

**CELEBRATING THE PAST _____
MOVING FORWARD IN FAITH**

**30th Anniversary
North Raleigh United Methodist Church
1971 - 2001**

In the spring of 1971, 13 families met and began what we know today as North Raleigh United Methodist Church. There were several organizational meetings and much planning that preceded the first worship service, which was conducted on June 20, 1971. For almost two years the congregation worshipped at Monk Chapel, which was located at the Methodist Home for Children. (At that time, the Home was located between St. Mary's St. and Glenwood Ave.) The 97 charter members were instrumental in making the great undertaking of establishing a new church the successful venture it has become. Four ministers from the staff of the Methodist Building provided leadership on a rotating basis during our first year. A little over a year after the first worship service, the name North Raleigh United Methodist Church was officially selected as the permanent name of our church.

On June 8, 1972, Rev. Sidney Huggins became the first full-time pastor of North Raleigh Church. Our church had purchased a 7-acre tract of land in North Raleigh on Honeycutt Road, and in September 1972 the construction of our present fellowship hall was begun.

We worshipped in our new church building on March 25, 1973. At that time we had a total membership of 132. At Annual Conference in June 1973 our church was honored to receive the "Church of the Year" Award. This reflected the achievements and attained goals realized by North Raleigh United Methodist Church over the preceding year. By 1978 we were outgrowing our original sanctuary, and on June 4, 1978, an early morning service at 8:45 was begun. Our early service time has evolved and now begins at 8:30.

Five years later in March 1983, our present sanctuary was completed, and our church membership had grown to 849. The following June, Rev. Doug Jessee was appointed Senior Minister. Other senior ministers serving our church in following years include Rev. Charles Pollock, Rev. Bob Wallace, and our current pastor, Rev. Billy Seate.

In 1986 the NRUM Preschool was started as an outreach mission to the community. The program gives children an opportunity to enjoy a variety of appropriate experiences in a caring environment outside of the home. This preschool is recognized throughout the community for its high quality program.

Soon after the birth of the Preschool, a two-story Education Building was built and completed in 1988 giving much-needed space to Sunday School classes for all ages from infants to adults.

During the 1980s and 1990s North Raleigh experienced periods of explosive growth, which created the need for additional programming staff positions. We now enjoy the professional leadership of an Administrative Assistant, Rev. Keith Glover; Youth Director, Dan Gray; Director of Christian Education, Elizabeth Hounshell; Music Director, Michael Glasgow; and Organist, Karen Philibert.

In the 1990s NRUMC committed to a number of special mission and caregiving programs. By serving as host for the Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network each quarter, approximately 100 members are involved in this special ministry. The Stephen Ministry involves another segment of our congregation who, after having studied and devoted a year's preparation, minister unto other church members.

In 2001, our Music Program is larger and more varied than ever. These multi-programs include the Chancel Choir, Kidchimes, Belleplates, Flute Ensemble, Youth Bells, His Grace Notes, North Raleigh Ringers, and Cherub Choir. So that the growing Chancel Choir could be accommodated, the choir loft was enlarged this year.

One of our members, Pat Ford, was named Lay Person of the Conference in 1996, and in 2000 another member, Mack Parker, served as a delegate to the United Methodist General Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. This year, Dr. Ted Kunstling serves as chairman of the Conference Commission on Clergy Counseling and Consulting.

We continue to support strong United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Youth Fellowship, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouting programs and a full complement of committees which are part of the Council on Ministries—the programming arm of our church.

Additionally, we own a parsonage at 305 Woodcock Court for our senior ministers and their families.

On February 18, 2001, a nine-member Building Committee was elected. This followed the work of the Long Range Planning Committee which met throughout 2000. The Building Committee is in the process of planning new facilities for the current North Raleigh congregation of 1177 members as we move into the 21st century.

THE HISTORY COMMITTEE