTORS' SALARY SUBSIDY

1970-1971

MEMBERSHIP	MINIMUM SALARY	SALARY	TOTAL
280	$ 1,256	$ 4,354	$ 5,610
281	300	5,500	5,800
160	2,760	4,440	7,200
251	1,100	6,300	7,400
243	700	6,000	6,700
206	3,350	2,450	5,800
165	3,864	1,736	5,600
1,586	$ 13,330	$30,780	$44,110

7 charges 22 churches

Pastor's Salary Subsidy

During the year 1970-71 a total of $13,330 in salary subsidy was provided to seven charges in Surry County. These seven charges are made up of 22 churches. The churches contributed $30,780 towards the support of the pastor Therefore 30.2 percent of the amount paid the ministers of these seven charges came from outside sources. These data are shown on Table 10.

Implications for Methodist Strategy

The preceding data have implications for Methodist strategy in Surry County. These will be presented in this section of the report.

1. The churches apparently are very much community centered institutions. The vast majority of the members live within a relatively short distance of their church. Relatively few persons drive more than three or four miles to church.

This fact would seem to indicate that the local church is very much a part of the community where the members live. It means that any denominational strategy will have to begin with the assumption that most of the congregations currently in operation will continue to exist. There may be one or two instances where two or more churches serving the same community might wish to merge. However, Methodist leaders must make their plans based on the presupposition that most congregations will continue to function.

2. The apparent growth of the rural non-farm population has important implications for the churches. The person who builds a new home in rural Surry County is consciously electing to live in a relatively small rural community. Thus the family which selects the rural community as the place in which to build a home may also prefer the style of church located there. Such persons find it necessary to drive into the city to work and to shop. They obviously do not wish to live in the town or city. Because they must go into town during the week they may prefer not doing so on Sunday. Hence they may attend the church in the local community.

3. There may be new community centers developing in the rural areas of Surry County. There is some evidence that the villages which once used to be centers of activity in the county will not benefit greatly from the growing population. The new houses are being built not in the hamlets but rather out in the more rural areas.

Some villages show obvious signs of decline which will tend not to attract residents. The hamlet is no longer a trading center or a stop on the railroad. Thus the church located in the village will not have an advantage but may be actually at a disadvantage. In the developing rural communities, activities will not center around the village businesses but rather around such community institutions as schools and churches. These may or may not be located in the village.

4. The large number of young adults in the small rural churches indicates that the congregations are not dying but recycling. Younger persons are replacing older members who die or move away. Thus while the membership of many is not growing in size, it may be growing younger. This fact not only has implications for the continued existance of the churches, it has great significance for the type of program which the congregation will need. Local church leaders need to ask themselves whether the activities being carried out really are designed to serve the present and potential members.

5. There must be serious consideration given to the way the Methodist Churches are organized into circuits. The traditional pattern has been for two or more churches to share a pastor with each congregation carrying a share of the salary. The problem in Surry County is that many of the churches are of such a size that a circuit of three or four churches cannot afford to pay the minister an adequate salary. This has resulted in over thirteen thousand dollars in salary subsidy being required annually. There is doubt as to whether this amount of money will be available for the indefinite future. Furthermore, there is some question concerning whether one man dividing his time between four small congregations can with the limited resources of each provide the well-rounded church program which the members need and deserve.

Churches in rural areas have been organized in a variety of ways. One possible method which might be desirable in Surry County would be to group a number of churches together in a kind of parish served by a staff. The parish would be based on the assumption that there would be regularly scheduled worship services and church school classes in each of the churches. The churches would be served by a staff of persons both clergy and lay. One pastor would be in charge. The other persons on the staff would be responsible for certain aspects of the church program such as education, music, youth work, etc. Thus the individual congregation would share in those activities which were made possible by being part of a larger group but still retain the local church as an institution in their community.

No plan or organization is without some dissadvantages. The local church would be sharing in the services of a staff rather than having one person be their pastor. What is apparent is that the present system probably can neither long endure nor provide the kind of services needed. Some new methods will have to be tried. Some of these will be successful, others will not. A continuing ministry will make embarking on an untried course necessary.

Some Next Steps

In the final analysis a research report can only give certain information to the leaders of the local church and the district. It can present trends and possible courses of action. The decision to act or not to act ultimately rests with each congregation.

Changes are taking place in Surry County. The United Methodist Churches located there are facing unique opportunities for service in the period immediately ahead. The population is growing. There are a considerable proportion of younger persons in the church membership. The churches are so located that virtually no one living in the county is very far from a Methodist Church. And finally most of the church buildings are in good

repair and adequate for whatever activities are desired.

Every congregation should carefully look at its program and its community. It should seek answers to such questions as: What changes are taking place in the community which this church serves? What are the needs of the community? What should the church be doing to meet these needs? How well is our church ministering to its members and to others in our community? What activities need to be discontinued? What new programs should be initiated? What needed programs can we carry out only by cooperating with other congregations? What is required of the congregation in this day-the day for which it has responsibility?

APPENDIX

The appendix consists of a series of charts on some of the larger churches in the study. Charts are only included on churches with a membership of approximately 100 or more. Congregations with small membership are not included because the chance variation produced by small numbers makes the chart invalid.

Three charts are included for each church which provided the data. The first chart shows the age and sex distribution of the church members and the persons enrolled in the church school. The membership is shown by the graph on the left and the church school enrollment by the graph on the right. Men are shown to the left of the center line and women to the right. The proportion of persons in each age grouping is shown by the area of the bar. The shaded section in the younger age groupings of the church membership chart shows the preparatory members (baptized childrens who have not yet been received into full membership).

The church school enrollment graph is figured against the total church membership. This is to show the proportion of church members who are in the church school program. The numbers at the end of each age grouping represent the actual number of persons which that bar represents.

The second chart entitled "Financial Analysis" gives data on pledging and regular giving to the church budget. The chart on the left represents the total church membership (the same as on the first chart). The shaded portion represents those church members who pledge or give regularly. The numbers at the end of each bar indicates the actual numbers of persons represented by the graph. When a pledge is given by both a husband and wife, both are showns in the proper age category.

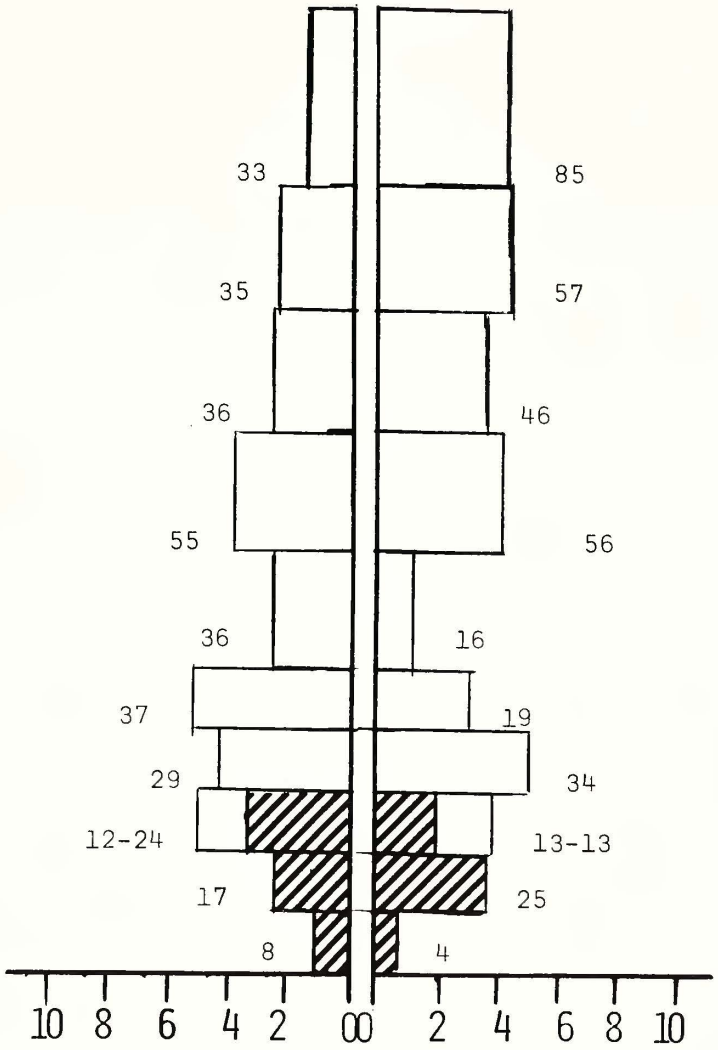
The chart on the right shows the amount of money which the pledges produce. If a pledge is made jointly by husband and wife, the amount of the pledge is divided in half. One-half is credited to the husband and the other half is credited to the wife.

By studying these charts one can see whether members in all age groupings are pledging to the church. It is also possible to note which age groupings are providing the major source of funds for the support of the church budget.

The third chart on each church shows the number and amount of pledges. In this case the pledges are treated as a unit even though they may be jointly made by the husband and wife. The bar to the left shows the numbers of pledges in the various amount categories ranging from $26 per year (50¢ per week) to over $780 per year (more than $15 per week).

Mt. Airy, North Carolina
1970

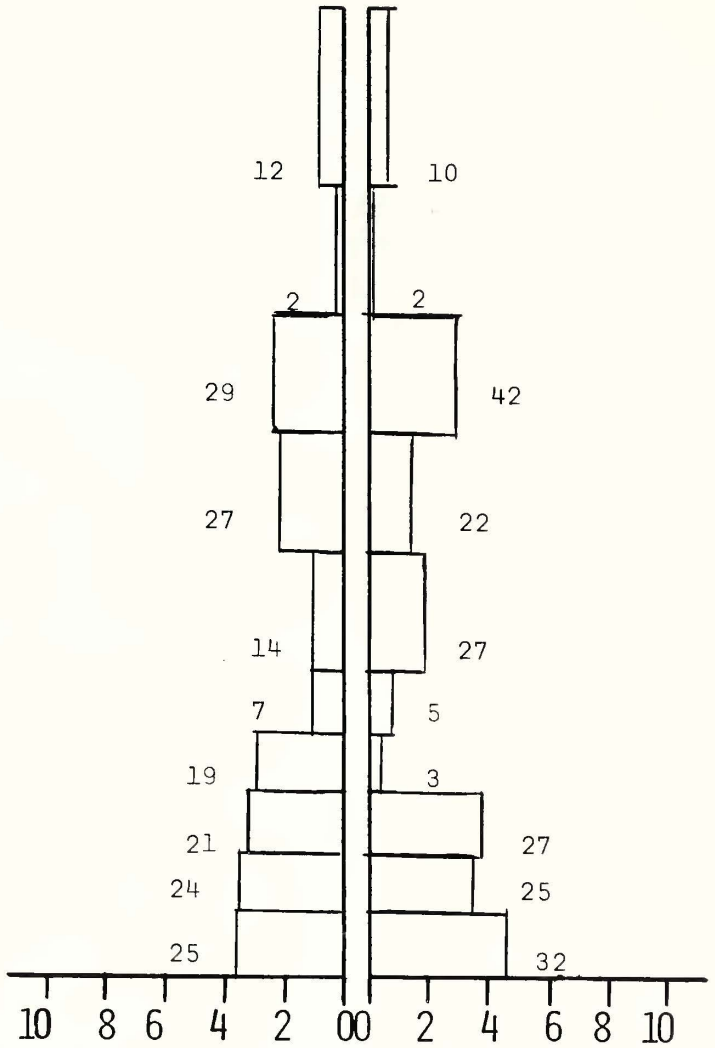
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
322-46.7%	690	368-53.3%

65 AND OVER
55 - 64
45 - 54
35 - 44
25 - 34
20 - 24
15 - 19
10 - 14
5 - 9
UNDER 5

CHURCH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
180	375-54.3%	195

CHART A-2

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL ANALYSIS
1970

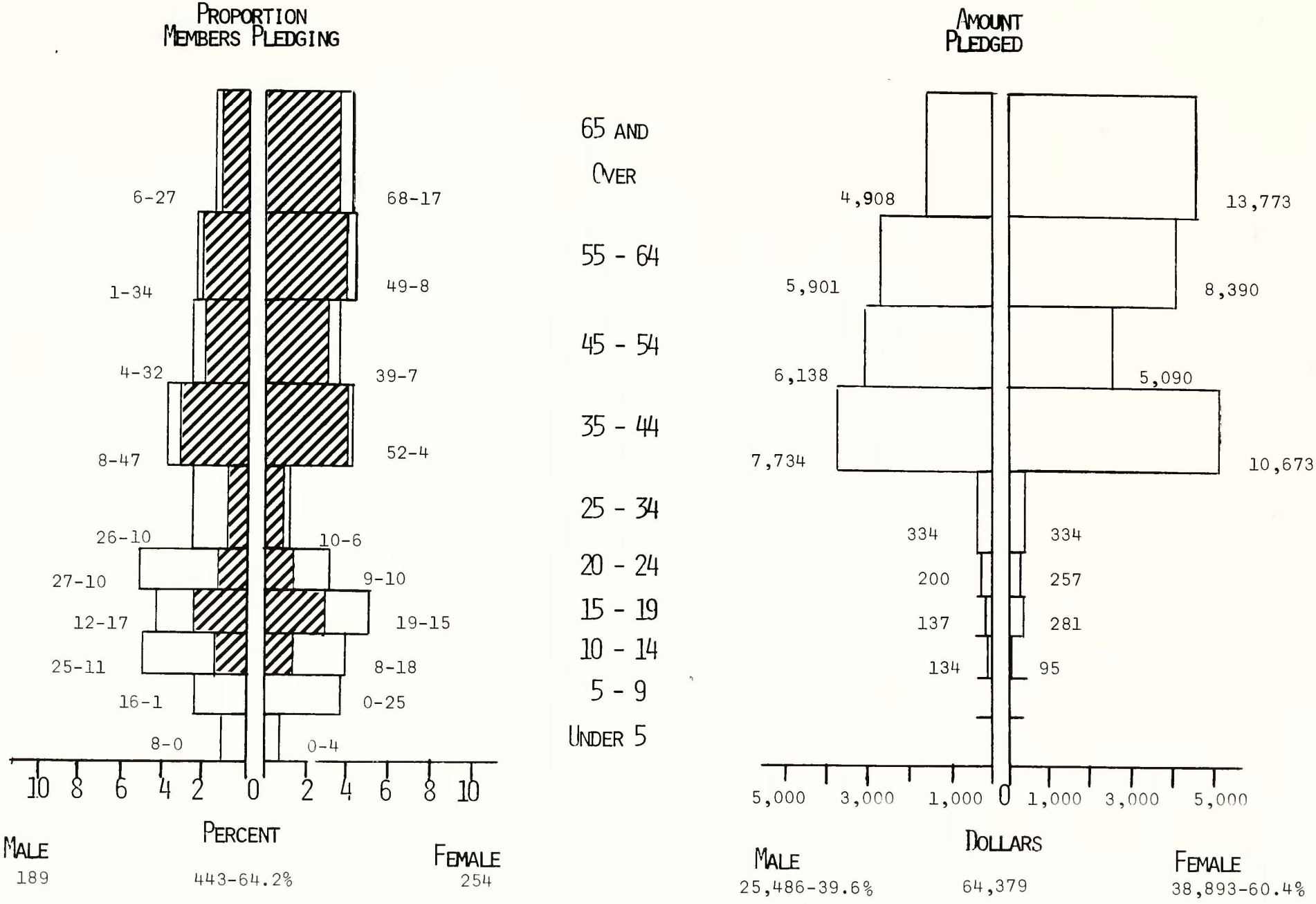
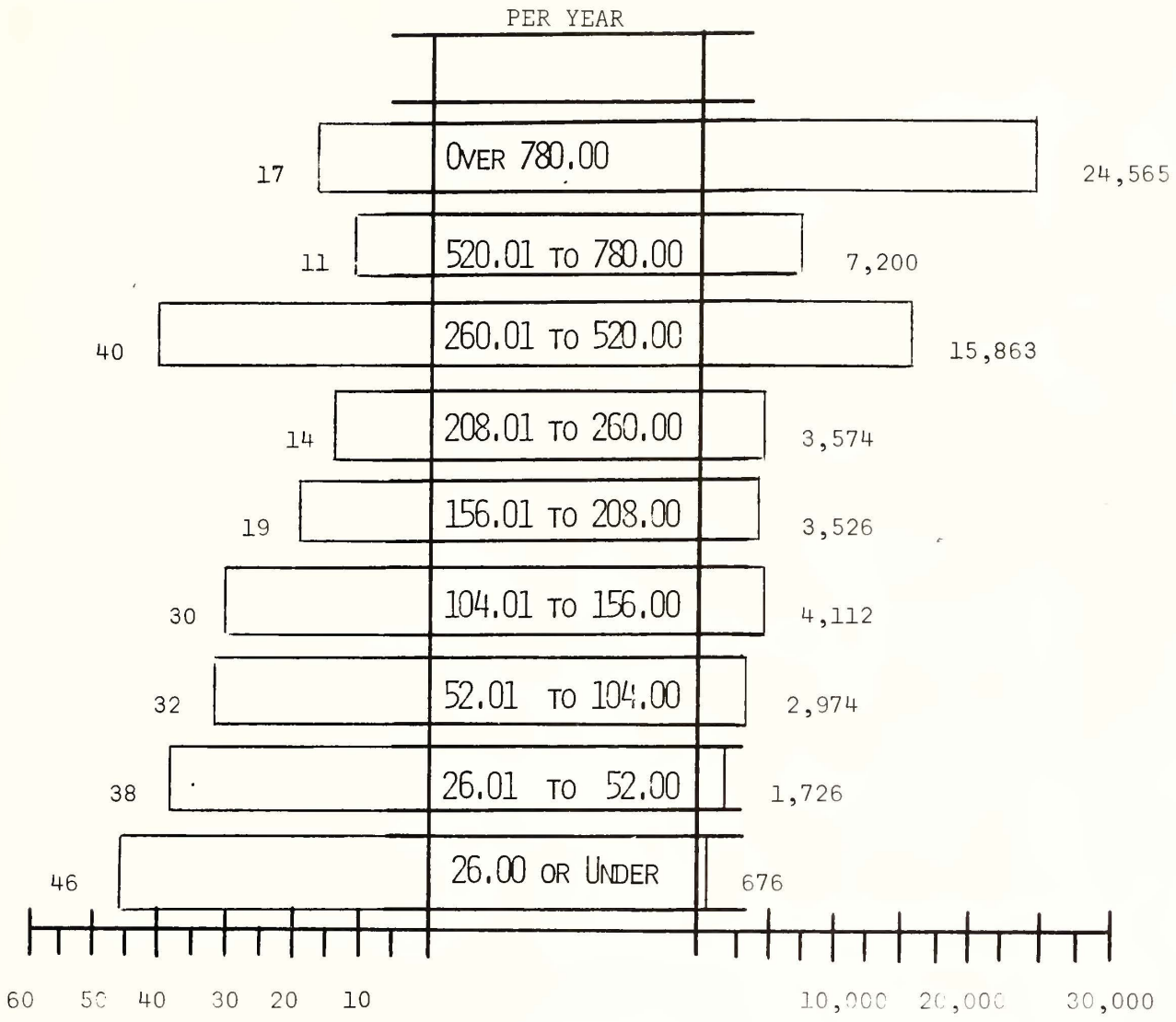


CHART A-3

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1970



TOTAL	247	64,216

CHART A-4

DOBSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Dobson, N. C.
MEMBERSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL ANALYSIS
1970

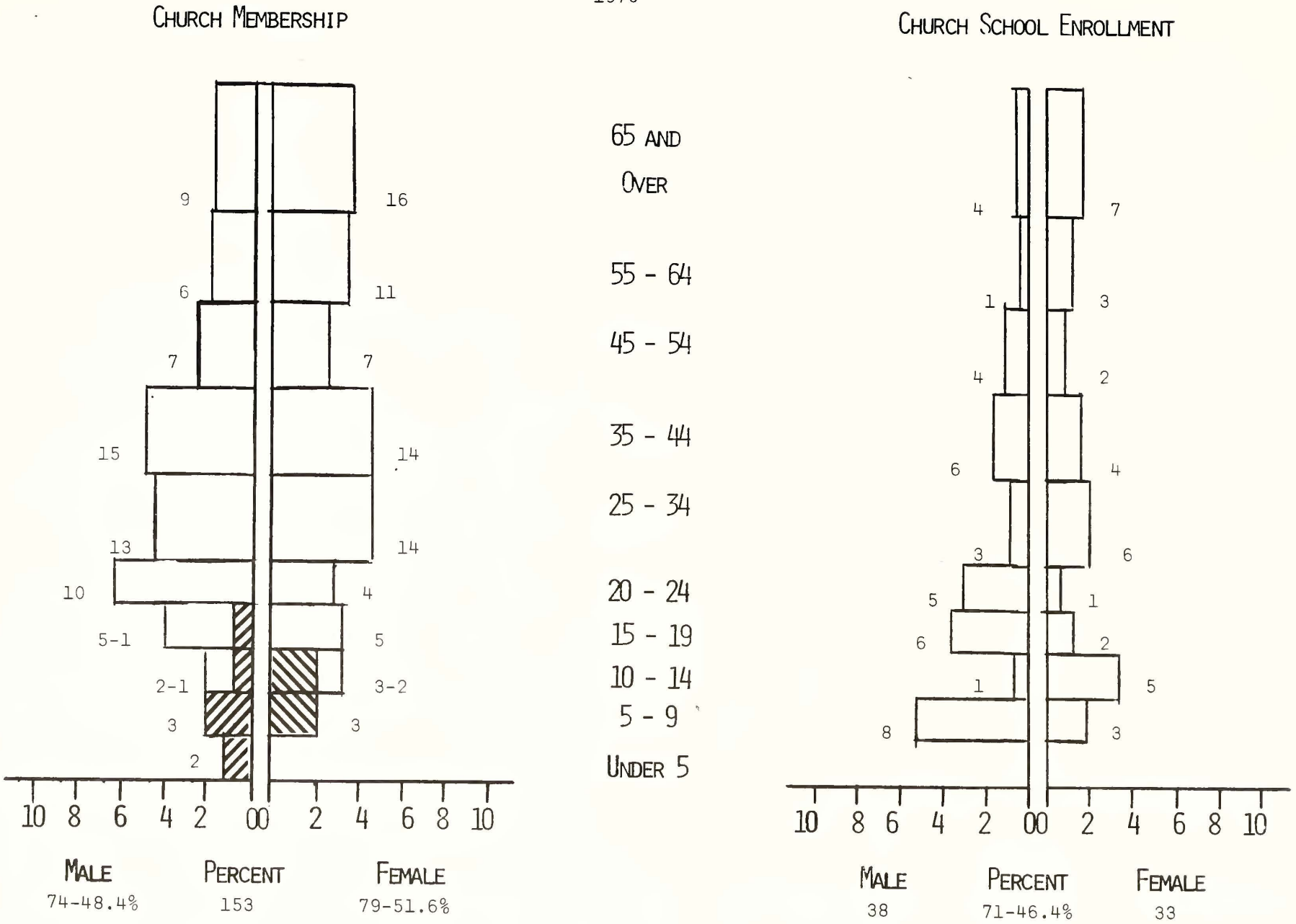


CHART A-5
DOBSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL ANALYSIS
1970

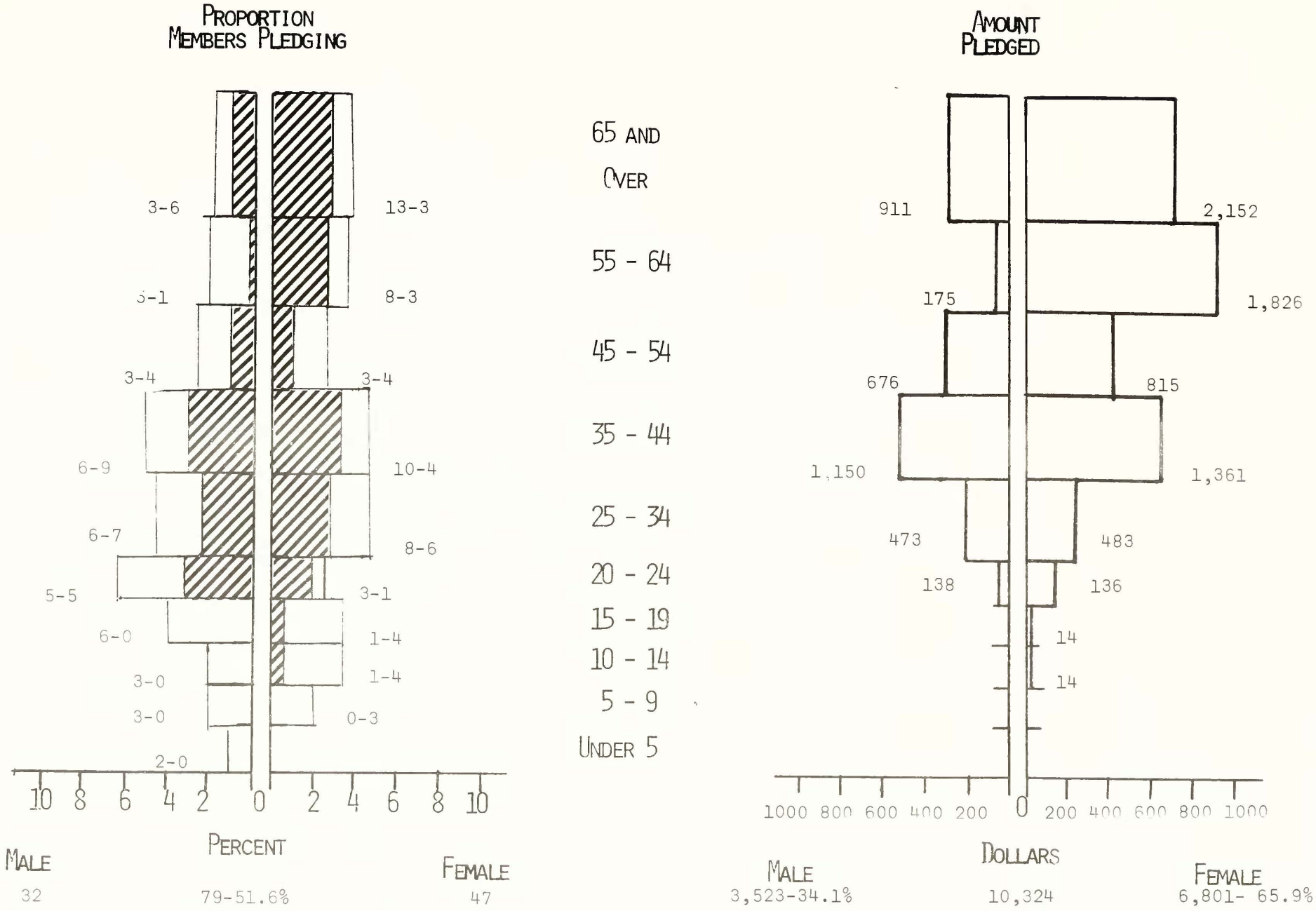
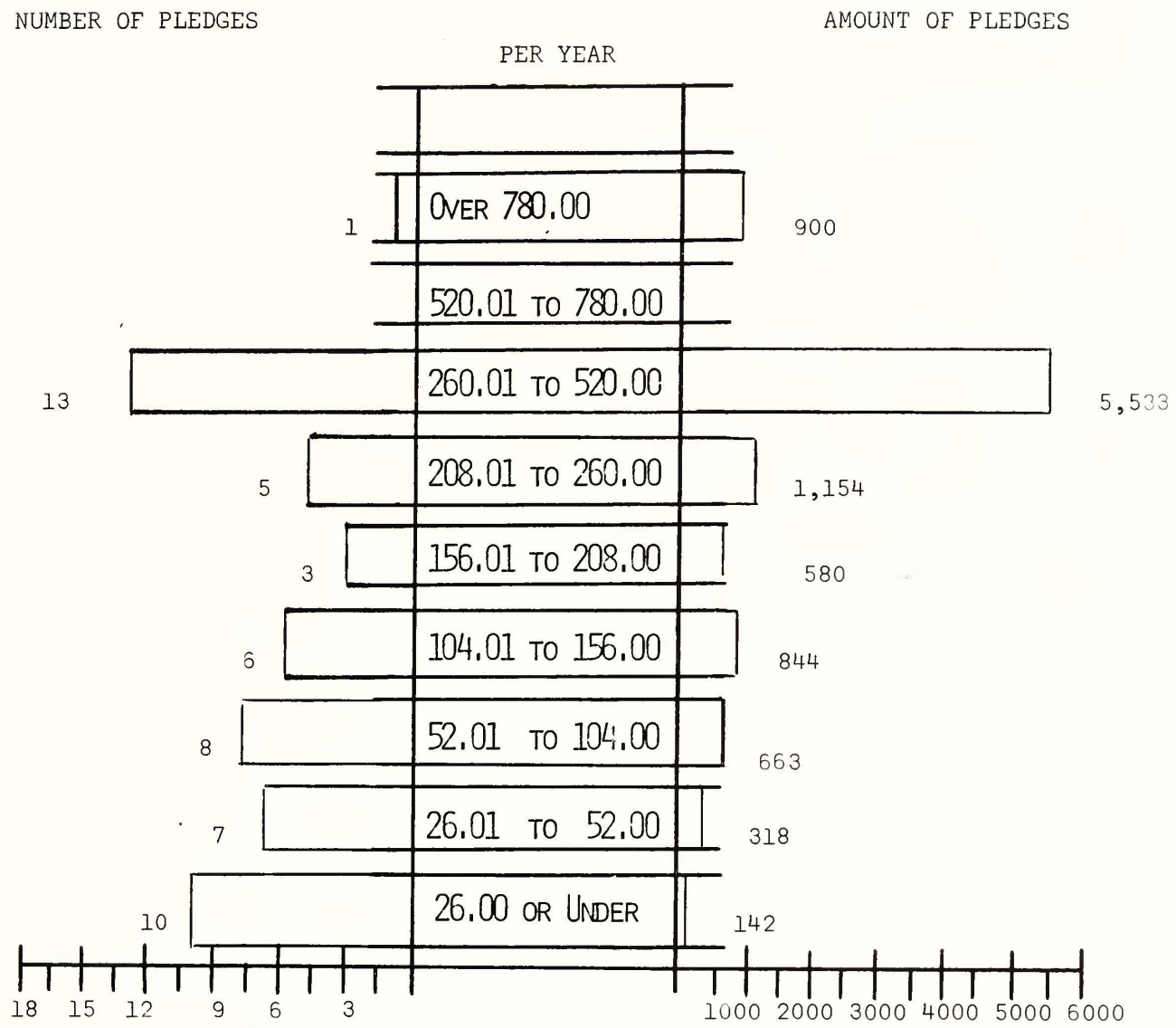


CHART A-6

DOBSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1970

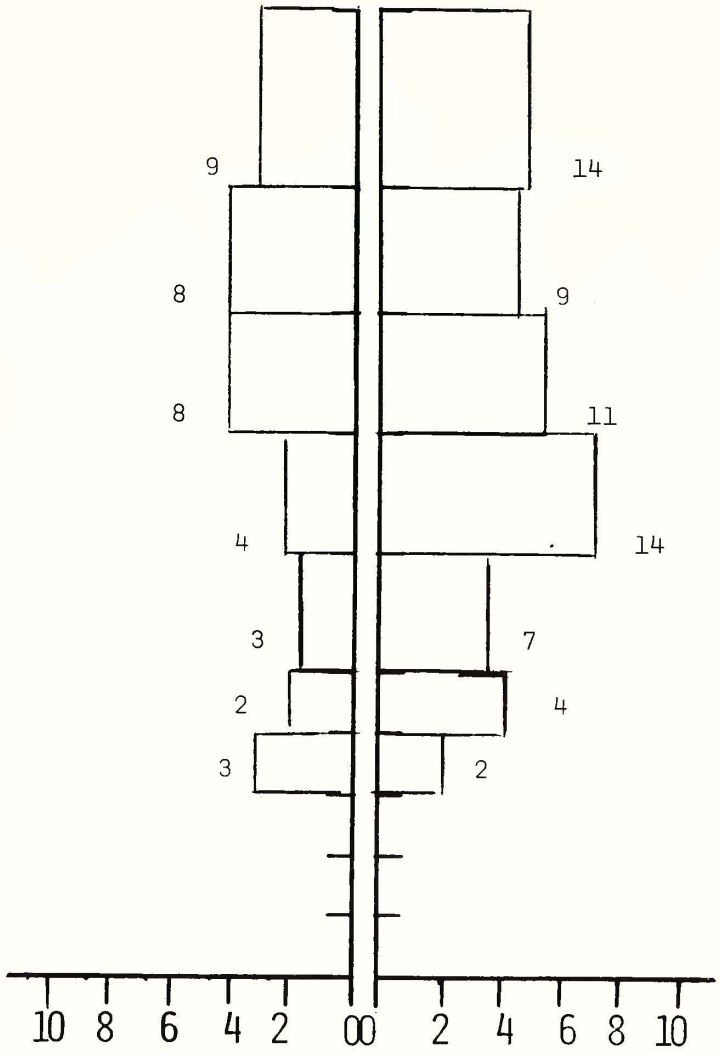


TOTAL	53	10,104

CHART A-7

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Cona, Virginia
MEMBERSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL ANALYSIS

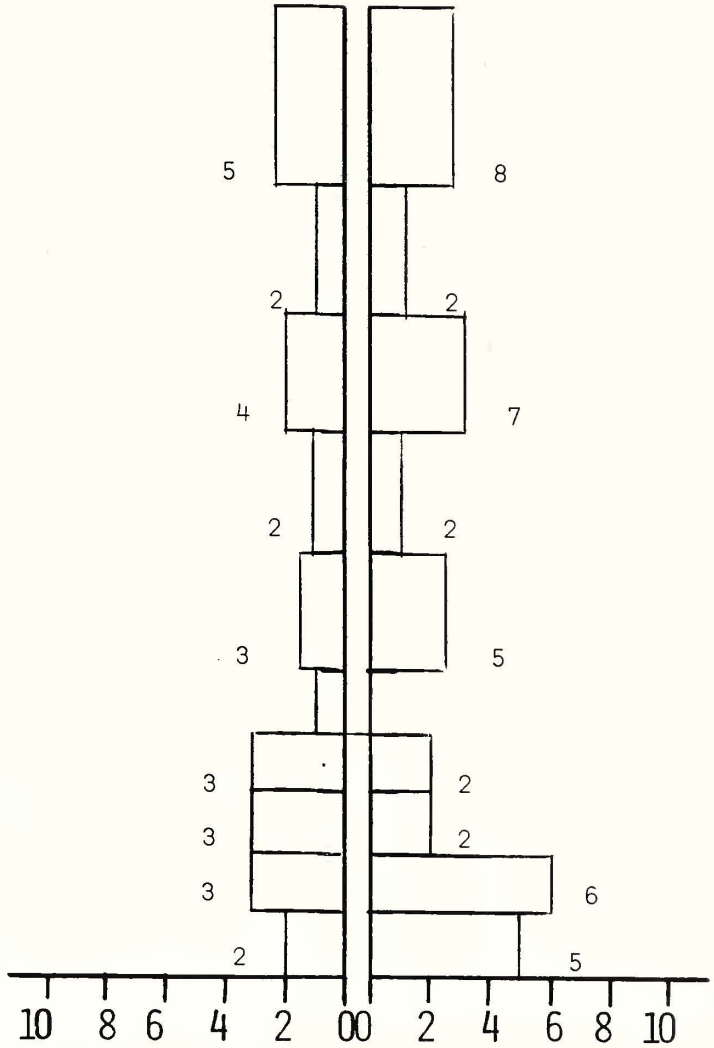
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
37-37.8%	98	61-62.2%

65 AND OVER
55 - 64
45 - 54
35 - 44
25 - 34
20 - 24
15 - 19
10 - 14
5 - 9
UNDER 5

CHURCH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

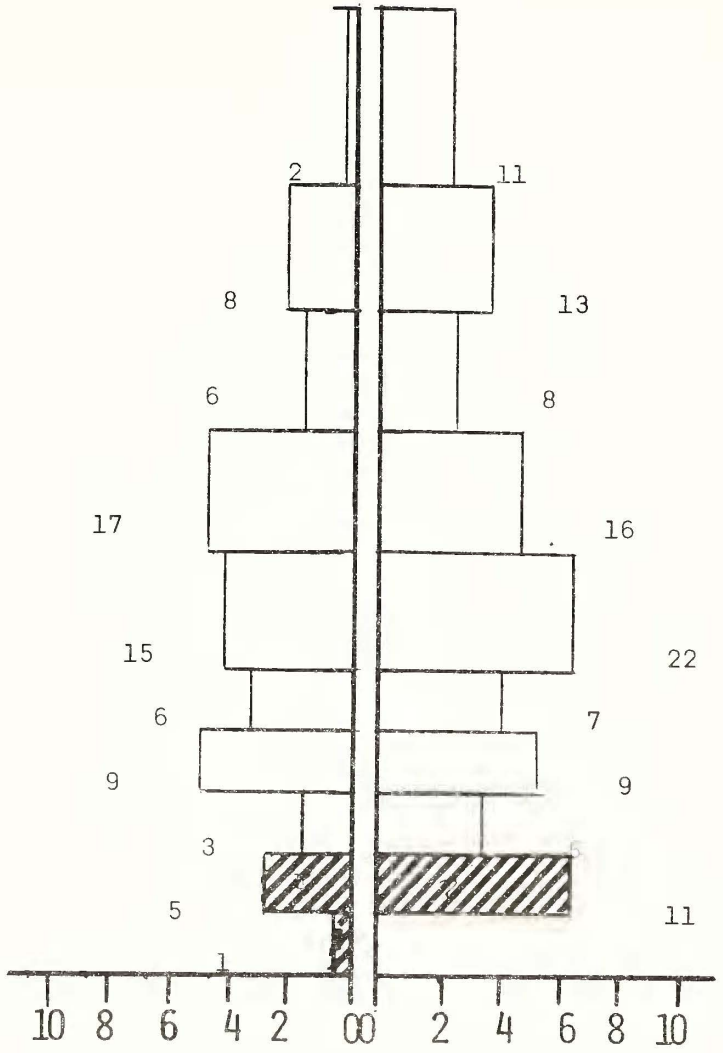


MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
28	67-68.4%	36

CHART A-8

FIARVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pinnacle, North Carolina
1970

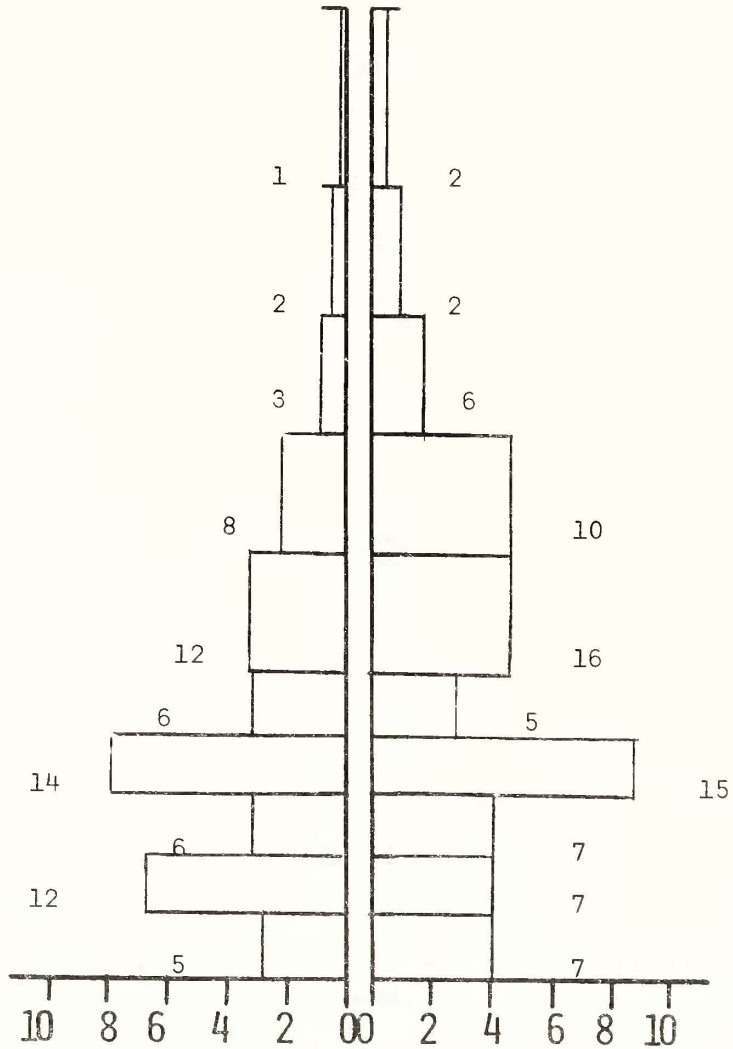
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
72-41.1%	175	103-58.9%

65 AND OVER
55 - 64
45 - 54
35 - 44
25 - 34
20 - 24
15 - 19
10 - 14
5 - 9
UNDER 5

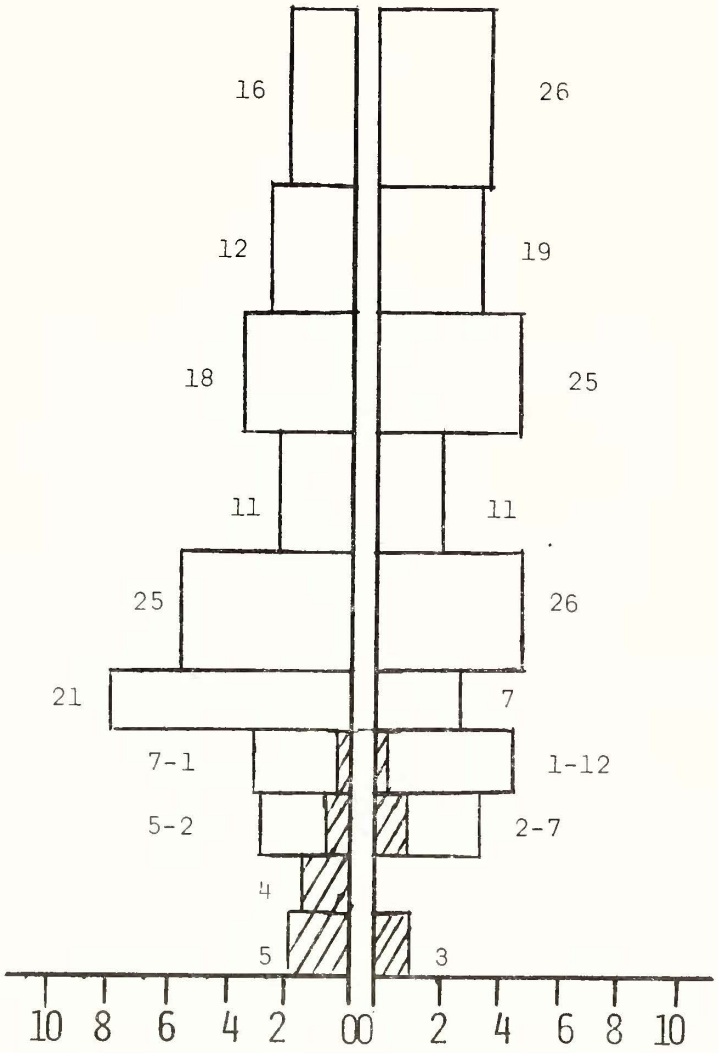
CHURCH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
69	146-83.4%	77

CHART A-9
First United Methodist Church
Pilot Mountain, N. C.
Membership and Church School Analysis
1970

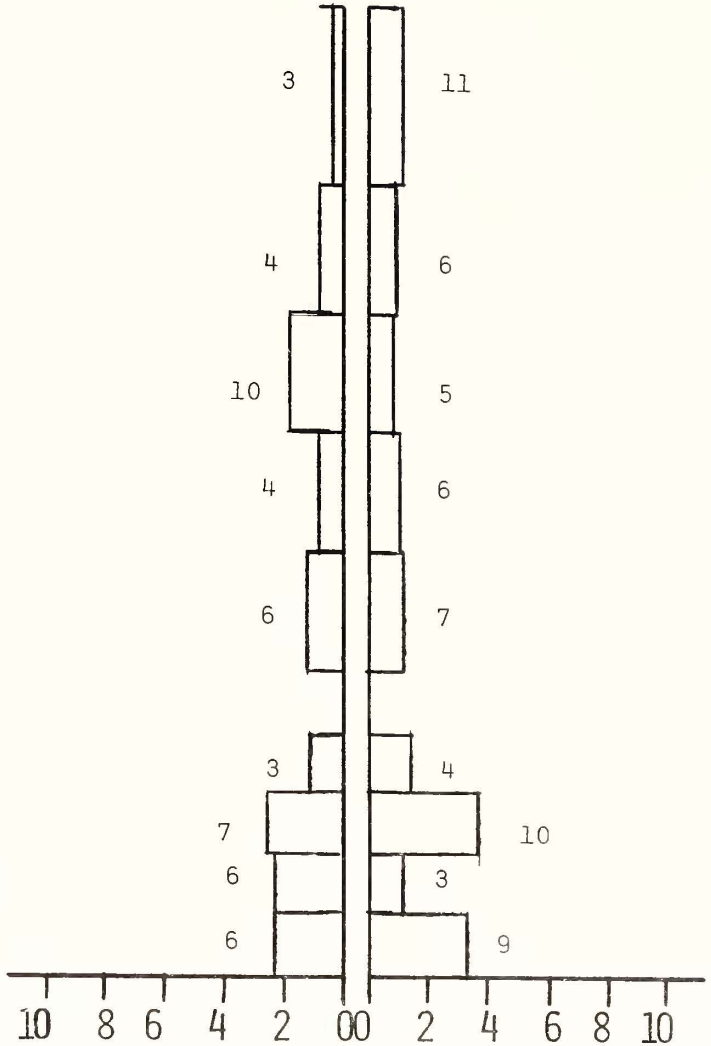
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
127 - 47.9%	265	138 - 52.1%

65 AND OVER
55 - 64
45 - 54
35 - 44
25 - 34
20 - 24
15 - 19
10 - 14
5 - 9
UNDER 5

CHURCH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
49	110-41.5%	61

CHART A-10

First United Methodist Church
Pilot Mountain, N. C.
Financial Analysis
1970

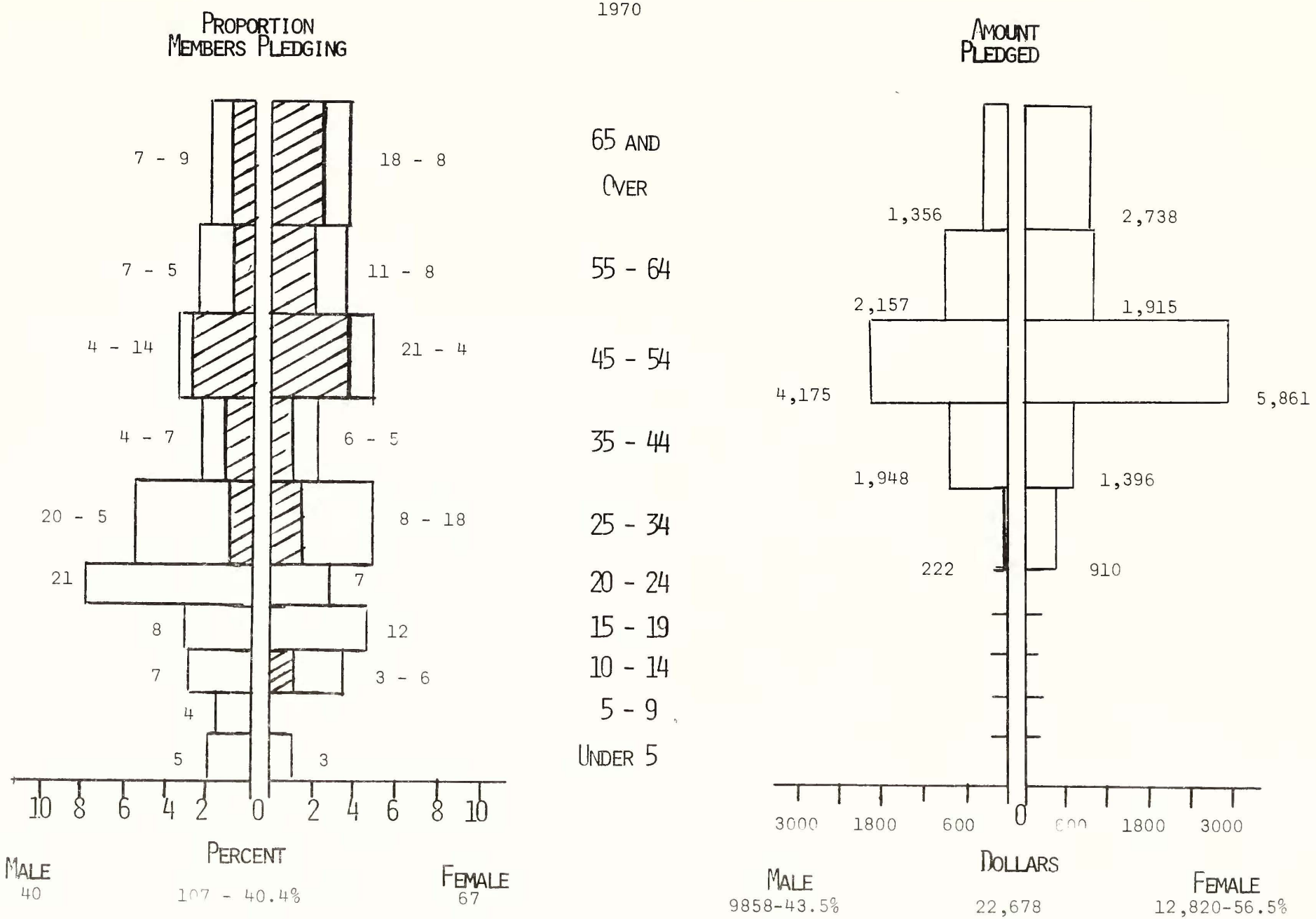
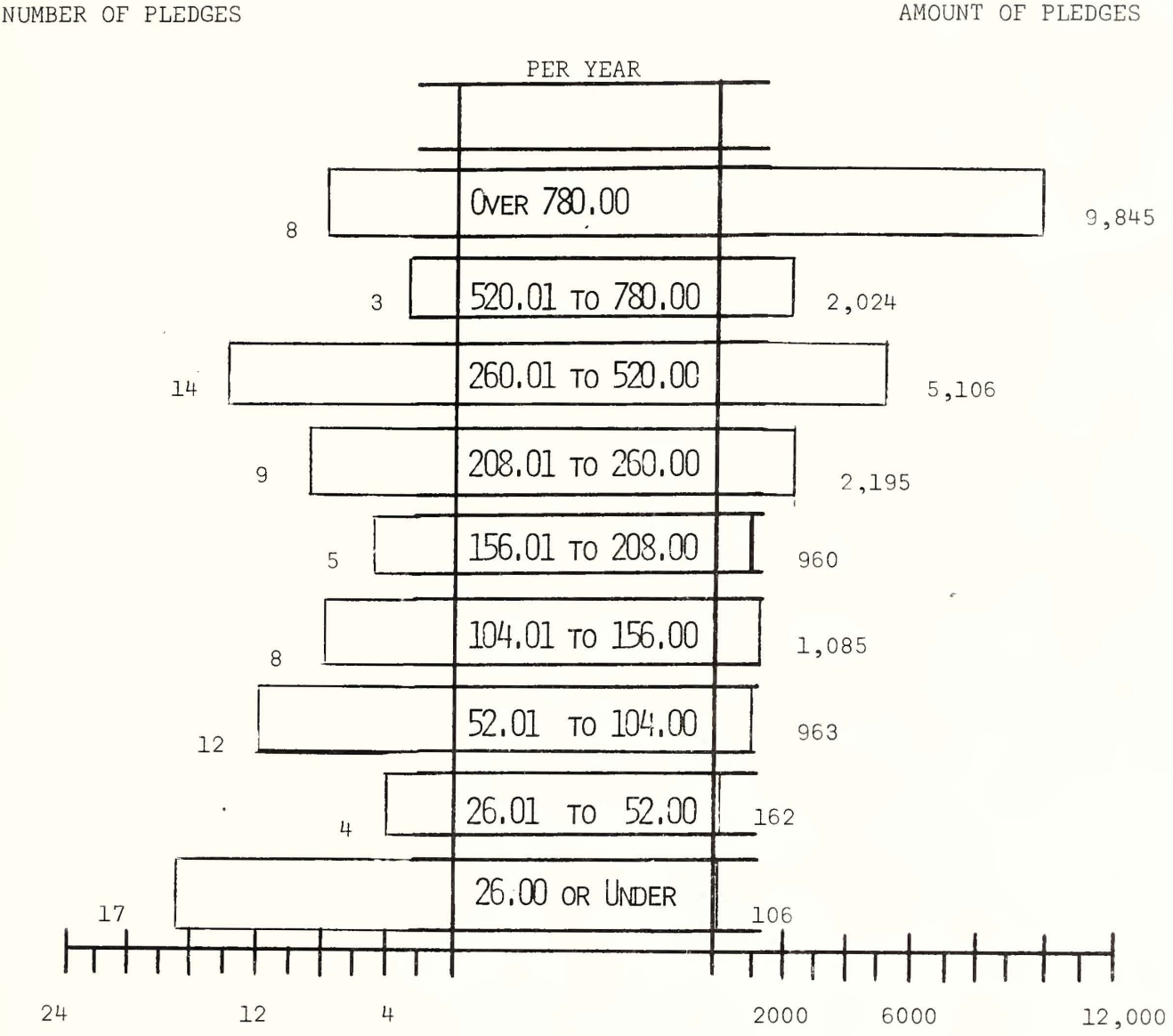


CHART A-11
First United Methodist Church
Pilot Mountain, N. C.
1970



TOTAL	80	22,446

CHART A-12

FRANKLIN HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Mt. Airy, N. C.
MEMBERSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL ANALYSIS
1970

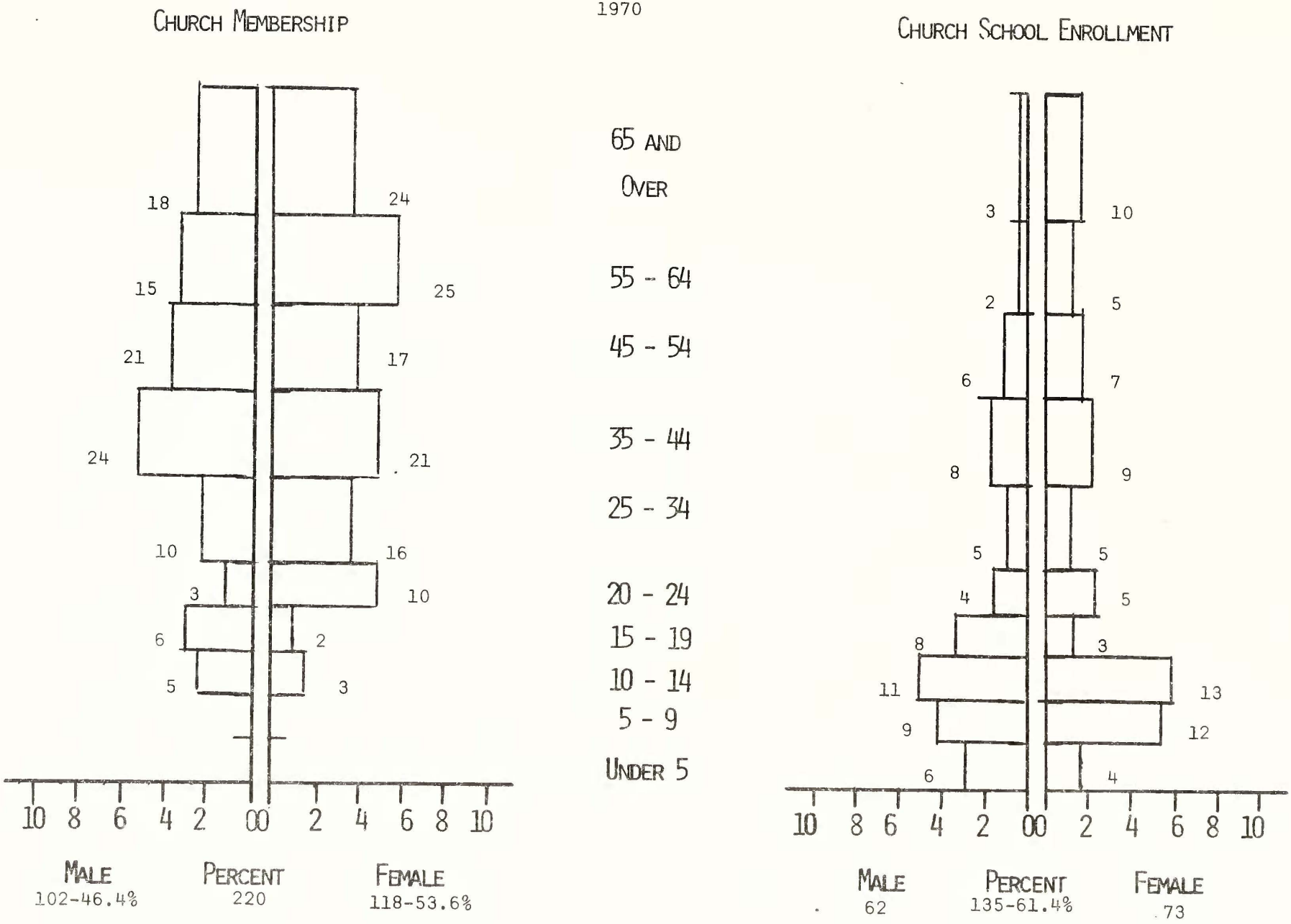


CHART A-13

FRANKLIN HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Mt. Airy, N. C.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS
1970

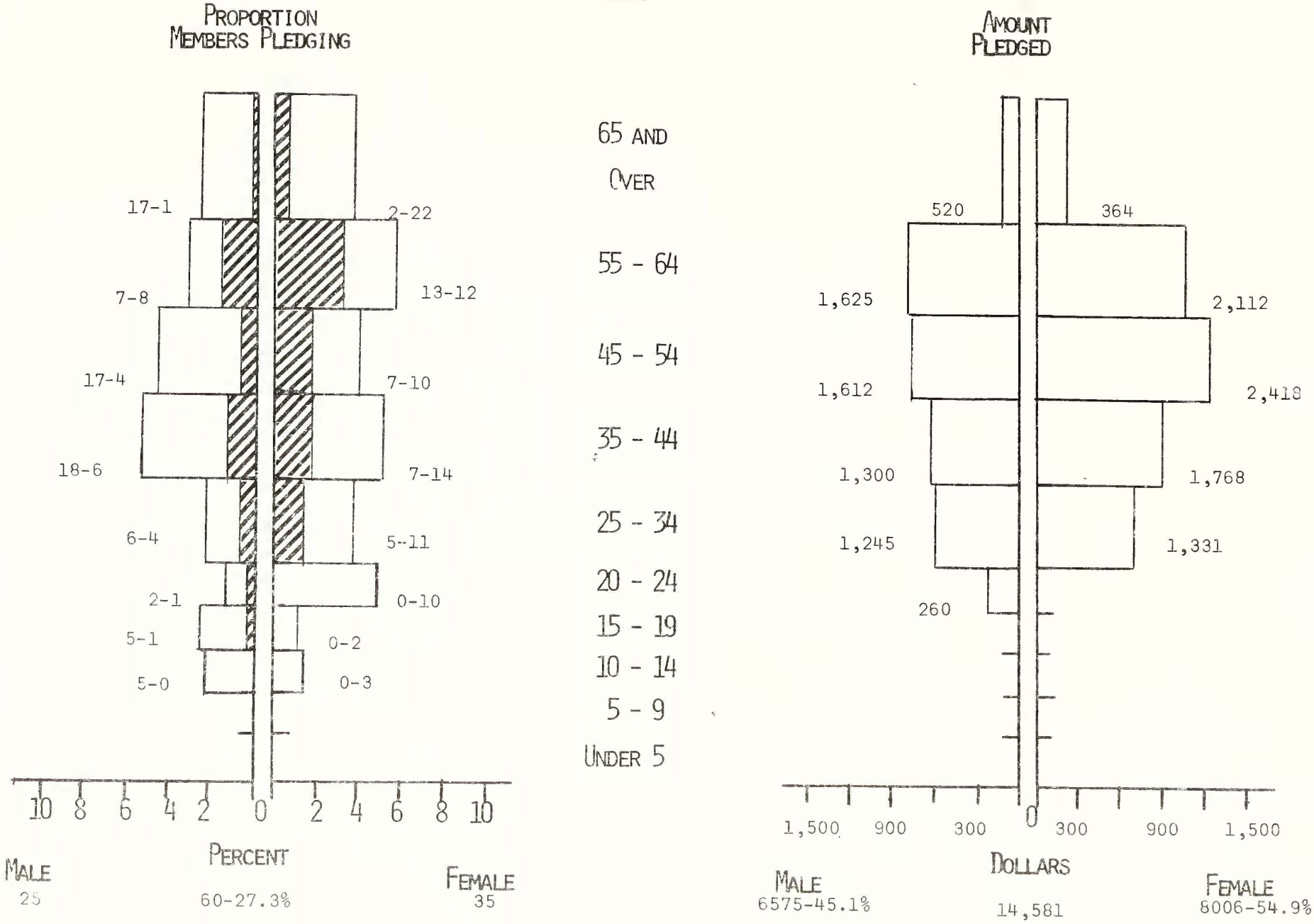


CHART A-1-

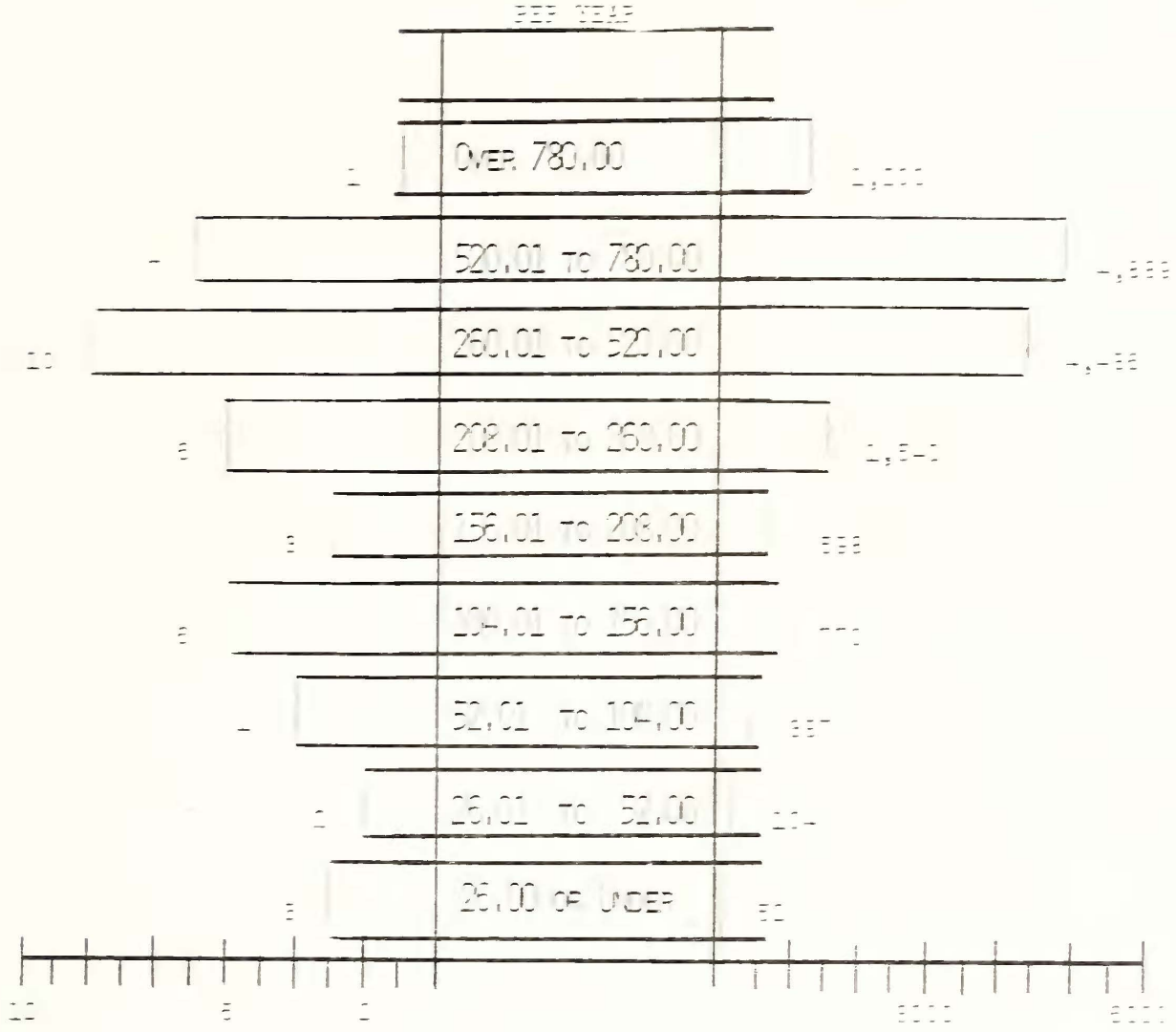
FRANKLIN HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mt. Airy, N. C.

1971

NUMBER OF PLEDGES

AMOUNT OF PLEDGES



TOTAL

CHART A-15

LEVEL CROSS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Dobson, North Carolina
1970

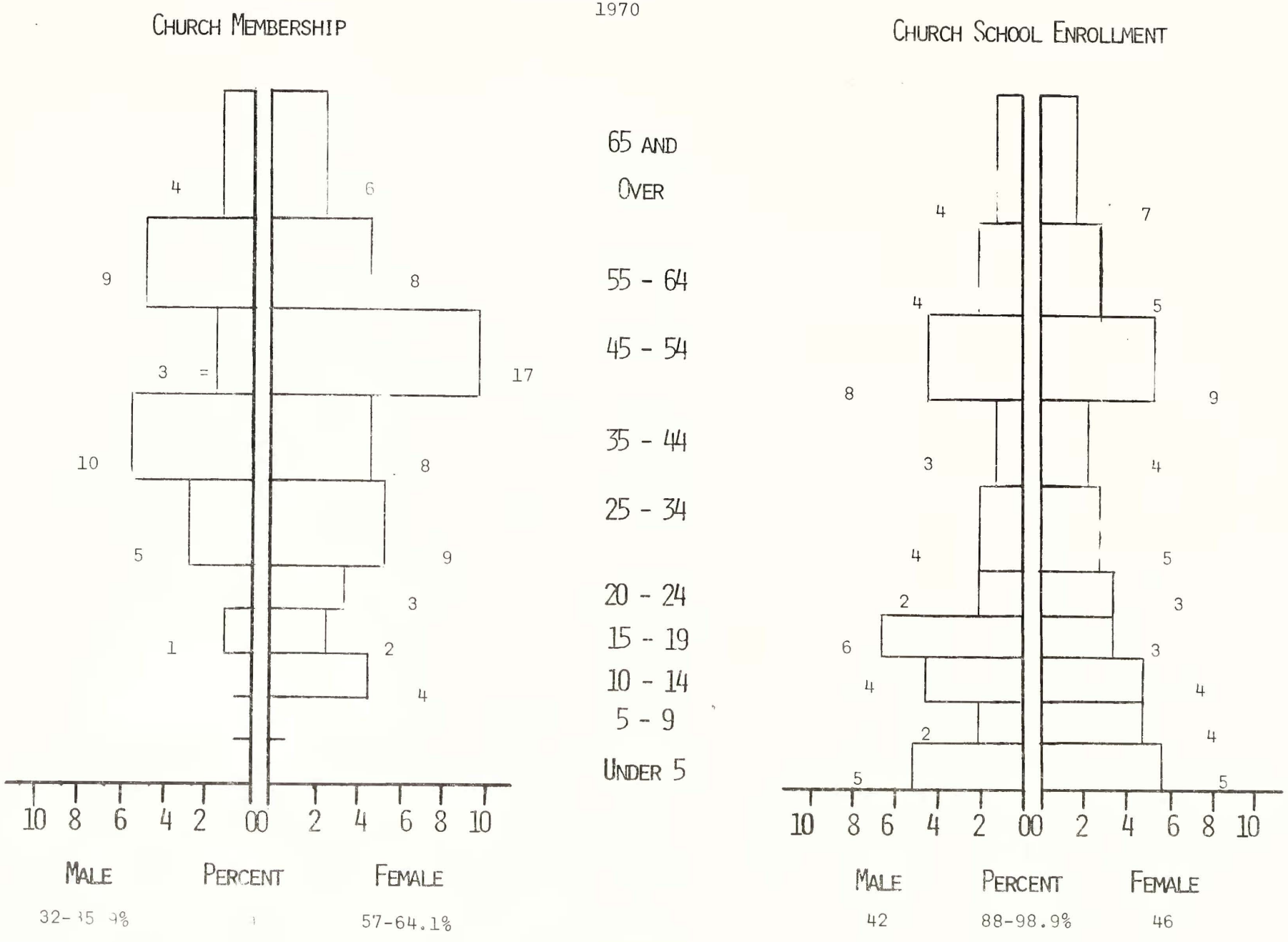


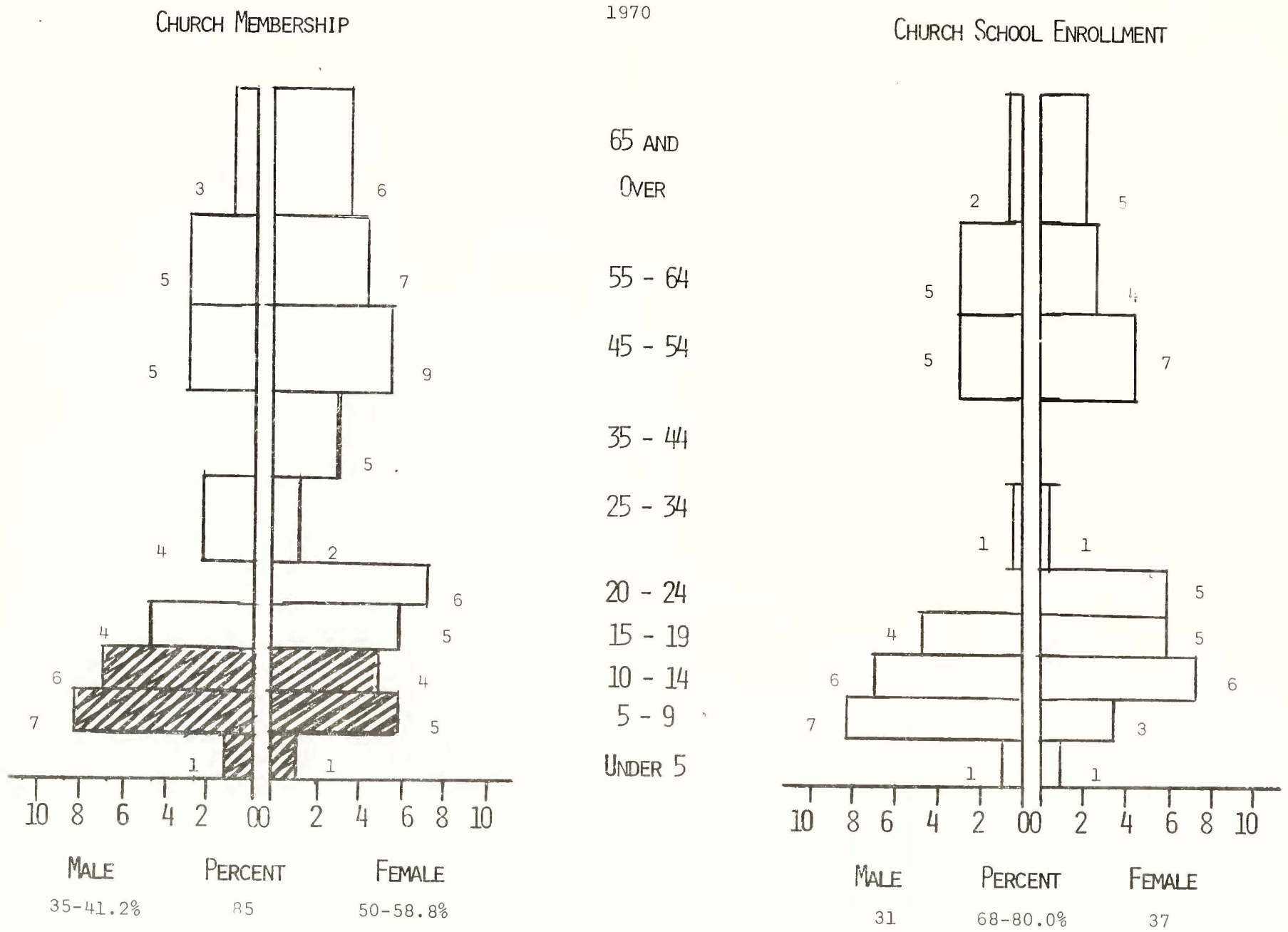
CHART A-16

LOVELL'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pilot Mountain, N. C.

MEMBERSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL ANALYSIS

1970



MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
35-41.2%	85	50-58.8%

MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
31	68-80.0%	37

CHART A-17

LOVELL'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pilot Mountain, N. C.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

1970

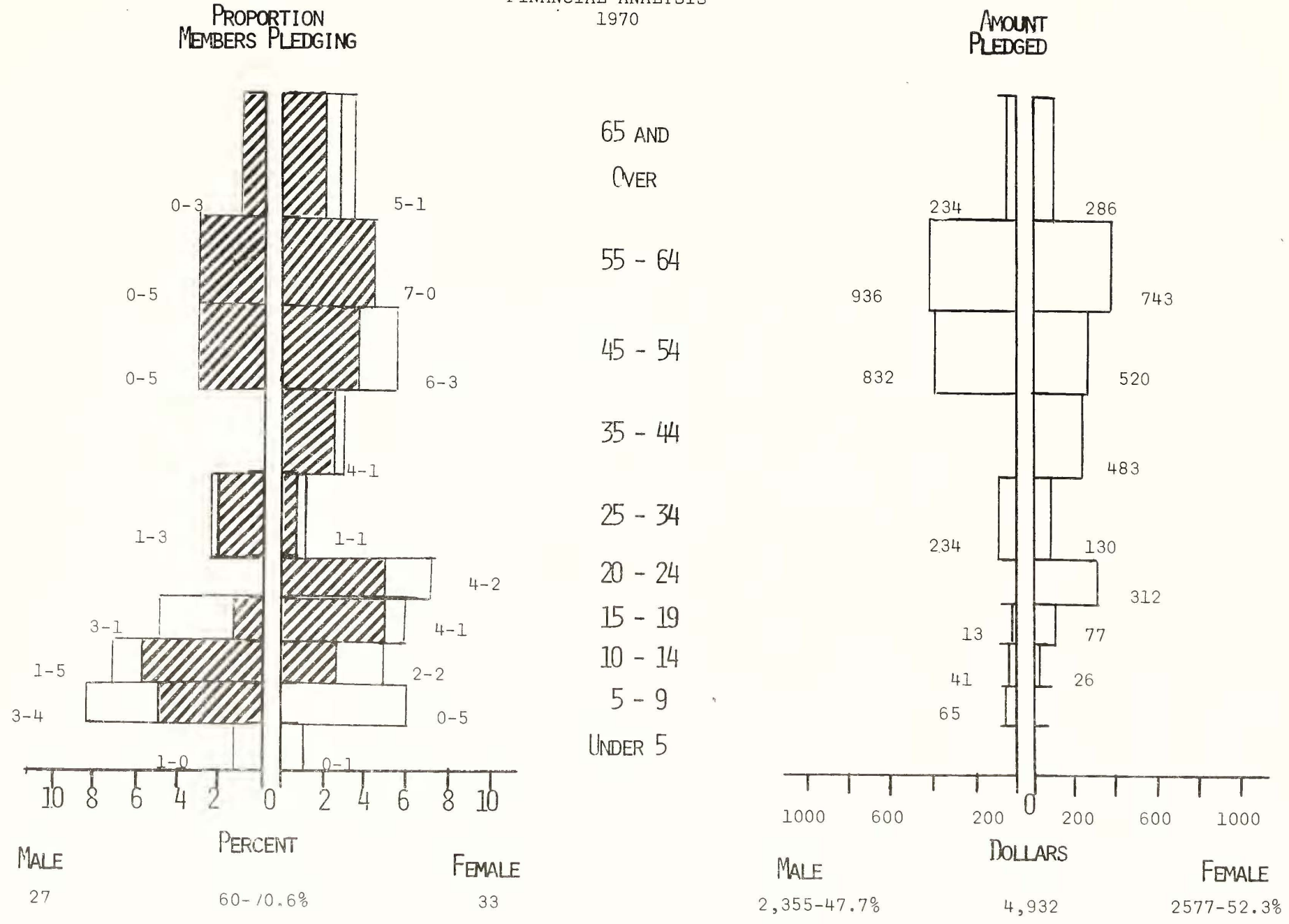
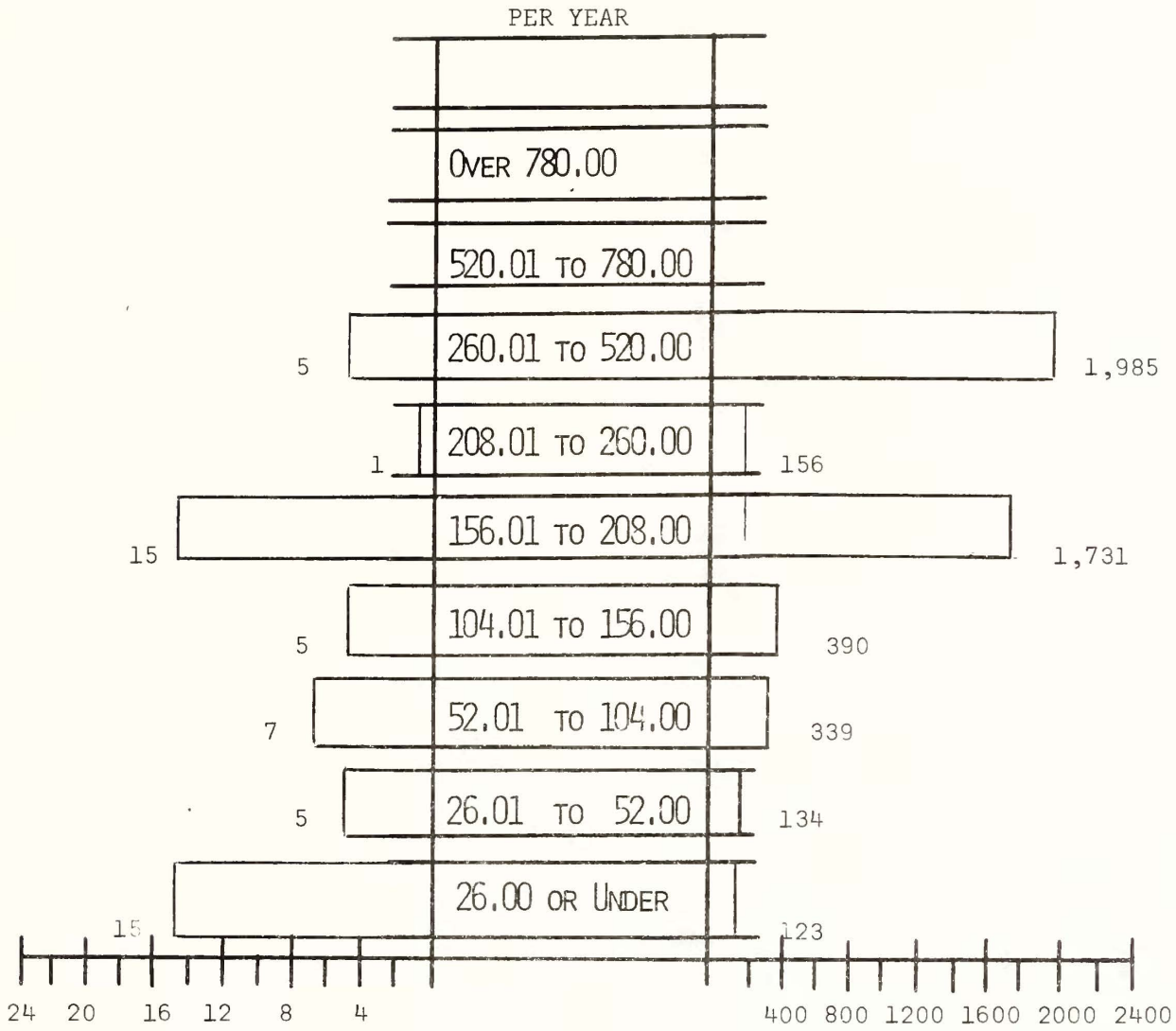


CHART A-18

LOVELL'S CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Pilot Mountain, N. C.
1970

NUMBER OF PLEDGES — AMOUNT OF PLEDGES



TOTAL	53	4,858

CHART A-19
MALLALIEU JONES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mt. Airy, N. C.

Financial Analysis
1970

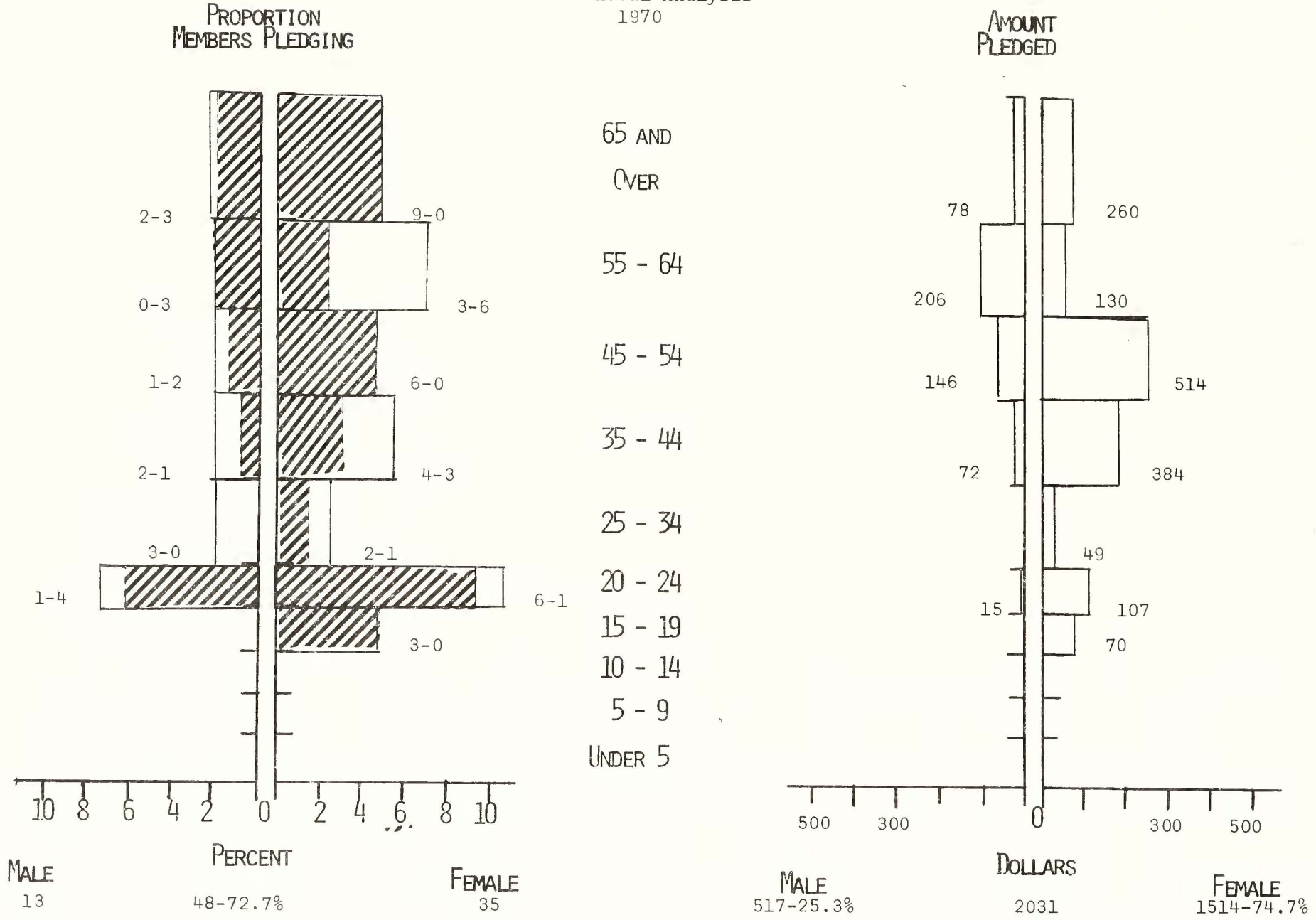


CHART A-20
MALLALIEU JONES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mt. Airy, N.C.

MEMBERSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL ANALYSIS
1970

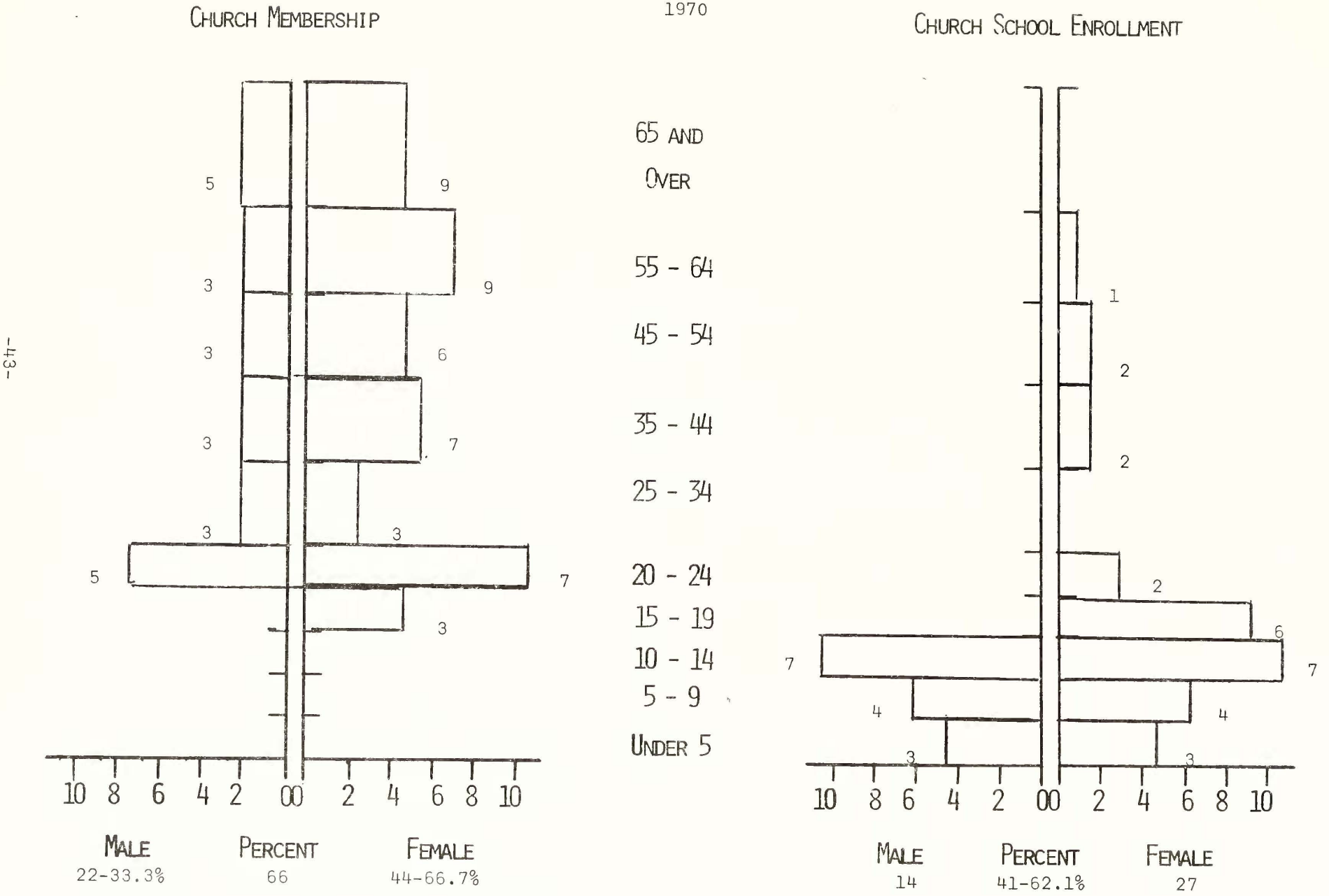


CHART A-21

MALLALIEU JONES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1970

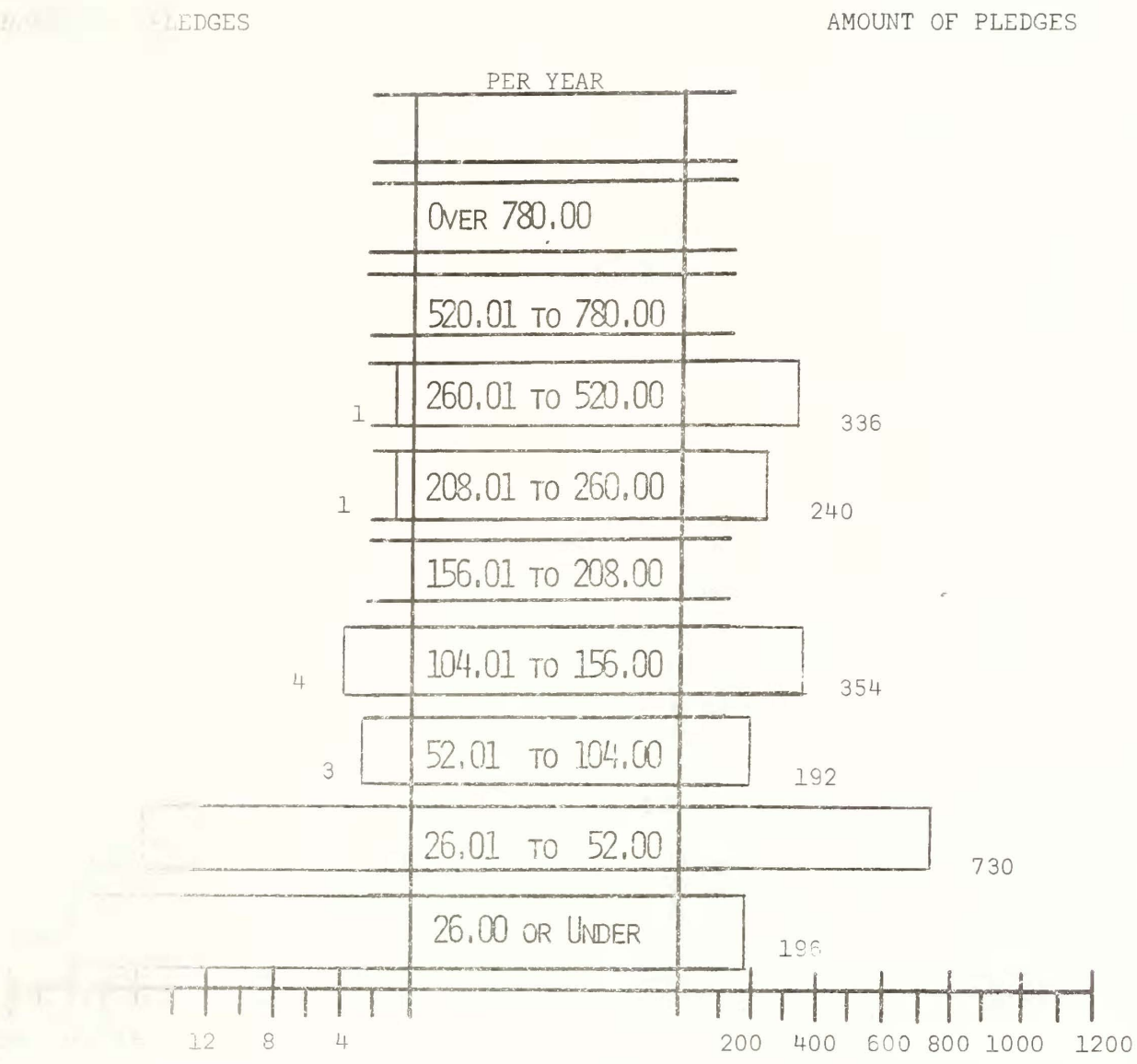
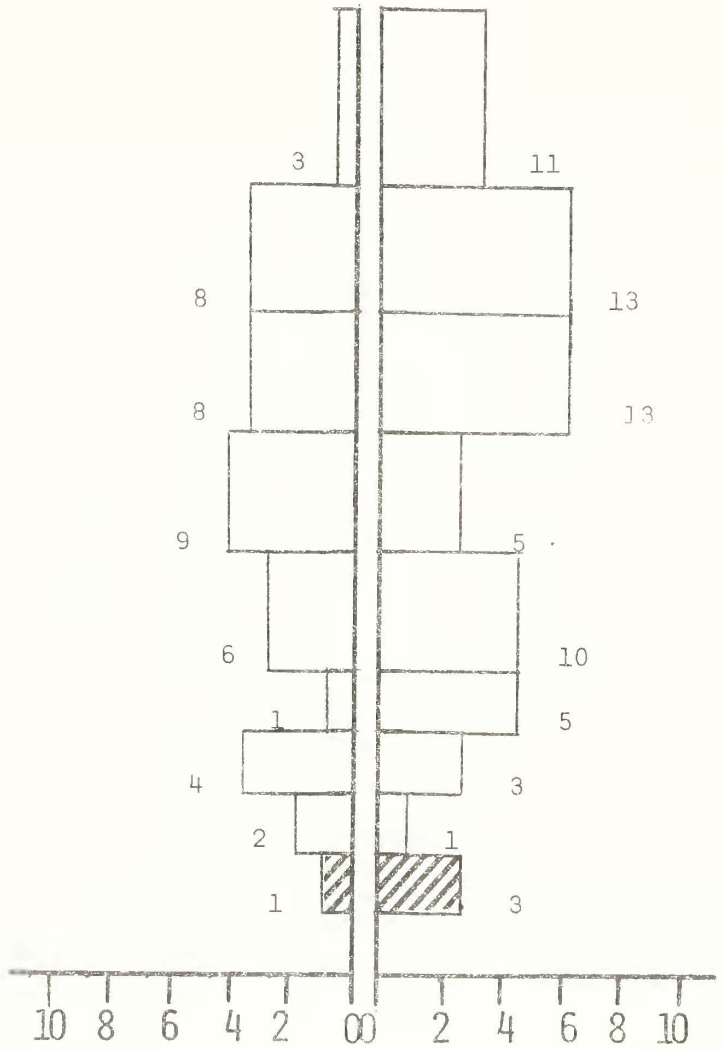


CHART A-22

OAK GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP AND CHURCH SHCOOL ANALYSIS
1970

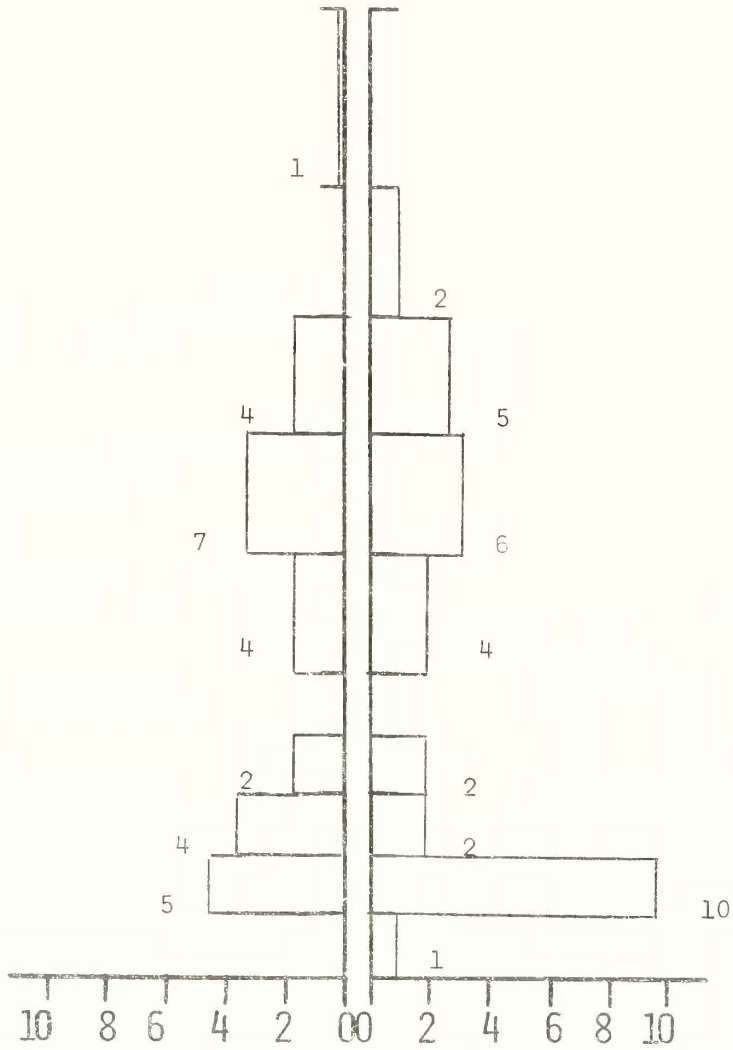
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



65 AND OVER
55 - 64
45 - 54
35 - 44
25 - 34
20 - 24
15 - 19
10 - 14
5 - 9
UNDER 5

MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
42-39.6%	106	64-60.4%

CHURCH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
27	59-55.7%	32

CHART A-23

OAK GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL ANALYSIS
1970

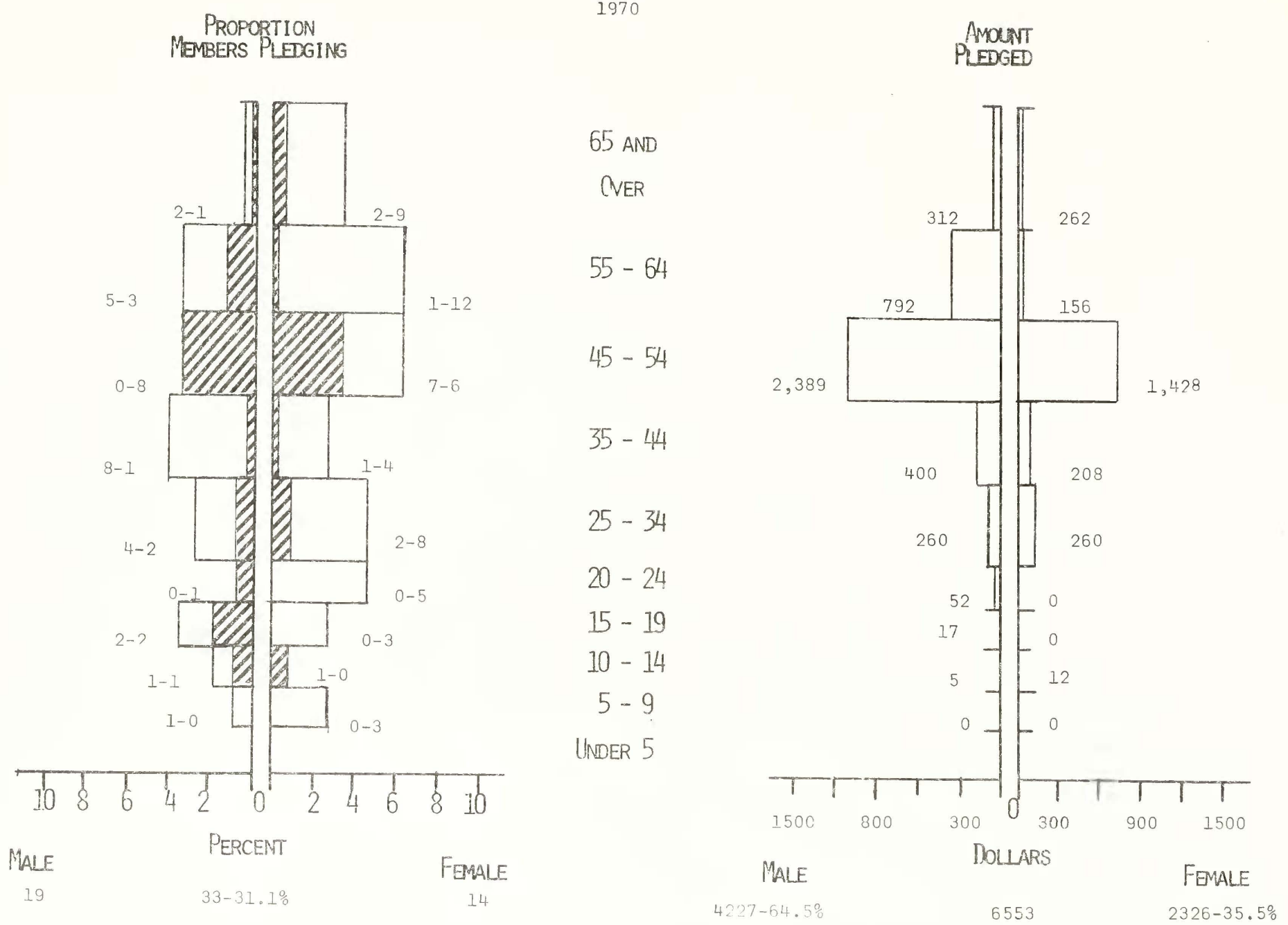
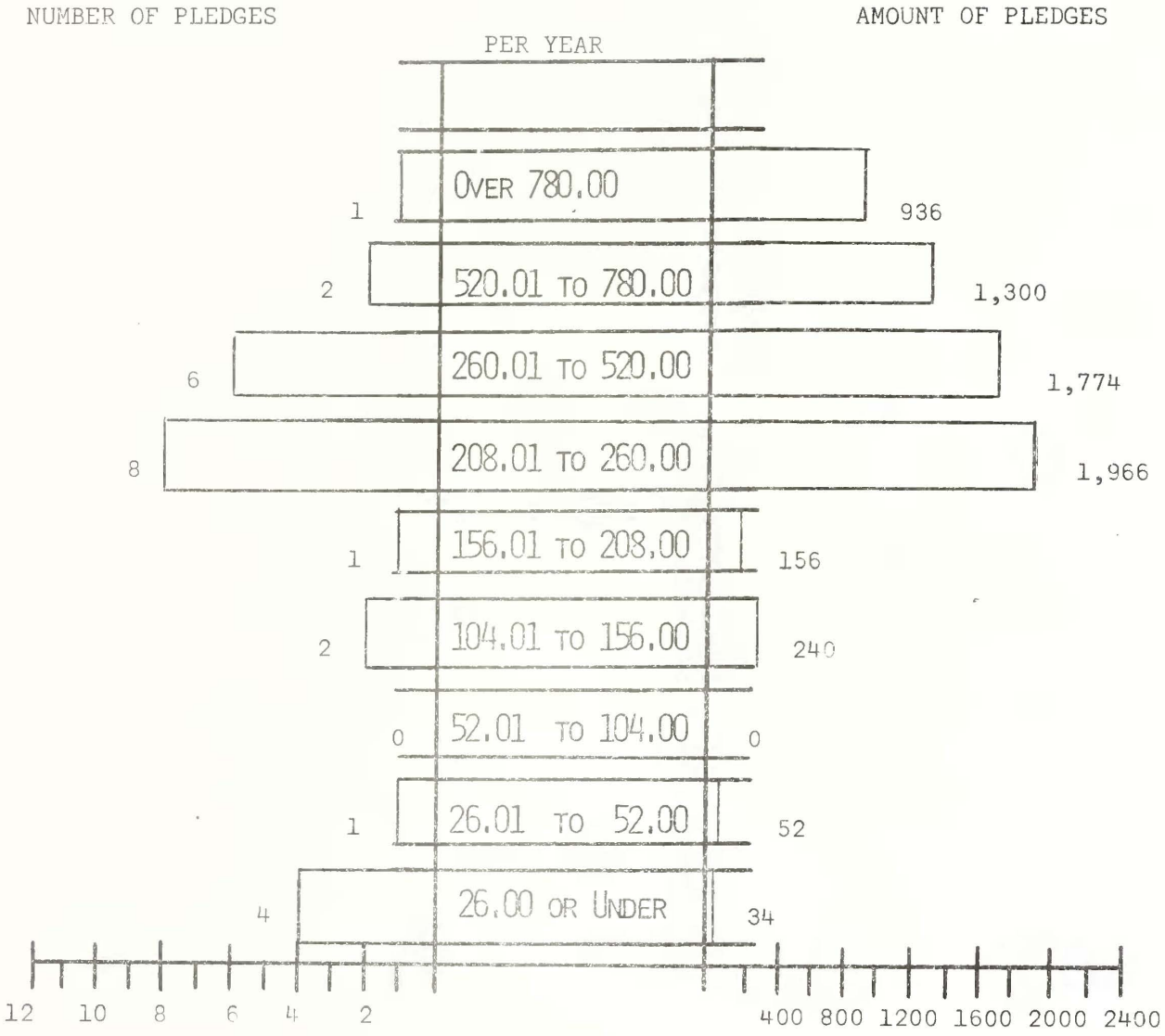


CHART A-24

OAK GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1970



TOTAL	25	6,458

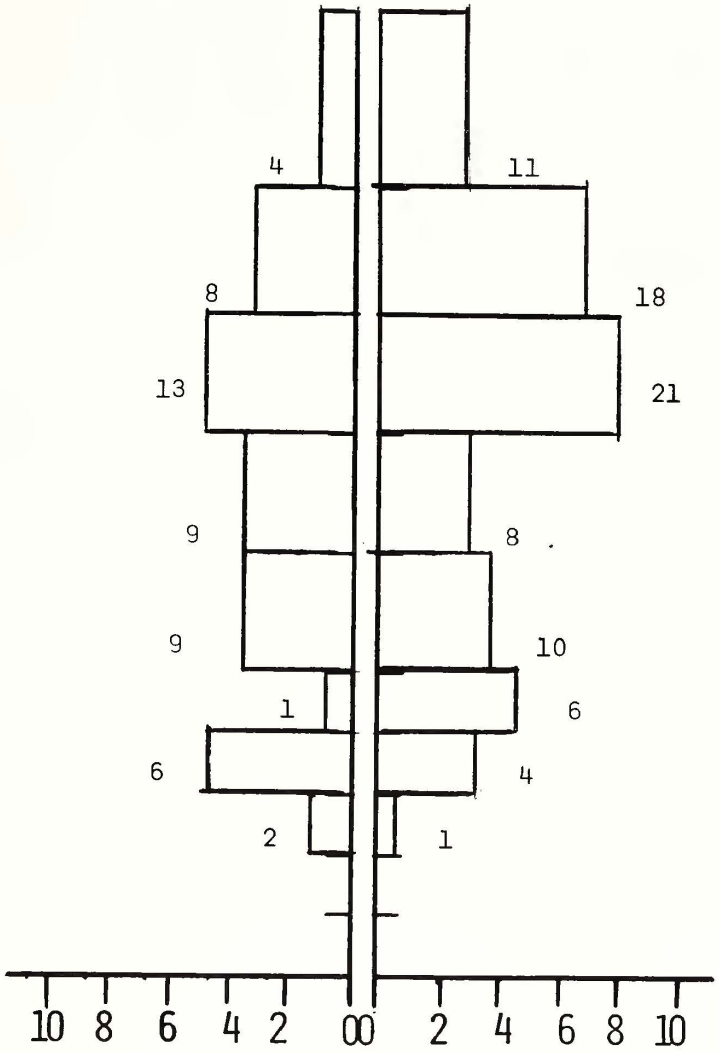
ROCKFORD STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mt. Airy, N. C.

MEMBERSHIP AND CHURCH SCHOOL ANALYSIS

1970

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



65 AND OVER

55 - 64

45 - 54

35 - 44

25 - 34

20 - 24

15 - 19

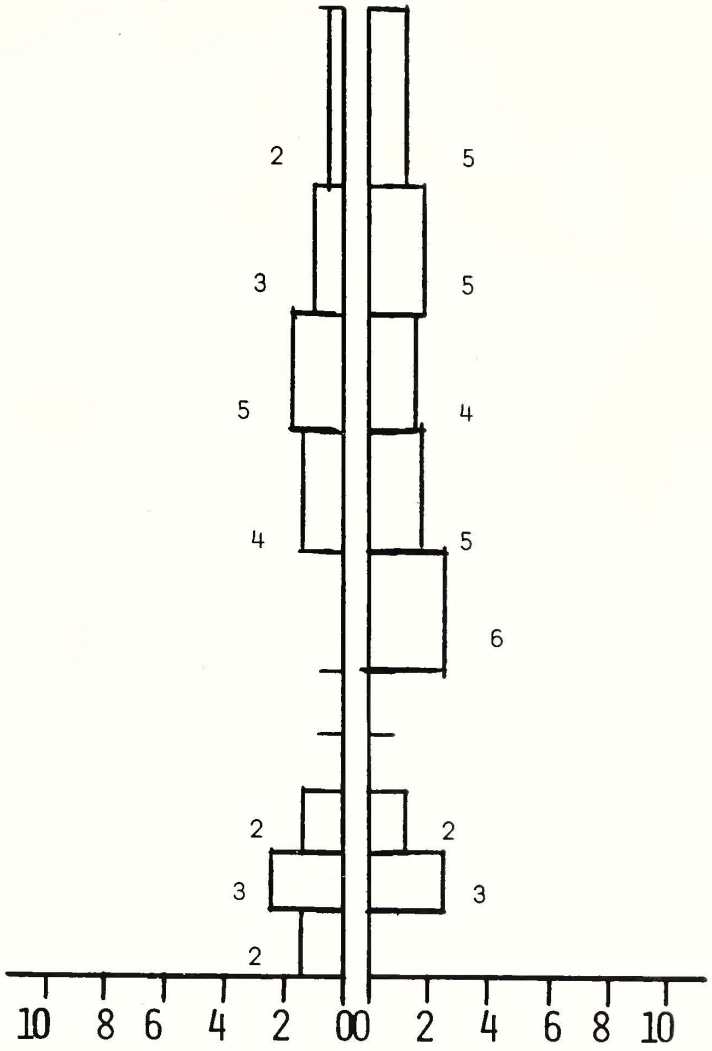
10 - 14

5 - 9

UNDER 5

MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
52-39.7%	131	79-60.3%

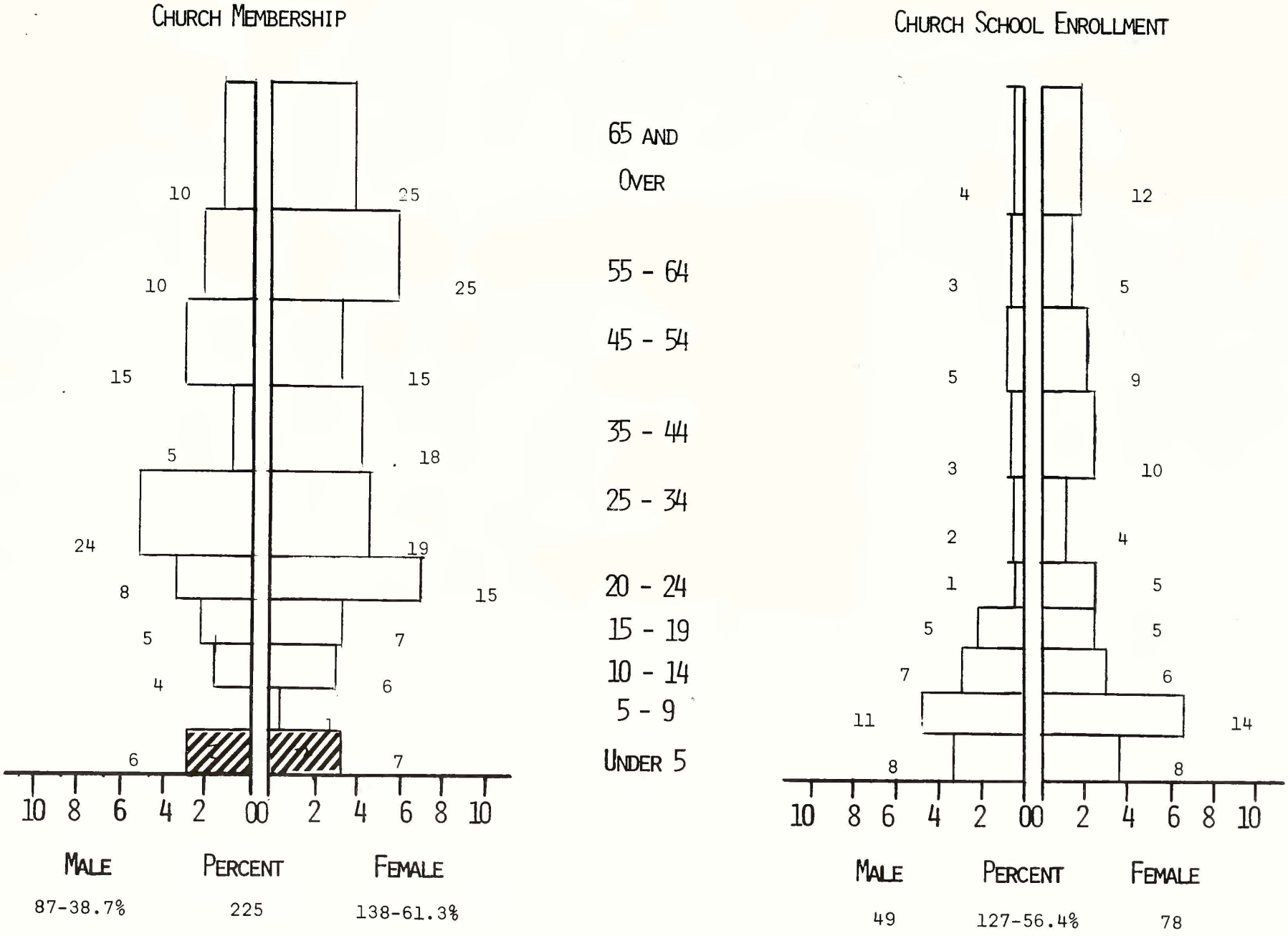
CHURCH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



MALE	PERCENT	FEMALE
121	51=38.9%	30

CHART A-26

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Mt. Airy, North Carolina
1970



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