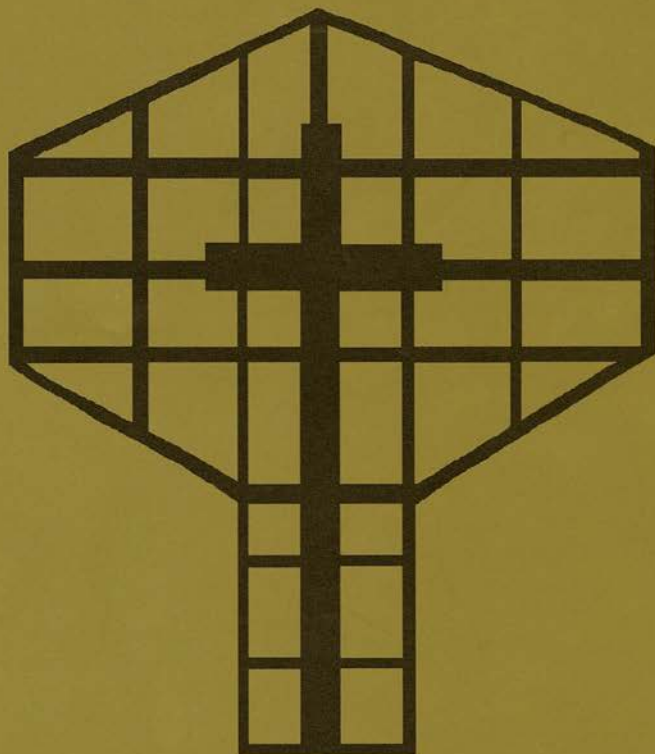


50th Anniversary Celebration

1954-2004



Highland United Methodist Church
Raleigh, North Carolina
May 2, 2004

OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Fifty years ago on Sunday, May 2, 1954, Highland United Methodist Church held its first worship service. Although our 99 charter members were meeting in the Frances Lacy School, this founding group had the faith and vision to invest time, money, and “sweat of their brows” to establish Highland to serve our community. Today we are celebrating not only our PAST, but also the PRESENT, and our vision for the FUTURE.

Just look around at our current congregation and facilities. With the guidance of ten dedicated ministers we have certainly grown physically and spiritually during the PAST 50 years. As for the PRESENT we currently have more than 2,000 members meeting in our fellowship hall, sanctuary, and the Bradley Activities Center. A memorial garden and columbarium have been established. More importantly our spiritual growth and outreach is reflected by:

24 active Sunday School classes

Eight musical groups

Community outreach through our Martha and Stephen Ministries

Participation in WIHN (Interfaith Ministry) for homeless families

Working with others in the Habitat for Humanity program

Scouting and other service projects

Our missionary program in Japan

Work missions to Central and South America

Thanks to our strong youth program we are sharing visions of Highland’s FUTURE missions and goals through the eyes of our young people. Perhaps these are best expressed by recalling the words of our former member Luther C. Hodges:

Let us choose the high road that will lead us to greater Christian service. Let us become so fully endowed with the spirit of Christ that we can build to suit our needs, we can take care of our youth and aged, we can minister to the prisoner, the stranger, and the ill of body and mind. Then, we will have answered the high and the Highland call. Then, we will have entered into a new relationship of spiritual awareness and spiritual fulfillment. Then, we shall have become the one true church.

Phil Miller

May 2, 2004

Welcome

We welcome all who worship with us today, especially those who are charter members, and former members, pastors, and their families who have journeyed back to Highland to help us celebrate turning fifty.

The Big Golden Day's Activities

9:30 A.M. Conference Room – Coffee and fellowship with former Highland pastors and other Highland members

10:45 A.M. Combined single worship service:
Highland's Past – Brooks Patten
Highland's Present – Jim Lee
Highland's Future – Kathryn Yeager

and

Special Music from all our choirs

12:00 Catered lunch in Bradley Hall and “on the grounds”

1:00 P.M. Reminiscences from all former pastors followed by informal visiting and chats with former and current members

2:00 P.M. Gathering with our children for the burial of a Highland Time Capsule

Highland's Pastors

The Reverend Brooks Patten	1953-1959
The Reverend Albert F. Fisher	1959-1964
The Reverend J. Paul Edwards	1964-1969
The Reverend James A. Auman	1969-1972
The Reverend Jack L. Hunter	1972-1980
The Reverend Neil H. Thompson, Associate	1974-1984
The Reverend John M. Cline	1980-1988
The Reverend E. Powell Osteen, Associate	1984-1986
The Reverend Glenda Noble Johnson, Associate	1986-1991
The Reverend Charles M. Smith, D.D.	1988-1994
The Reverend Vickie S. Pruett, Associate	1991-1994
The Reverend James H. Bailey	1994-1999
The Reverend James Harry, Associate	1994-1998
The Reverend Jonathan Jeffries, Associate	1998-2003
The Reverend William Braswell	1999-2003
The Reverend Kelli Walker-Jones, Associate	1994-2002
The Reverend Brenda Walton, Associate	1999-2003
The Reverend Steve Edwards, Associate	2001-
The Reverend James C. Lee	2003-

Music Professionals

<u>Director of Music</u>	<u>Pianists/Organists</u>	<u>Choir Director</u>
Stella Etheredge	Elfreda B. Johnson	(Children, Youth,
Louise Wilson	Stella Etheredge	Handbells, and Brass)
David Streetman	Mrs. B. F. Massey	Sue Runkle
Sue Runkle	Louise Wilson	Vicky Oehling
James E. Powers	June Lewis	Wilda Brown
Marcia Kindt-Coleman	Debbie Batten	Cindy Kulhman
Chris Beaver	Marcia Nance	Earleen Barnes
Jeff Whicker		Elizabeth Beam
		Ann Pearce
		Craig Zerbe

Educational Professionals

Margaret McLarty

Mary Smith

Carol Tignor Uzzle

Louie Lucas

Bruce Dickerson

Karen Farrish Miller

Judy J. Riddle

Ann Pearce

Clara Moore Stiers

Rebecca Aist

Betty Ann Buckley

Amy Moreau

Chris Piper

Lisa Burney

Administrative Support Staff

R. E. Brown

Eloise Womble

Ann Chapman

Patti Mitchell

Robin Harry

Financial Professionals

Nan Holland

Annie Lee Bryan

Trey Ragland

Lisa Anthony

Highland's First Fifty Years

On December 4, 1953, The Reverend Brooks Patten was appointed by the North Carolina Conference "to organize a new church in West Raleigh to be known as Ridgewood Methodist Church." On January 14, 1954, this new church had its beginnings with the appointment of the Committee on Church Locations by the Raleigh Board of Missions and Church Extension. This committee selected a site, which was later purchased for the new church by the Raleigh Board of Missions, on the corner of Ridge Road and Lewis Farm Road.

The first worship service was held on May 2, 1954, in the Frances Lacy Elementary School located on the corner of Ridge Road and Lake Boone Trail. Regular services were held in the school until January 1958. On July 21, 1954, the first quarterly conference of the new church was held after a family picnic on the church property at Ridge Road and Lewis Farm Road. Ninety-nine charter members were reported. In September 1954 the church, originally to be called Ridgewood Methodist Church, was named Highland Methodist Church.

The lots on the corner of Ridge Road and Lewis Farm Road were seen to be inadequate. This led, in the fall of 1954, to the purchase of the present site consisting of 2.7 acres on the corner of Ridge Road and Lake Boone Trail. The former lots were sold as a part of the transaction.

The first Highland Boy Scout program was organized and chartered as Cub Scout Troop 326. Until Highland's first building was completed, they met with the Ridge Road Baptist Church Scouts. United Methodist Women (UMW) Sunday began in 1954 as well, and is celebrated annually. During the years UMW has given time and support to many needy causes.

Early in 1955, Harold E. Wagoner of Philadelphia was selected as the church architect and through the work of planning committees involving virtually the entire congregation, plans were developed for a four-stage building project consisting of the fellowship hall and chapel, a church school unit, a youth wing, and a sanctuary. Ground was broken for construction of the fellowship hall and chapel on February 27, 1957, with Bishop Paul N. Garber presiding. The building was completed in January 1958 at a cost of approximately \$100,000. Funds for this first unit included gifts of \$15,000 and \$1,500 from the North Carolina Conference Board of Missions (\$10 Club) and from the National Board of Missions, respectively.

In 1959, The Reverend Albert F. Fisher was appointed as the second pastor, and the administrative wing, consisting of four offices, was added in 1960. In the summer of 1961, the church purchased the parsonage located at 2308 Airline Drive. Prior to that time, parsonages had been rented. Because of the rapid growth of membership in March 1961, it was decided to hold two worship services each Sunday morning. This practice has continued to the present day. During that year plans were developed for the Educational Building and the first half of the building was completed in November 1962, at a cost of \$102,000. Also, to meet the needs of increased membership, a full-time Director of Christian Education was added to the church staff in 1963.

In June 1964, The Reverend J. Paul Edwards was appointed as the third pastor. During the first ten years, membership had grown from 99 to 719. The period 1964 to 1969 was marked by continued growth in membership, reaching 1,053 by January 1, 1970. The need for construction of the permanent sanctuary became more and more pressing, and in 1965 a Building Committee was appointed and the architect developed preliminary plans for the sanctuary. Ground was broken on June 30, 1968, and the contract was awarded to Inland Construction Company of Raleigh at a cost of approximately \$500,000.

The year 1968 marked the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren, and resulted in the adoption of the new name, Highland United Methodist Church.

In June 1969, The Reverend James A. Auman was appointed as the fourth pastor, and under his leadership the culmination of sixteen years of growth and development was manifested in the consecration of the sanctuary by Bishop William R. Cannon on January 18, 1970.

In June 1972, The Reverend Jack L. Hunter was appointed as the fifth pastor of Highland Church, and during this period the church grew to a membership of 1,851. The stewardship giving of the church had increased to a yearly budget of \$241,998. In 1974, The Reverend Neil H. Thompson was appointed as the first full-time associate pastor. At the Annual Conference in 1975, Highland Church was the recipient of The Church of the Year Award, which was awarded to churches with a membership of 1,000 or more.

In June 1980, The Reverend John M. Cline was appointed the sixth pastor of Highland. During his ministry the church celebrated its 30th anniversary in April 1984; participated in America's Bicentennial celebration of Methodism in 1984; The Reverend E. Powell Osteen was appointed the second associate pastor in June 1984; the Highland

Service Project was established in July 1985; The Reverend Glenda N. Johnson was appointed as the third associate pastor in June 1986; and in September 1987, while celebrating its first homecoming Sunday, the mortgage on the sanctuary was burned!

The Reverend Charles M. Smith was appointed in June 1988 as the seventh pastor of Highland and he and his family moved into the new parsonage at 3021 Sylvania Drive, which was purchased in April 1988. A Building Committee was elected that fall, the adjoining house and lot at the corner of Ridge Road and Ocotea Street was purchased in 1989, and the house removed later so our parking lot could be expanded. Gary Bailey of Innovative Design in Raleigh was selected as architect and the congregation approved a \$2.7 million project which called for the renovation of all existing facilities other than the sanctuary and the construction of a large, new building with a fellowship hall/gymnasium that would seat over 400 people for a meal, a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen, several classrooms, and an elevator. L. P. Cox Company was chosen as contractor. The new building was tied into the existing facilities with a handsome breezeway and courtyard. Crucial to this endeavor was the commitment early on by Hawkins and Jean Bradley of a gift of \$1 million. To honor this gift and the many other acts of generous leadership given by the Bradley family, the new building was named the Bradley Activities Center (or Bradley Hall) and was consecrated in September 1992.

Disciple Bible Study was completed by over 160 members since it was initiated in 1988; three Habitat for Humanity houses were built between 1989 and 1991; a mission work team was sent to Jamaica just after Christmas in 1990 to rebuild a school destroyed by a hurricane; and Highland participated with other area churches in the Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network through which we helped homeless families several times a year. The Reverend Vickie S. Pruett was appointed associate pastor in 1991 and soon gave leadership to establishing our Stephen Ministry, with 40 members receiving special training in lay pastoral care. Through the generosity of many members, the indebtedness on our marvelous facilities was vastly reduced and the Endowment Fund was created. Planning began for the purchase of a new organ.

In 1993, Ann Pearce became our Education Program Director (serving until 2000). Ann continues to direct our HUMringers (having done so since 1987). In June 1994, The Reverend James H. Bailey was appointed as our senior minister. During that same year our brass

ensemble became a vital part of our worship services. Other active musical groups, in addition to the above and our excellent choirs, were Joyful Noise, Golden-Tones, and our Youth Choir.

Several outreach programs were carried out and many organizations, such as Capital Quilters, Lions Club, AA, and the Dance Club, used Highland's facilities under administrative guidelines. Other worthwhile activities and service groups during 1994, and later, were Stephen Ministries, working groups for Habitat for Humanity, Bible Study groups, and workshops on estate planning.

In May 1995, a parsonage was bought for our associate pastor on Morningside Drive, which was later sold and another bought on Ocotea Drive. In 1996, our church library was expanded. The Mother/Daughter banquets continued to be well attended. In June 1996, Kelli Walker-Jones became our pastor for senior adults. In June 1998, The Reverend Jonathan Jeffries was appointed as our sixth associate minister. Earlier that year our first-time food coordinator was added to our staff, but was eliminated later because of a lack of funds. In August, after much study, the administrative board approved the installation of a memorial garden, including a columbarium and a memorial tablet (which was completed in 2000). In November 1998, the installation of the new organ was completed (dedicated in January 1999). That year Brenda Walton received associate membership in the N.C. Annual Conference. In December 1998, the charge conference voted to bestow on John Cline and Neil Thompson the honor of Pastors Emeritus.

On January 3, 1999, the formal dedication of the Louise Wilson Organ took place, with Bishop Marion Edwards preaching and Dr. Kermit Braswell participating in the service and dedication. In May 1999, Highland celebrated its 45 years with Reverend William Braswell being appointed the ninth senior pastor. Soon thereafter Reverend Kelli Walker-Jones was appointed part-time associate minister and Brenda Walton was appointed part-time congregational minister. In August 1999, several adults from Highland attended the Older Adult Conference at Lake Junaluska, N.C.

In January 2000, the Mission Committee met its goal of contributing \$10,000 toward the establishment of a new church in southeast Raleigh. On March 5, 2000, our Stephen Ministries held a reception after the morning service to give information about their role and work in the church. In 2002, our church participated with the N.C. United Methodist Committee on Outdoor and Camping Life Ministries in approving and funding the improvements of Camp Don Lee. In April

2000 a group of our youth spent a week in Tampa, Florida working with Habitat for Humanity. In June 2000, Rev. Jonathan Jeffries was ordained an elder in the United Methodist Church.

Our youth participated in a youth mission trip to Ireland in June 2001, which was a gratifying experience for them and the Irish youths. Also during this period Rev. Steve Edwards was appointed as our seventh associate minister. The church council was organized that year replacing the Administrative Board. In 2002 Reverend Edwards started the contemporary worship service, The Connection. This has been increasing in popularity ever since. Also during that year the program of English as a Second Language was begun.

During these recent years a cellular phone tower was installed in our steeple, we have made our facilities handicapped accessible, a large number of our youth are entering church-related professions, mission teams have been involved in local home rebuilding, many grounds and building improvements have taken place, and our Highlanders have continued to be active.

In June of 2003 Reverend James C. Lee was appointed as our tenth senior pastor. With his gratitude for assurance of God's calling to serve with the Highland people, Reverend Lee has enthusiastically met with the majority of the church families in small neighborhood group settings. He has also made pastoral visits to those living in retirement or assisted-living facilities. During his first year of ministry, Reverend Lee is learning as much as possible about Highland's people, programs, ministries, and facilities.

There is much about our present ministry to celebrate: Highland Service Project, Children's Center, Stephen Ministry, Disciple Bible Study, Companions in Christ, Alpha Course, Sunday School, midweek activities, choirs and other musical groups, numerous mission-oriented commitments such as Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network, and various age leveled ministries. While affirming the richness of Highland's past and present, however, Reverend Lee will join the church in seeking God's vision and mission for the future.

In the months to come Reverend Lee will encourage an ongoing emphasis on spiritual nurturing, mission service, evangelical outreach, pastoral care, personal and family enrichment, financial faithfulness, and dynamic workshops. By God's grace through faith Highland UMC will gladly accept Jesus's calling to "go and make disciples" as we embark upon our journey toward our centennial celebration.

As Highland United Methodist Church enters and moves on in its sixth decade, the membership has grown from its original 99 charter members to a present membership of 2,013 with a total giving in 2003 of \$1,114,355. We are justifiably proud of our reputation for outreach ministries, our frequent hospitality extended to the Annual Conference, ecumenical and community gatherings, our exemplary programs in music and youth ministry, our expanding ministries to children, families, and older adults, and the overall beauty and good use of our facilities and grounds. To God be the glory as we move on through the twenty-first century.

Original Charter Members of Highland United Methodist Church

Ralph Andrews	Dr. Levious Duncan Herring	Leo J. Spaanbroeck
Robin D. Andrews	Mrs. Margaret Horton Herring	Mrs. Frances Spaanbroeck
Mrs. Clarine Anderson Andrews	Marvin P. Jackson	Godfrey C. Stallings
William W. Austin II	Mrs. Dorothy Jackson	Mrs. Florence C. Stallings
Mrs. Lucia P. Austin	Hubert E. Johnson	Nancy Charles Stallings
William W. Austin III	Mrs. Elfreda Barker Johnson	Mr. Joseph Gwyn Sutherland
Lynda Meade Austin	Mary Ann Johnson	Mrs. Myrtle Nance Sutherland
Robert M. Brown	Arnold V. Kessler	Mrs. Virginia Roberts Sutton
Mrs. Geraldine H. Brown	Mrs. Margaret M. Kessler	Roy S. Umstead
Mrs. Robert E. Brown	Arnold V. Kessler Jr.	Mrs. Ester P. Umstead
Clifford N. Carroll	Donald S. Long	Carlisle P. Umstead
Mrs. Norma Burgess Carroll	Mrs. Judith Moore Long	William T. Utley
Elizabeth Anne Carroll	Thurston J. Mann	Mrs. Susie B. Utley
Thomas Burgess Carroll	Mrs. Lela D. Mann	Herbert G. Webb
Douglas S. Chamblee	Ray M. Mansfield	Mrs. Jean Webb
Mrs. Edythe B. Chamblee	Mrs. Jessie Utley Mansfield	Charles Waters Welch
Mrs. Thomas A. Collins	Joseph L. Moody	Mrs. Lucille Welch
Faye Collins	Mrs. Joseph L. Moody	Charles E. White
Samuel H. Dobson	Robert M. Morgan	Mrs. Caroline R. White
Mrs. Frances Rhinehart Dobson	Mrs. Frances Hollenger Morgan	James Edwin White
Earl L. Emory	William J. Page	William Andrew Wilkinson Jr.
Mrs. Frances McKelvey Emory	Mrs. Sallye W. Page	Mrs. Martha Wilkinson
John B. Gartner	Mrs. Bessie L. Patton	James C. Williamson Jr.
Mrs. Ruth C. Gartner	Jesse Pinkham	Mrs. Sallie Joe Williamson
Archie M. Gilbert	Mrs. Jesse Pinkham	Paul M. Williamson
Mrs. Mary Gilbert	Harold F. Robinson	Mrs. Paul M. Williamson
Barbara Ann Gilbert	Mrs. Katherine Robinson	Frank C. Wilson
Charles Edward Gilbert	Henry B. Rollins	Mrs. Gretchen B. Wilson
William T. Hall	Mrs. Betty Rollins	Frank C. Wilson Jr.
Mrs. Beth Hall	Mrs. Eleanor Hedrick Rose	Joseph G. Wise
Mrs. Marietta Homer Hardison	Cecil R. Scarborough	Mrs. Sara Wise
Mrs. Robert L. Harrington	Mrs. Cecil R. Scarborough	Gilbert L. Workman
Dorothy Hedrick	Emily Sorrells	Mrs. Naomi Workman

Highland United Methodist Church

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