

Ridgedale Baptist Church
Chattanooga, TN
2008 Celebration of the 100th
Anniversary of the Church
Compiled by Herman May

1907

In June of 1907, Rev. A.L. Boyle and Casper Engert established a Sunday School in a tent in the yard of Robert L. Jett, 18 Howard Street.

In October of 1907, they moved to an "upper chamber" over the blacksmith shop of J.O. Sharrock at 2518 East Main Street. Dr. and Mrs. A.L. Boyle were the teachers with Sarah Mills and Miss Lena Gray. Brother R.E. Phillips led the singing and also taught.

1908

In June of 1908 they rented Kings Hall over the grocery store of McClain & Son at the corner of Dodds Avenue and 12th Street. In October Brother Chunn, pastor at East Lake, came to Ridgedale.

On Sunday afternoon in mid-summer, Dr. J.C. Masee, pastor of First Baptist Church, came out and led in the organization of Ridgedale Baptist Church with 15 charter members.

Charter members were: Rev. and Mrs. G.A. Chunn, Mrs. Susan Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. D.N. Phillips, Mr. Scott, Mrs. Cordelia A. Cox, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. R.E. Phillips, Mr. Jesse R. Tallent, Mr. Casper Engert, Mrs. J.P. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Page, and Mrs. Carl B. Wood. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lamb joined soon after, followed shortly by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Carson.

Jesse Tallent was the first Sunday School Supt. and Casper Engert, the church treasurer. When there were about 30 enrolled in Sunday School, the service time was moved to the morning. In less than a year they reached 67 on roll.

1909

The church applied for membership in Ocoee Baptist Association at the annual meeting in October, along with East Lake Baptist Church, and Chamberlain Avenue Baptist Church.

Pastor G.A. Chunn held services at Ridgedale on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and he also pastored the East Lake Church on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. The church had 33 members, with 28 additions by letter and 5 by baptism during that first year. R.D. Adams was the church clerk. By the end of Pastor Chunn's first year, the church had 156 on roll; at the close of his second year there were about 197 on roll.

1910

In October Rev. Chunn became the full-time Pastor and served until he moved in 1911. Church clerk M.J. Keith reported 52 members, with 17 additions by letter and 5 by baptism, and a total church property value of \$1,380.

The church bought the site at 2500 and 2502 12th Street. The pastor's annual salary was \$360 with a total budget of \$944.75 and total missions of \$65.50. Sunday School Supt. J.R. Tallent reported 140 "scholars" enrolled.

1911

The first building was begun at the corner of 12th and Peachtree. Rev. Chunn left in September and W.C. Richardson was called.

1912

Pastor Walter C. Richardson and clerk J.W. Carson reported 145 members. A small brick building was completed at 2500 East 12th Street, which later was occupied by the Primitive Baptists.

1914

Pastor Jesse Jeter Johnson and clerk Oliver McSpadden reported 133 members and a property value of \$4,150.

1916

A frame was added to the original building for the Primary classes.

1919

Pastor J.J. Johnson and clerk R.M. Penny reported 194 members and a property value of \$4,500. J.S. Lamb was Sunday School Supt.

1920

Pastor F.E. Hauser reported 126 members, with 160 enrolled in Sunday School. He stayed only eleven months, during which time he nailed shut the church doors in protest that his salary had been shorted. Deacon Joe Lamb opened the doors, after which the pastor left. William E. Davis was called as pastor in September moving into the first pastorium at 808 Dodds Avenue.

1921

Pastor William E. Davis and clerk F.W. Fridel reported 140 members, with 165 in Sunday School. The property value was \$10,200. Another frame addition was built which almost doubled the auditorium seating capacity.

1922

Pastor W.E. Davis and clerk A.R. Keith reported 211 members, and the property value was \$9,700.

1923

Plans for a new building were discussed, but with a membership of 250, less than 100 were wage earners. There was much doubt about the finances for a \$50,000 building, but they were challenged by the motto, "Attempt great things for God and expect great things from Him."

A committee was appointed to locate a site and formulate a financial plan. The committee was L.A. Warlick, J.S. Lamb, H.C. Patterson, G.R. Walker, and R.M. Penny. They exchanged the pastor's residence at 802 Dodds Avenue for the new site at the corner of Dodds and Bailey Avenues.

1924

The brick church building, the first unit of the sanctuary, was built in 1924 at 600 Dodds Avenue, with a total value of \$30,000. The ground breaking was held by Mrs. C.B. Wood and Mrs. Sarah J. Mills, the only 2 charter members, on April 1 on the 100 X 110 ft. corner lot.

A two-story house, moved from that site to front 50 ft. on Bailey Avenue, was to be used as a parsonage for the next 15 years and, later, as Sunday School space until it was torn down.

The cornerstone that was laid on August 17 included a Bible and a church history, according to a newspaper article dated August 18, 1924, and according to the account in the cornerstone by R.M. Penny, secretary of the building committee.

Soon afterwards the sanctuary was completed.

Mrs. Mattie Lewis was baptized in the first service in the new sanctuary.

1925

Pastor W.E. Davis reported 356 members, with 54 additions by letter 53 by baptism, 4 by statement and 2 by restoration.

1926

Pastor R.L. Baker was called to serve during those depression years when the church suffered so much financially.

1927

Clerk R.M. Penny reported 425 members, a gain of 19 over last year.

1928

Pastor R.L. Baker reported 433 enrolled in Sunday School.

1929

Pastor R. L. Baker reported an average attendance in Sunday School of 322.

The WMS “completed paying for the church pews and were ready to undertake some other line of financial assistance.”

During the year the church “liberated newly baptized member, Fred Wolfe, to preach the Gospel.”

1930

The March report included an all-time attendance record of 453 in Sunday School.

Dr. R.L. Baker resigned in June as pastor after 3 1/2 years.

“The church also voted that Bro. Charles Hudlow be liberated to exercise his gifts as a preacher.”

Brother David Livingstone accepted the call as pastor, with the request for a provision of \$20 monthly toward the salary of a secretary. He served until 1939.

Seven messengers were elected to attend the associational meeting at Candies Creek Baptist Church, and four delegates were appointed to the state convention in Nashville. H.P. Allen was appointed to the Executive Board of the Ocoee Association “and was also instructed to mail statements to all members each month, showing their standing with regard to payment of pledges.”

The choir and the pastor conducted a worship service over WDOD, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday evening December 14.

The year ended with an average attendance in Sunday School of 416. The Auxiliary offering for Lottie Moon missions was \$18.80.

1931

The church voted to deposit Mission funds into the general fund to be disbursed by the church treasurer.

Brother Roy Starmer was licensed by the church to preach.

Church membership totaled 716. Average Sunday School attendance included 442 for October.

In September “the motion was made that a committee of three be nominated to look about and buy coal for the coming winter.”

The Percentage Plan was adopted for financing the church @ 60% for Current Expense, 15% for Benevolence, and 25% for Building Fund.

1932

New members during the year totaled 424. The church voted "to enlarge platform & quire (choir)" and that all funds go into a central treasury, effective October 1, 1932.

WMU had 6 circle meetings with an average attendance of 72. Sunday School average attendance during the year included 537 in March, 648 in April, 589 in August, 572 in November.

Baptisms included: 14 in January, 34 in February, 70 in March, and 16 in April. Revival!

"Brother William A. Jordan and Brother D.B. Lee were liberated by the church to preach the Gospel." The Rescue Band held services in various homes and many were saved.

1933

A balcony was added to the sanctuary at a cost of \$343.67, with labor provided by church members who were out of work. The baptistery was also moved to its permanent position.

Brother William A. Jordan was ordained to the ministry, in order that he might become the pastor of Morris Hill Baptist Church. Roy L. Austin was also "liberated to preach the Gospel."

Sunday School average attendance in March was 633, and a high attendance of 710 was averaged in April, the July average was 616.

The Rescue Band reported that since it was organized, there have been 66 prayer meetings held, with 24 conversions.

Thirty-three inactive members were dropped from the church roll. The church voted that money not used in repairing the baptistery be given to the pastor to reimburse him for money he spent in repairing the parsonage.

1938

An addition was made to the original building.

1939

During this year, Pastor Livingstone resigned, and Dr. Freeman came as pastor for only one week. Then Dr. James A. Ivey came as pastor, serving until 1947.

1944

A new mission was begun which became Ridgeview Baptist Church, now located on the corner of Moore Road and Brainerd Road.

Ferrell Gilbert came as Minister of Music and Education, becoming the church's first paid choir director. Mrs. Ivey started the church library, and Fellowship meals were begun.

The church voted to accept plans for a new education building and for alternations to the sanctuary structure.

1947

Dr. Ivey resigned, and the church called Rev. Earl Stallings as pastor. He served until 1951.

During his ministry the Ku Klux Klan offered to rally at the church in support of anti-liquor forces, but Rev. Stallings refused their offer, even though he was a leader in the anti-liquor forces.

1949

The building program planned in 1947 was carried out, including enlarging the side balcony.

1950

The new two-story educational building was completed in March at a cost of \$160,000.

1952

Rev. Howard Ethington was called as pastor. Community changes contributed to a decline in attendance.

1954-59

Dr. Lewis Ferrell was called as pastor, and the third story was added to the education building in 1956 at a cost of \$70,000. L.A. Warlick was the builder of the church in 1924, and constructed all three additions.

The pastorium at 106 Asbury Drive was included in the 1955 total value of the church property of \$375,000, with a debt of about \$75,000.

Membership was 1,391; and average gifts during the preceding three years averaged \$90,707.33 per year.

Mary Alice Sample was the Youth Director in 1955, John M. Farris, Jr. was the Music Director and Assistant Pastor, Mrs. James (Anna) Johnson was church organist, and Mrs. Jack (Rosa Jo) Smith was the pianist.

Major community changes began with the construction of I-75 over Missionary Ridge in 1955, followed by the McCallie/Dodds overpass which moved Bailey Avenue away from the church by 1957.

1959-61

Rev. Charles Drake was called as pastor in 1959, serving until 1961. The Sanctuary was renovated with new pews and pulpit furniture, and air conditioning was added throughout the buildings in 1961.

1962

Dr. R. Raymond Lloyd came as pastor on July 29 from First Baptist, Rockwood, Tennessee and served until 1972.

October 7, Sunday School attendance was 577, with an offering of \$2,214.53. The 1963 budget was set at \$112,183.

The choir sang John Peterson's "No Greater Love" for Easter and Handel's "Messiah" for Christmas music.

1963

After four years, Douglas Bowers resigned as Minister of Music in March to go to Moreland Avenue Baptist in Atlanta, Georgia.

Joe E. Parks came as Minister of Music in May.

October 6 Sunday School attendance was 611. The new budget for 1964 was set at \$114,670.

1964

Ted Hayes was the summer Youth Director and Pastor's Assistant. New church officers this year included Chairman of Deacons, Claibourne D. Henry.

October 4 Sunday School attendance was 501.

The church voted on major expansion of the buildings, including kitchen/dining area, new baptistery with arched opening and dressing rooms, new conference room, relocation and expansion of the library, installation of

the elevator, and purchase of adjoining property.

On December 16th the first "Family Night Supper" was held in the new facility.

1965

Ted Hayes was called in February as Minister of Education and Youth, part-time until May when he finishes Southern Seminary and then full-time.

This was the first year to observe Maundy, Thursday services at Easter time.

Renovation of the buildings was completed with Dedication Day on March 21.

October 3 Sunday School attendance was 547.

During 1965 Ridgedale was 5th among all churches in Tennessee in percent of total offerings given through the Cooperative Program with 24.2% with 1334 members. The budget for 1966 was set at \$125,000.

1966

In 1966 the Child Development Center began its ministry to preschool children and working parents. Mrs. Rawlin (Marguerite) Hullender led this ministry, beginning August 1.

In 1967 the Summer Enrichment Program began its ministry to elementary children, and the Jolly Elders was formed for Senior adults.

The October 9, 1966, Sunday School attendance was 600. The use of Life and Work Curriculum began to replace Uniform Lesson Series. Budget gifts of \$115,000 plus and total gifts of \$130,300.21 were given— the largest amount ever. Of that, 34% went to "Missions."

1967

In April the church voted to renovate the sanctuary with paint, carpet, and insulation at a cost of \$8,500.

Youth week pastor was Sam Henry. Sam tells about the service being interrupted by the fire department, which was called about a fire in the church caused by some boys smoking.

Vacation Bible School enrollment was 364.

Rev. R.R. Lloyd, Sr. was called in September as Minister of Visitation and Teaching for four months.

October 1, 1967, Sunday School attendance was 524 and Training Union was 218.

In November a full page of the bulletin announced the death of Joseph A. Carson (Jan. 25, 1880-Oct. 22, 1967). He joined the church in late summer of 1908, a few (3-4) weeks after the church was organized, having attended services since they were first held over the blacksmith shop at 2518 East Main Street. He was Sunday School Supt. 1910-1917. He was elected a deacon in 1929, and taught the Fellowship Class for many years.

1968

In 1968 the church observed its 60th Anniversary and Homecoming Celebration on September 15-22 with 560 in Sunday School.

October 6 Sunday School attendance was 463.

"Good News," a Christian folk musical for youth, was performed at Central High by youth from Belmont Heights Baptist Church in Nashville on Saturday, September 21, 1968. This was the first of the new "folk style" youth musicals that continued for the next 20 years plus.

Kenneth Clayton, a student at Southern Seminary, was called as summer Youth Director on June 9, 1968. Our first Junior Camp was held that summer with 62 in attendance.

1969

The pastor went on a mission trip to Guam to minister to military families.
Mike King came as summer Youth Director. A fund was started to buy a new Baldwin organ at a cost of \$7,500.

1970

The church purchased the old Drill Field of Central High School in March for \$25,515. Extensive remodeling also took place, including the kitchen, library, offices, and baptistery, which became the classic, tall style.

The Youth Choir presented "Purpose," a contemporary musical.

Virginia Shadrick was awarded a special citation as Swordsman of Distinction at the SBC Intermediate Sword Drill at Ridgcrest. Ridgedale's mission church, Ridgeview, celebrated its 25th anniversary. Mike King returned as summer Youth Director.

1971

The Youth Choir sang Joe Park's new musical, "Light of the World," for the state Youth Evangelistic conference in Nashville on Saturday, January 30 and here on March 4. The Adult Choir presented "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Dubois for Easter.

Rev. Ray Cleek was called on May 2 as Associate Minister beginning June 20.

Joe Parks resigned on August 20 after eight years to go to Spring Creek Road Baptist Church in Chattanooga, effective September 5. Don Erwin was called as interim Minister of Music.

On October 3 the Sunday School attendance was 385 (50% of enrollment). New members added during the year totaled 82.

1972

Dr. Lloyd resigned as pastor effective June 4 to go to First Baptist, Starkville, Mississippi. He had served here for almost 10 years.

Darrell P. McCauley was called as Interim Minister of Music beginning August 1.

The October 8 Sunday School attendance was 461.

1973

Harrison M. Baker retired as Building Supervisor, having served 1966-1972, after previously retiring from the Post Office.

Buryl Red's trend-setting new musical, "Celebrate Life," was presented here on August 20 by a guest youth choir from Walton, Kentucky.

Dr. Kenneth Hubbard came as pastor on September 30 from First Baptist Church, Manchester, Tennessee, along with his wife, Faye, and daughters, Lisa and Lana.

Darrell P. McCauley resigned, effective the end of December to go to First Baptist, Daisy, Tennessee.

1974

Walter B. Rogers, Jr. was called to begin as Minister of Music & Youth on January 1, coming from First Baptist, Columbia, Tennessee.

1975

The church ranked 5th in Tennessee in proportionate giving and 21st in total gifts among 3,000 churches.

1976

The auditorium renovation was finished on January 1, and plans were begun for a Christian Life Center. The original paintings by Scott Leach displayed in the library were for sale, with proceeds going to the Building Fund.

On August 27 the church celebrated the 10th anniversary of Marguerite Hullender as Director of CDC.

In September the total membership of Ridgedale was 1,300, and on October 1 the Sunday School attendance was 465.

On November 28 the musical drama "Samuel" was presented, featuring Brian Daugherty as the boy Samuel, Cathy Gross as mother Hannah, James Coulter as her husband Elkanah, Walter Rogers as the priest Eli, and the Young Musicians and Adult Choir as the chorus of villagers.

1977

Walter Rogers resigned on May 29 to go to North Stuart Baptist Church, Stuart, Florida; and Fred Childers came as summer organist. On September 11 Sam Marshall, Jr. began his duties as Interim Music Director.

On October 2 the Sunday School attendance was 436.

1978

Al Baker was ordained on January 15 to the Gospel Ministry.

Sam Marshall was called on January 15 as full-time Minister of Music, Youth, and Activities.

A music-drama "Living Witnesses" was presented on May 7, with living pictures from the tomb on Easter morn through the events that followed. Joe Parks and his family returned as members at Ridgedale, as he continued with clinics and music composing.

Brian Lee was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by First Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, Tennessee on July 23. Sam Henderson was ordained on August 20 to the Gospel Ministry.

The church organizational year was changed from October 1 to September 1.

"The Chrismon Tree Service" was held on December 24, featuring symbolic Christian ornaments on the tree.

1979

A set of timpani and orchestra bells were donated to the church. Terry McCandless came as organist in February. Youth week pastor was Steve Roberson, March 4-11.

The pastor exchanged pulpits with Dr. Gilbert Richie of Glasgow, Scotland, during July.

Our church had 531 family units with a resident membership of 914. The Sunday School enrollment was 830.

The collection of Campbell soup labels for Education Campaign, with 3600 collected, purchased "listening equipment" for the church in March. The next year's goal for a similar campaign was a rhythm band kit.

The "Together We Build" pledging for the Family Life Center yielded \$160,508.

The church voted to pay the pastor a housing allowance so that he could buy his own home, effective October 1, 1979. The parsonage at 106 Asbury Drive was to be sold.

Pastor Kenneth Hubbard resigned after six years to go to Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Knoxville, effective October 14.

Dr. Ralph Norton, former pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church and also the Executive Secretary of Tennessee Baptist Convention was called as interim pastor.

The October 7 Sunday School attendance was 454.

1980

Dr. William Edward Owens with his wife Darlene and children, April and Billy came as pastor on May 1, coming from Bloomfield, Kentucky.

In June the church expressed appreciation to Marguerite Hullander for 14 years of leadership of the Child Development Center.

In August a survey was begun to evaluate the need for a Family Life Building. On August 31 a "Declaration of Commitment" was signed by the elected church leaders.

Elsilynn Knisley came as church organist. A new handbell choir began rehearsals on October 30 for Senior High and Young Adults.

A children's worship service was begun in September during the morning service with 19 present.

The Sunday School attendance on October 5 was 417 with 764 enrolled.

The lighting of the Advent Wreath candle each Sunday in December was begun.

1981

Baptist Men (Brotherhood) which had begun in 1953 and later declined, was reactivated on January 12.

A Witness Clinic was held February 20-21 with over 100 attending, resulting in an increased interest in visitation and nearly thirty decisions for Christ in one week in March.

On February 27 members enjoyed a Christian Dinner Theater with a comedy, "Give and Take" as a part of our drama and activities ministry.

Youth Week staff, March 15-22 included youth pastor Doug Plumlee and youth minister of music Wade Marshall.

The Young Musicians presented the delightful musical "Down by the Creekbank" on April 5. Physical fitness director, Clistis Tallent presented a protection seminar as part of our Activities Ministry.

Pastor Bill Owens received his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Southern Seminary in May.

The Adult Choir presented Buryl Red's new praise musical, "Beginnings" on June 7.

Mrs. Bill (Mary Jayne) Allen came June 15 as Educational Coordinator and Secretary.

The James Dobson film series "Focus on the Family" was shown for seven Sunday evenings during the summer.

The Sunday School attendance on October 4 was 380 with 763 enrolled.

With work already begun, October 11 of 1981 saw the ground breaking for the Christian Life Center, as well as a Victory Day to completely pledge the finances needed. Total cash on hand rose to \$127,760.80.

Floyd Chunn, son of the first pastor, dedicated his life for the ministry.

1982

The new Christian Life Center was dedicated on March 30, although not all of the building was complete to use.

Mike Vaughn was called as summer Youth Director, beginning May 30.

Fund-raising continued to complete the Christian Life Center on a pay-as-you-go basis. Collecting Campbell bean and soup labels continued as a special project to secure recreational equipment.

A World's Fair trip to Knoxville involved many of our people. The church choir presented "I Love America" by John Peterson/Don Wyrzten July 4.

Renee Cooke was a state winner in the children's Bible drill and Terri Christol won the regional competition. Mr. & Mrs. Hershel Johnson from Ridgedale went as missionaries to Japan.

The Christian Life Center was finally finished and Open House was held on October 10. Numerous programs were offered, including crafts, drama, physical fitness, aerobics, weight lifting, photography, tennis, skating, intra-church sports such as basketball, quilting, pottery, ceramics, rook tournament and calligraphy.

The October 3 Sunday School attendance was 368 with 746 enrolled. Church Training had 114 present out of 348 enrolled.

The Church Choir presented the Christmas musical, "Noel, Jesus Is Born" on December 19.

1983

The pastor's volunteers for Encouragers for new members and new Christians involved 25 people as the

ministry began.

Claibourne Henry shared experiences from one of his many home mission trips.

The Church Choir sang David Danner's dramatic Easter cantata "Joy Comes in the Morning" on April 3.

Ridgedale celebrated its 75th Anniversary in July with a special anniversary plate and former staff members as guests:

Dr. Lewis Ferrell (1954-59) and Dr. Charles Drake (1959-61) preaching on July 3;

Dr. Kenneth Hubbard (1973-79) preaching on July 10 with Walter Rodgers, a former Minister of Music (1973-77) leading the music;

Rev. Earl Stallings (1947-51) and Rev. Howard Ethington (1952-54) preaching on July 17;

Dr. Ray Cleek (assoc. pastor 1971-73) preaching and a "Fashions Through the Years" feature on July 24;

and

Dr. Raymond Lloyd (1962-72) preaching on July 31 with a covered dish luncheon and an afternoon program of music, history and recognitions with Dr. James A. Ivey (1939-47) preaching.

Joe and Wilda Parks were co-chairpersons for the Anniversary Committee, and Dorothy Spurlock chaired the History Committee.

Rick Clark began as Minister of Youth on October 2, coming from Stuart Heights Baptist Church and serving here for two years. Sunday School attendance was 384.

Ridgedale's first annual Community Thanksgiving Service in recent years was held on Tuesday, November 28.

1984

Mike Goodner was ordained to the ministry on January 8 upon completion of his Master of Divinity degree from Southern Seminary December 16 and he began his youth ministry at Brainerd Baptist Church.

On April 29 the choir presented the Easter cantata "We Shall Behold Him" by Rambo and Clydesdale. A favorite anthem at this time was "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name."

On May 4 the pastor presented his "State of the Church" message, following the 75th anniversary and the soul-searching summer of 1983. A Vietnamese ministry became part of the ministry and a fledgling community counseling ministry was begun.

On September 30 the Children's Church was replaced with a children's sermon in the morning worship service.

Mary Jayne Allen resigned in October after three years, to go to seminary. Two new ministers were licensed during the year, Doug Plumlee and Rick Russell.

The Sunday School attendance on October 7 was 375 with 844 enrolled. There were 847 resident church members and 353 non-resident, totaling 1,200.

1985

In March, the youth director was Danny Russell.

Dr. Owens celebrated his 5th anniversary as pastor on April 28. A Masterlife program was begun with two groups in the spring and other groups in the fall.

The death of Randy Coulter in August resulted in the establishment by his parents, James and June Coulter, of a scholarship fund to recognize other outstanding Christian athletes at Ridgedale.

Rick Clark resigned on September 22 as Youth/Education Director after two years to go to a position in Nashville.

Randy and Debbie Goodner served as volunteers with the youth program in the fall.

December music included the new Senior Adult Choir singing "Something New" on December 1.

The Young Musicians and Music Makers performing "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" on Dec. 22, and the Adult Choir singing "Come, Celebrate Jesus" by Don Marsh on Dec. 15.

1986

In January, Randy Goodner was selected interim Youth Coordinator, and in April he was called as Youth Director.

On Easter Sunday, March 30, the adult choir presented the music/drama "Living Witnesses".

On October 5 the Sunday School attendance was 378. November 16 was declared Debt Retirement Sunday with a goal of \$50,000. Of this \$21,231.27 was received.

The adult choir presented "Images of Christmas" on December 21.

On December 15 the church voted to sell the Dodds Avenue church property to McCallie School and to purchase other property on which to build.

1987

Seventy-four Study Course awards were earned during the past year, and there were 873 resident members of the church on January 1.

The adult Easter music/drama was "Joy Comes in the Morning" by David Danner on April 19, with soloists Randy Goodner, Ed Goodgame, and Cathy Robbs.

The Youth Mission Trip, June 21-27, presented campground and mall concerts of "Love Crucified Arose".

The new building site, 7 acres on Hickory Valley Road was presented on September 30 at a cost of \$350,000.

Miss Ethel Burnett was honored posthumously on September 11 for her 50 years as Sunday School secretary. The deacon ministry was expanded to 37 deacons in September.

1988

Sam Marshall celebrated his 10th anniversary on January 1 as Minister of Music and Activities at Ridgedale.

A record snowfall occurred on Sunday, January 10, canceling worship services.

Doug Plumlee was ordained on April 7, as he was called as pastor to Elmburg Baptist Church in Kentucky.

"Debt Free Sunday" was declared for May 15 with a goal of \$44,861.67. All was raised except \$9,448.85.

Worship services and Sunday School began on July 17 at 8:30 a.m. at the Baptist Children's Home on Lee Highway to encourage prospects from that area. There were 45 attending that first service. Building plans for the new location were adopted that same day at a cost estimate for Phase 1 of \$2,220,650, including worship, educational, offices, kitchen, and Ridgedale room facilities. Phase 2 for educational space was estimated at \$560,000. The July 22 Reminder included floor plans for the new building. The 80th Anniversary Celebration on July 31 included a sermon by Dr. Owens as "Brother Gus Chunn," the church's first pastor.

Randy Goodner resigned as Youth Director effective September 30 after serving 2 1/2 years. On October 2 the Sunday School attendance was 313 with 734 on roll.

Victory Sunday was scheduled for November 20 for budget pledges and note burning for the Christian Life Center.

November 27 began the Advent season with Hanging of the Greens and Chrismons.

1989

David Faile, a senior at Tennessee Temple came as Minister to Youth on January 1. Dr. Owens celebrated his 40th birthday.

The Easter musical, "The Day He Wore My Crown" by Clydesdale was presented on March 26 by the adult choir.

Bids were accepted on Phase 1 of the new building for \$2,324,459. Ground breaking on Hickory Valley Road was April 2 at 5 p.m.

At the 81st Anniversary on August 20, the two cornerstones were opened, the original one from January 5, 1912, and the second phase of the building from August 17, 1924. Several unknown details were revealed, including the 1913 history written by Mrs. Sarah J. Mills, a charter member. She stated that the Sunday School was organized on an afternoon in June, 1907, in a tent on Howard Street (not on Bennett Avenue as long believed) with 10 scholars.

On October 1 the Sunday School attendance was 290.

The annual Fall Festival was held on Saturday, November 11. The Sunday School high attendance on November 1 was 404.

On December 10 the senior adult choir presented Joe Parks' "Christmas in the Good Old Days," and on

December 17 the adult choir presented "King of Love" by Strader/Korgstad.
David Faile resigned as Youth Minister to work as a camp counselor.

1990

Reid Hughes came as Minister of Youth from Brainerd Baptist Church on January 21.

Dr. Owens celebrated his 10th anniversary as pastor on April 29.

In June the furniture and equipment in the Dodds Avenue building was sold to various buyers. One of the large stained glass windows was saved for later use.

Marguerite Hullander retired on July 3 after 24 years (1966-1990) as CDC director. Mrs. Kevin (Julie) Reese became CDC director on July 9.

The last service at the Dodds Avenue building was held on August 26. The cornerstone was moved to the new building, and the first service (outdoors) and the dedication of our new facility were held the same day, following a motorcade to the new site. There were 447 in Sunday School that day. Services were begun in the new facilities at 1831 Hickory Valley Road on September 3.

On October 7 the Sunday School attendance was 411, and 20 new members joined the church that day. By October 21 the Sunday School attendance reached 443.

The community Thanksgiving Service was held on November 20 at Concord Baptist with our new neighbors, Morris Hill Baptist and Westview Baptist.

1991

The new 1991 Baptist Hymnal was ordered (357) in March for our church. On May 12 we had a dedication and celebration of Praise.

On February 10 the 100th member joined since the relocation to Hickory Valley. Also in February the plans for the second floor educational space were presented.

On Easter Sunday, March 31, there were 750 in worship and 520 in Sunday School.

Reid Hughes resigned as Youth Minister on May 31 after 16 months.

On June 17 Quin Bernhardt came as Associate Pastor and Youth Minister.

On June 23 we held the dedication of the new second floor educational building and courtyard at 7 p.m. The courtyard was given in memory of Grayland Lawson's son, Gavin Durone Lawson.

On June 30 we shared a joint evening service with New Zion Missionary Church.

Since we had no baptismal pool in our church, we held a baptismal service at Ridgeview Baptist Church on July 21 at 4:30, as we did many times during this period without a permanent sanctuary.

Betsy Newman came as organist on July 1, coming from Avondale Baptist.

The 83rd anniversary of the church was celebrated, along with one year at Hickory Valley Road on September 1. There have been 170 new church members and 209 new members in Sunday School during the year, with gifts totaling 113% of the budget.

A new training program at 7:00 pm. called "Primetime College" was begun with nine various classes. Claibourne and Frances Henry were named on staff as inner City Church Missionaries for the year.

The community Thanksgiving Service was held at Tyner United Methodist Church on November 27.

1992

On January 26 the church membership totaled 1000 with a Sunday School attendance of 524. Additional land was purchased for parking expansion.

The annual winter Bible Study was held on March 15-18 on "Isaiah" led by Dr. J. J. Owens.

In May the church voted to spend \$91,000 to cover the water detention ponds, thereby increasing parking by 50 spaces, and also to buy 1 1/2 acres on the northeast side of the site at a cost of \$70,000 for additional parking. The church's 84th anniversary on September 6 was celebrated with a concert by Bonita Johnson from Atlanta.

Miss Katherine Thompson was recognized for being a member of Ridgedale for 81 years.

Julie Reese resigned on September 11 after two years as CDC director. October 1 Sally Graf became the third director of the CDC since its beginning.

On October 4 the Sunday School attendance was 464. On October 25 the 66 new parking spaces became

available over the water detention pools.

On October 25 the Sunday School reached a new high attendance of 578, just short of the 614 goal.

1993

In January we celebrated Sam Marshall's 15th anniversary as Minister of Music and Activities.

An 85th Anniversary committee was appointed with Emily Garrett as chairperson.

On February 17 we entered a stewardship campaign "Arise & Build" to raise funds for the new sanctuary and educational space at an estimated cost of \$2,000,000.

March 12 brought the "Blizzard of '93," a record snowfall of 21 inches, closing down most of the city.

On March 28 the "Arise & Build" campaign began with co-directors, Jim Beasley and Mack McCarley.

In May we observed "5 Fabulous Sundays," a time of stewardship and spiritual emphasis including Victory Sunday on June 6, with 561 in Sunday School and "Arise & Build" pledges of \$809,656.12. Our next goal became \$1,200,000 for construction.

On June 27 we approved the purchase of 14 additional acres at a cost of \$525,000.

Groundbreaking for the new Sanctuary and Educational Building was held on July 4, after a contract bid was approved for \$2,662,765; and a maximum loan was secured for \$3,600,000.

Quin Bernhardt resigned effective June 30 as Minister of Youth/Associate Pastor to go to First Baptist Church, Gainesville, Florida.

Sam Marshall's job was changed on August 1 to Minister of Adults and Administration and interim Minister of Music.

The church's 85th Anniversary was celebrated on August 29 with speaker Brian Lee, music by Marty Parks and Ed Goodgame with organist Fred Childers and pianist Margaret Bailey. The Senior Adult Choir gained a new leader, Norman Chase, on September 12.

On October 3 the Sunday School attendance was 479, and Scott Culpepper was named as Youth Director.

The Old Pilgrim Service was held on Sunday, November 21 and members were encouraged to dress in Pilgrim garb. Oil lamps were used in the service.

The Senior Adult choir combined with White Oak Baptist to present Joe Parks' "One Holy Night" on December 5.

1994

John Steele began as church pianist in January; David Karsner began as Minister of Students & Recreation on January 24; and Lamar Puckett began as Minister of Music on February 9.

The choir overflowed with 54 singers on March 13 in the temporary sanctuary.

The new Sanctuary was first used for worship on April 3, and there were 719 in Sunday School.

The dedication of the new Sanctuary was held on Easter Sunday, April 10 with 909 in Worship and 631 in Sunday School. Guest speaker was Dr. James Porch, Executive Secretary of TBC. That evening the dedication of the new Allen organ was held with a concert by Bruce Clark, organist at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Lee and John Chang's family arrived on June 2 from Vietnam with our financial help. The new Telephone Prayer Ministry began on June 5.

On September 1 new church members totaled 555 in the four years at Hickory Valley Road.

Ridgedale was recognized as 19th in the top 25 churches in Tennessee in study courses completed and diplomas earned.

On December 18 the Sanctuary Choir presented "The Messiah" with soloists John Steele, Herman May, Lamar Puckett, Chandi Millet, Lisa Steele, Debbie Rudd and Cathy Robbs.

1995

On January the 8th Sunday School attendance was 617, the third highest since relocation.

Mrs. Lillian Lott retired as church cook on January 15 after 32 years of service. William Boston retired as custodian after 15 years.

On April 9, the Sanctuary Choir sang the Easter musical "I AM" by David Clydesdale. On April 9, Palm Sunday, the attendance in Sunday School totaled 600 and 750 in worship.

In June Jonathan Tipper was the summer Youth Intern. Christine Anderson from Houston, Texas was

featured in solo handbell concert on June 18.

On August 27 there were 618 in Bible Study, 764 in worship, and a total of 684 additions since the church's relocation. On October 1 the Sunday School attendance was 576. On October 8 the 700th new member joined since relocating five years before.

On October 22 the high attendance in Sunday School was 701.

David Karsner resigned as Student Minister on November 5.

1996

Big snows on January 7 and February 4 cancelled church services.

By February 18 there were 750 new church members since the relocation.

Scott Culpepper became interim Youth Director on March 1.

By July 28 new additions to the church totaled 800 since the relocation, and the church celebrated its 88th anniversary in August.

September 1 saw the annual Gospel Music Night. On September 19 Mrs. Mary McDade celebrated her 97th birthday as our oldest member. She has been a member at Ridgedale since 1963.

On September 15 we had our first "Children's Moments with the Pastor" in the worship service. This included children age 4 through grade 6.

1997

Mary Chunn Holliday, granddaughter of Ridgedale's first pastor, died on February 27.

The choir presented the Easter portion of "The Messiah" on March 23.

A tornado hit the East Brainerd area next to the church on March 29, destroying many homes and property. Our members responded promptly to the needs of the tornado victims.

New members totaled 900 by August 17, with 171 by profession of faith since the church's relocation.

On October 5 the Sunday School attendance was 690, with a high attendance on October 19 of 724.

1998

A 90th Anniversary committee was appointed to plan a celebration for the year. The committee consisted of Grace May, chairperson, Frank Drewry, Karen Fullam, Pam Henry and Scott Walker.

The Sanctuary Bible project raised enough money to purchase 531 of the NIV version by March 29.

The parking lot addition was approved at a cost of \$60,000 - \$75,000. ON March 22 Mrs. Mattie Lewis celebrated being a member of Ridgedale for 81 years, having joined as a six-year old in 1918.

On Easter Sunday, April 12, there were 814 in Sunday School, and worship attendance totaled 1,242, with 341 at the early service and 901 at 11:00 AM.

The 1,000th new member to the church since the relocation joined on April 26 a net gain of 645.

A fund was started on May 10 for a new seven foot grand piano for the sanctuary. The construction of expanded parking on the front (North) side of the building was done in May.

Dr. William Owens celebrated his 18th Anniversary as pastor on May 1.

The 90th Anniversary plans included four months of celebration, with special events on the first Sunday of each month and a testimony spot in every morning worship service called "Moments to Remember." Monthly events included:

May 3 - Male Gospel Quartet and Youth-led fellowship, plus beginning the sale of a special commemorative Christmas tree ornament. Long-time and older members were recognized with certificates in the morning service. Mildred Turbyville had been a member of Ridgedale for 76 years.

June 7 - Concert by bass soloist, Frank Boggs, and a music ministry-led fellowship.

July 5 - Patriotic musical, "With Liberty and Justice for All" by the adult choir and a Sunday School-led fellowship.

August 1 - Saturday, open house and historical marker at the former Christian Life Center building at the Dodds Avenue site on the McCallie School campus, plus a 6:30 Saturday evening service at Hickory Valley featuring the Sanctuary Choir, vignettes of past events, special greetings from former staff, and a WMU-led fellowship.

August 2, Sunday, the choir presented several favorite anthems from the past years, plus a special commissioned anthem by Marty Hamby, recognition of special guests, and message by the pastor.

For the month of July our pastor and his family exchanged pulpits with Rev. Steven Passmore from Highfield Baptist Church in Rushden, England. Accompanying Rev. Passmore were his wife, Margaret and their children - Sarah (17), Timothy (14) and Oliver (11).

A Youth Mission trip to Wilson County, Tennessee was held July 4-11 to build houses and give a Christian witness under the direction of Todd Starnes, summer Youth Director.

Plans were released on June 12 for a School of Fine Arts beginning in September, including instruction in art, voice, piano, organ, strings, woodwinds, and brass.

August 19 Todd Starnes was called as full-time Minister of Students.

November 11 resignations were accepted for Todd Starnes, Youth Minister and Lamar Puckett, Minister of Music.

On November 15 Janet Anthony was called as Minister to Preschool and Children. She began her work here on December 13, 1998.

Frank Drewry became Interim Music Director for November and December.

1999

Bill Long became Interim Music Director in January.

Sam Marshall celebrated his 21st anniversary at Ridgedale.

Race Relations Day, February 12, featured the choir and congregation of Hawkinsville Baptist Church as special guests at the evening service. We exchanged visits with them on June 27.

On March 14, Jericho Brass performed in the evening service.

Easter Sunday attendance in two worship services was 1,111 with 742 in Sunday School.

In April the focus was on Special Friends Ministry. This ministry began on September 7, 1980 with Lance Reese as director and Mrs. Dee McDonald as the teacher.

The church voted on May 16, 1999 to purchase the Hawk farm, approximately 23 acres across Hickory Valley road from the church at a cost of \$1,195,000. We named it "The Meadows."

The property included a house to use for offices, educational space, or a missionary house, a swimming pool and grounds for Summer Camp and two barns for additional educational use.

This also provided space for additional parking and recreational activities such as tennis, softball, soccer, picnics and playground and a future gymnasium, as well as a possible enlarged worship center with music suite in the future.

Dean Hawkins was called on June 6 and began as minister of Youth & Recreation on June 9. James Justice was called on June 13 and began as Minister of Music on July 25.

Pat Wilson resigned as Financial Secretary after 10 1/2 years, effective August 27.

The Women's Ministry began on September 11 with an Open House. The purpose of the ministry was life enrichment for women.

A Block Party was planned for Sunday, October 10 as an outreach to our community. It was moved to October 31, and combined with the Pumpkin Patch Carnival.

Sam Marshall retired on December 11 as Senior Adult/Administration Minister after more than 22 years serving on the staff at Ridgedale.

Virginia Ooten came as financial Secretary in December.

2000

Our January Focus was on Child Development Center with Sally Graf as the director.

Rhonda Jewell came as office receptionist in February.

Registration was begun for Day Camp 2000 to be held June 5-August 11. This was planned for K-8th

grades. Eighty students were enrolled, and 85 were enrolled in CDC for the summer.

Janet Anthony's last day was April 13.

Easter Sunday attendance on April 21 was 1,496 in worship, our largest number ever. The church membership was 1,510.

Dr. William Owens celebrated 20 years of ministry at Ridgedale on May 1.

Ridgedale ranked 43rd in Tennessee in per capita giving through the Cooperative Program, plus 31st in amount given.

Virginia Ooten left as Financial Secretary.

A Patriotic Celebration at Coolidge Park was held on Sunday, July 2, at 5:00 PM. The Sanctuary Choir presented "With Liberty and Justice for All."

One of the houses in "The Meadows" was dedicated as a Missionary Residence on August 12, 2000. The first occupants were Mark and Lisa Bewley and their sons from Bogotá Baptist Church in Columbia, South America.

Janice R. Davis was selected to be the new director of the Child Development Center on July 30. She began the job in September.

High attendance in Sunday School on October 20, 2000 was 725.

MaryBeth Hammett was called as Minister to Preschool and Children on October 8, to begin her duties on November 1, 2000.

The Pumpkin Patch Children's Carnival was held on Tuesday, October 31, 6:00-8:30 in CLC.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" was presented by children and adults on December 9 and 10 in dinner theater format.

The Sanctuary Choir presented "An International Christmas" on December 17 and 18.

An outdoor Living Nativity Scene was held in The Meadows on December 14, 15 and 16.

2001

David Apps began his ministry as Church Administrator in January.

The FAITH program was adopted to involve every church leader in spiritual and numerical growth by sharing their faith.

The "Gifts from the Heart" challenge to raise funds for enlarging our playground and athletic facilities brought a tremendous response from the membership. Seventy-five percent of the amount needed was pledged—\$266,772.95.

On February 4 Betty Goode was employed as Church Receptionist and Jim Moore as Interim Minister of Senior Adults.

Race Relations emphasis on March 18 brought Hawkinsville Baptist Church to worship with us again.

A second morning worship service was added on Easter Sunday with services at 8:30 and 11:00 AM. We had an attendance in worship of 1,500 and 948 in Sunday School.

Easter music "Joy Comes in the Morning" by David Danner was presented on April 12 and 13 Thursday and Friday. We had a total attendance of around 2,300.

FAITH...the Foundation (building fund) Campaign was kicked off on May 4. Our goal was to raise \$4,999,000 over the next three years. At the banquet \$1,271,228.12 was pledged.

In May the School of Fine Arts continued to grow according to Joyce Brooks, director. The year-end recital had 60 students participating.

On Mother's Day, Mrs. Jenny Bellis was recognized as our oldest mother present—100 years old.

By August, 195 people had joined the church, with 44 of those by baptism. Sunday School attendance was running 100 over last year with no summer slump. Of the total attendance of 852 people on August 27, 150 were children.

In August we welcomed Mark & Helen Caldwell and their three children to our Missionary House at 1832 Hickory Valley Road.

In The Meadows the two ball fields and the pavilion were dedicated on September 30 at 6:00 PM. They were named Gross Field and Beck Field in honor of deceased members of the church, Chuck Gross and Jeff Beck.

High Attendance in Sunday School on October 21 was 829. This fall saw 95+ people involved in Children's Ministry Team leadership. The one-act opera "Amahl & The Night Visitors" was presented on December 8 and 9 by our Music Ministry. This celebrated the 50th anniversary of its composition.

In November Kristyl Roberts became the new financial secretary.

The Sanctuary Choir presented "The Wonder of Christmas" by David Hamilton on December 16 and 17 with choir, soloists and orchestra.

On December 23 there were 705 in Sunday School attendance, and on the 30th 680.

2002

Wanda Tubbs became the Pastor's secretary in January.

On February 15 the annual (since 1993) 1831 Dinner Theater was held. The goal was to use this as an outreach to unchurched friends and to invite them to a non-religious setting, sowing seeds of friendship.

Claibourne Henry retired on February 18 as an active deacon, having served 71 years with more than 50 years at Ridgedale. He was named as Deacon Emeritus.

Tony Leonard was called as the new Minister of Recreation. He came from Hermitage Hills Baptist in Nashville and began his work on March 18 with his wife, Lana, and their three daughters.

The Recreation Ministry inaugurated the Ridgedale Softball League.

The Sanctuary Choir presented "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by T. Dubois on March 28 and 29. Jim Justice directed the choir with orchestra led by Clint Schmitt.

On Easter Sunday, March 31, the Sunday School attendance was 1,035.

On April 14 the goal in Sunday School was 1,052, trying to exceed 2001's Easter Sunday attendance of 1,035. Only 962 were present.

The FAITH...the Foundation program's first year summary on May 28 revealed gifts-to-date of \$1,027,769.61.

The first annual Volleyball Tournament was held at The Meadows on Saturday, July 27.

On October 18 and 19 the Recreation and Music Ministries combined to present the musical, "The Sound of Music" in a dinner theater.

On August 7, the new resident missionaries in our Missionary House were Chip and Gail Faulkner and their three children, missionaries from French Guyana.

On September 1, two morning worship services and two Sunday Schools began, alternating rooms and times. The shortage of classrooms and Sanctuary space made this necessary. This involved all ages except Youth, who attended 9:00 AM worship and 10:30 Bible Study. At the time the music for both services was presented by the Sanctuary Choir.

On September 22 the ESL classes (English as a Second Language) were started with volunteers from our church.

On October 5 the church committed to ministry through the Habitat for Humanity for eight weeks. The finished house at 5814 Talladega was dedicated on December 14 and called "The Barbara Pedigo House" in honor of Barbara's vision and faith that inspired this project.

The Recreation Ministry started Upward Basketball for boys and girls in Grades 1-6.

On November 24, the church ordained David Apps and Dean Hawkins to the ministry.

The Recreation Ministry began registering for a January Men's Basketball League.

2003

Rev. Ken Howard was selected to work with homebound and Senior Adults.

Sunday School Attendance for February 7 was 864.

Breakfast for widowers started on February 18.

"An Easter Carol" was presented on April 17, 18 and 19. This Easter pageant was scripted by Jim Justice and narrated by guest soloist, David Ford from Nashville.

Easter Sunday School on April 20 totaled 1,066 in attendance.

In May the 40-member Senior Adult "Gospel Choir" continued its twice-a-month ministry in our community to various nursing and retirement homes.

The month of June saw several short-term missions projects. Commissioned for this ministry were David Apps, Kellie Hawkins, Jeff Howard, Jim Justice, Tony Leonard, Herman and Grace May, Drew Parker, Richard Smith, Mike Tawzer and Troy White.

They went to Honduras on a medical/dental project, Greece on a construction ministry, to Belize on a medical project, and European Music Missions.

August saw our new resident missionaries, Sonny and Sherry Sledge, arrive for their furlough from Tanzania to stay in our Missionary House.

Attendance in Sunday School on August 17th was 602/288 for a total of 868.

On September 26th our orchestra, directed by Clint Schmitt, joined the early worship service for the first time.

Pumpkin Patch was held on Sunday, October 31, with an attendance of about 2000.

The Recreation ministry began Upward Soccer for Kindergarten through sixth graders.

The Sanctuary Choir presented "Portrait of Joy" as a Christmas presentation on Sunday and Monday, December 21st and 22nd.

Be used as worship space, and classrooms for the Youth ministry, as well as the addition of a counseling center.

The church voted in August to sponsor the Korean Baptist Church meeting at the Tennessee Baptist's Children's Home on Lee Highway. The pastor is Rev. Jong Moon Son.

Jim Justice resigned as Minister of Music on August 11.

Jeffrey Bush filled in as music director for a month and then stayed on as Interim Director of the Senior Adult Choir.

Billy Appling, retired Minister of Music at Red Bank Baptist, came as Interim Minister of Music on September 8.

A medical mission trip took six of our members to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on October 22.

November 17th Rev. Dean Hawkins resigned as Minister of Youth to pursue a sports chaplain ministry.

2005

On March 6th Rev. Michael Johnson with his wife Ruth Ann and their son Jacob began his ministry as our new Minister of Music. Dr. Jim Price and his wife Diane joined Ridgedale on March 20, and he will be serving as Minister of Counseling. Also, on March 20, we dedicated our new facilities known as The Summit. A reception was held to welcome Rev. Johnson, Dr. Price and Rev. Tony Leonard who had changed from Recreation minister to Youth Minister.

Easter Sunday attendance in worship was 1,796.

John Lemons and his wife Emily began his ministry at Ridgedale in July as Recreation Minister, replacing Tony Leonard.

Brother Bill was honored on his 25th anniversary as pastor of Ridgedale on July 12th with a banquet at the Convention Center. He and Darlene were gifted with an Alaskan cruise.

The massive flooding of New Orleans caused by Hurricane Katrina brought many refugees to our city. We housed about 30 people on campus at the Meadows house, Missionary house and the residence on Dupree Rd. To support the effort, a benefit concert was held featuring the Taylor family, who were living in one of the houses. Their gospel music was well received.

2006

VIM reports for 2205 showed outpatient visits totaling 1,610 with 7,652 volunteer hours given.

Team ministry orientation was held on February 26th, replacing church committees.

February saw the death of former pastor (1947-1951) Dr. Earl Stallings at the age of 89.

In March a set of carillons (chimes) was given for our steeple from Brainerd Baptist's chapel. Special gifts financed the installation.

The Recreation Ministry presented the drama, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" on March 11th and 12th, directed by Cathy Shultz.

Rev. Bill McGinnis with his wife, Anita and their four children, began his ministry as Associate Pastor of Education and Senior Adults on April 23rd.

Easter attendance on April 16 saw 1,605 in attendance in worship.

Camp Ridgedale, our summer day camp held Monday through Friday, enrolled 120 children.

The first "Celebrate America" community festival was held on Sunday, July 2 from 6:00pm –9:00pm in The Meadows. The festival was a great success with over 2000 in attendance. Brother Bill wrote:

One of the main features of our community fair, Celebrate America, was to be a hot air balloon. However, as the clock ticked down Sunday afternoon, there was no balloon. Finally, about 30 minutes after the fair began, a truck arrived with a hot air balloon.

Someone commented to the crew about being late. The crew responded that they had no idea what we were talking about. They had no contract. They were just driving down the interstate and saw the activities and decided to stop.

All of us learned a lesson that evening: God is completely in control. If a hot air balloon will glorify Him, He will send a hot air balloon?"

The festival registered over 100 families with no church affiliation. What an opportunity to share Christ!

September saw plans started for the "Jerusalem Walk", an outdoor drama for Spring 2007.

September saw The Summit walls knocked out to create more space for our growing youth ministry and also to add rooms for our college students.

The Community Kids program started in September with Joyce Phillips as its director. The program provides daily care and tutoring for children after school, including transportation from school. During the summer, the program will expand to an all-day camp program, "Camp Ridgedale".

Jan Davis, Child Development Center director, retired in December after six years.

Plans were begun for the 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2008.

2007

The first "Jerusalem Walk" was presented on Sunday, April 1 under the leadership of Michael Johnson, Minister of Music. Most of the various scenes were presented in different parts of the church building, rather than outside. Starting times were 4:00, 5:00 and 6:00 pm.

The Summit expansion was completed.

On April 2 Marguerite Hullander, the former Director of our Child Development Center from 1966-1990, died.

Groundbreaking for the new Adult and Preschool classroom building was held on June 24. This new addition will include an enlarged foyer outside the sanctuary as well as an elevator to provide easy access to the second floor. Expected completion date is August of 2008.

High attendance was 1755 on Easter Sunday.

In the spring the Youth ministry divided into Middle School (6th grade through 8th grade) and a separate High School division (9th grade through 12th grade). Rev. Johnson also began having youth choirs for each group.

The Timothy Ministry received an additional house on Dupree road on April 22, which increased our support of our interns and other ministers in transition.

The Ministry Team concept developed into eight different areas of ministry with 54 different teams. The areas include Missions, Campus, Music and Worship, Family Ministry, Fellowship and Recreation, Age-group Ministry, Service and Worship support.

2008

As part of the 100th Anniversary Celebration, Dr. Brian Lee preached on January 6. He grew up as a part of the youth ministry at Ridgedale.

“Fan the Flame” was the theme chorus written by Michael Johnson for the year for Ridgedale’s 100th Anniversary Celebration.

In February as part of the 100th Anniversary Celebration the church gave a shower for the residents of our Baptist Children’s home on Lee Highway. About \$20,000 was raised to buy much needed items for the cottages and children.

Our 100th Anniversary ministry in March was called “Ridgedale Cares”. New and used household items and clothing were collected from church members to be given away in the Ridgedale Community where the church actually began.

The second “Jerusalem Walk” was held on March 9, with a greater number of scenes and a larger attendance. This prepared us for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

The second “Staff Improv Night” was held on April 13. Members of the staff presented a light-hearted fun performance for the large crowd attending.

The Anniversary event for June included a church-wide picnic at Camp Dixie, where previous picnics had been held including even a baptismal service. Special guest was Dewayne Roberson, former youth, who is now at First Baptist, Trenton, Georgia.

On June 22 the church moved into the new classroom building with 16 rooms for adults and 4 rooms for preschoolers. During the two hours on Sunday morning 31 classes will share their new classrooms at 9:00 and 10:30am. The new addition includes an enlarged lobby (atrium) and an elevator.

Celebrate America was held on June 29. It was a tremendous outreach event in the community. Held in the Meadows, this event was attended by about 2000 people.

The 100th Anniversary Team, chaired by Sam and Pam Henry, planned numerous activities to celebrate the occasion culminating on August 24, 2008.

- July 13– Dr. Raymond Lloyd (Pastor 1962-1972), speaker for Morning Worship and ice cream social at 6:00pm
- July 26– Youth Reunion Day
- August 16– Ridgedale Relay (tracing the steps of our history from First Baptist to Hickory Valley Rd.)
- August 23– Anniversary Dinner
- August 24—Anniversary Worship Service with presentation of the Anniversary Anthem, “Fan the Flame”, composed by Pepper Choplin