Twenty Years of Service

HISTORY OF

Parkway Baptist Church
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

1956-1976

Authors
Dr. A. Leroy Parker
Dr. Wilson L. Stewart
Dr. Charles H. Howell
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Dedicated
to
The Members
of
Parkway Baptist Church
Greensboro, North Carolina
FOREWORD

THE HISTORY of Parkway Baptist Church clearly reveals the dedication, the loyalty and sacrifices its membership practiced, often times through adverse conditions to build a church that would make Bible study, missions, and evangelism the foundation of its work.

It was to be a place of Christian fellowship for its members, the needy, the lonely and bereaved. A place for all ages to grow spiritually and launch out into the community to be of service to others.

For twenty years the people of Parkway Baptist Church have been richly blessed with the ministry of some of the most outstanding pastors. During these years the church has grown in members and has become a great influence in this community. It has not only contributed liberally of its material wealth for the work of the kingdom but has also given some of its choicest young men and women into full time religious work.

Our grateful appreciation goes to Dr. Leroy Parker, Dr. Charles Howell and Dr. Wilson Stewart for their contribution to this history.

We have accomplished much in these twenty years and if we have faith, courage, and consecration, we can go on to greater things for our Master.

History Committee:
Tom Henderson, Chairman
Mrs. W. S. Sherwood
Mrs. Oscar Hundley
W. A. Aydelette
Carl Andrews
Harold Phillips
Ralph Barnes
Parkway Baptist Church Staff, 1976

L to R Front Row

Mr. Larry Austin .................. Minister of Education
Dr. Charles Howell .................... Pastor
Mrs. Ernest Myers .................... Organist
Miss Hazel Martin .................... Pastor’s Secretary

L to R Back Row

Mrs. Jerry O’Kelley .................. Financial Secretary
Mr. Don Bowden ..................... Music Director
Miss Betty Bailey .................... Church Secretary
Mrs. Carl Andrews ................... Kindergarten Director
Mr. Mark Cranford (Inset) ............ Pastoral Intern
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IN MEMORIUM

Adcock, Mrs. Ida ................................... July 3, 1967
Adkins, Mrs. Fred .................................. Sept. 6, 1961
Anderson, R. A. ................................... July 9, 1972
Anderson Mrs. R. A. ............................... July 22, 1972
Andrews, C. G. ................................... Feb. 9, 1976
Arnote, Wendell K. ................................ Oct. 15, 1970
Bibee, Vicki Tankersly ............................. Dec. 24, 1975
Bray, Herman ....................................... Feb. 19, 1966
Brewer, Mrs. J. H. ................................ May 6, 1970
Bryson, Frank ...................................... Apr. 17, 1974
Canady, Mrs. H. N. ................................ May 12, 1964
Cowan, W. E. ........................................ Feb. 10, 1964
Davis, Mrs. Leroy .................................. Feb. 25, 1973
Deaton, Judson ..................................... July 19, 1964
DeLorme, T. L. ..................................... Apr. 10, 1970
Ellis, W. A. .......................................... Jan. 13, 1960
Fuller, Leon ........................................ May 15, 1974
Gentry, Gena ........................................ Oct. 23, 1971
Gentry, Claude ...................................... Jan. 9, 1974
Hall, C. B. Sr. ...................................... May 20, 1958
Hall, C. B. Jr. ...................................... June 24, 1964
Hall, O. E. .......................................... Apr. 16, 1964
Hall, Mrs. O. E. .................................... July 28, 1966
Heath, Mrs. Chalmers ............................. Nov. 1, 1970
Henderson, John ..................................... July 13, 1961
Henry, B. A. ......................................... Jan. 28, 1973
Mills, Michael ...................................... Dec. 14, 1974
Montgomery, Floyd ................................. Dec. 29, 1958
Montgomery, Mrs. Floyd ........................... Mar. 2, 1973
Morgan, C. C. ...................................... Nov. 30, 1961
Morgan, Mrs. C. C. ................................. Jan. 14, 1968
McGarity, A. D. .................................... Nov. 15, 1974
McNeal, Mrs. A. H. ................................. Aug. 6, 1973
Pickerel, Gloria ..................................... Mar. 22, 1967
Royster, J. Richard ................................. Feb. 22, 1976
Reitzel, Maxton .................................... Apr. 30, 1968
Rogers, Mrs. John .................................. June 6, 1968
Sasser, Claude M. .................................. Apr. 6, 1976
Sherwood, W. S. .................................... Mar. 31, 1961
Tally, T. T. .......................................... Aug. 31, 1964
Taylor, Oscar T. .................................... Dec. 1, 1960
Transou, Mrs. Jas. .................................. Mar. 4, 1962
Troxler, William H. ................................ July 6, 1968
Walsh, Mrs. Edward ............................... June 30, 1973
Washburn, Golden ................................. Feb. 20, 1969
Wrenn, Chester ..................................... Aug. 23, 1967
Chapter One
The Background
1956-1959

A. LEROY PARKER


THE BACKGROUND

In the early 1950’s, the Asheboro Street Baptist Church developed plans to build a new auditorium to seat 1,100 people. This was due to several years of rather rapid numerical growth.

Soon thereafter, South Greensboro began a rapid change in population from white to black. A technique called "Block Busting" came into vogue. One house in a given block would be sold for a substantial price, while the others brought much less. The ensuing "White Flight" caused the church to re-think the idea of the new auditorium.

Shortly thereafter, a new idea was born. Why not start a mission church. Many of the young people who were marrying were settling in other parts of Greensboro. This coupled with the exodus mentioned above made the suggestion of a mission church quite plausible.

Petitions were circulated through the Sunday School for one month. Those interested in being a part of the mission were asked to sign. Eighteen names appeared on the petitions.

From these names a church structure was set up on paper consisting of two worship services, a complete Sunday School, a complete Training Union and a prayer meeting. Thus the mission church was ready to function on paper.

Then a temporary meeting place had to be found to be followed as soon as possible by the permanent one. Brooks School became the first home of the mission to give way later to the beautiful site on Benjamin Parkway.

Asheboro Street Church and First Baptist Church were looking for land at the same time. They decided to use the same real estate man to keep down any possible conflicts in location. Mr. Sidney Allen was the choice of both churches. He first showed Parkway a site to the right of Lawndale Drive a short distance north of Sears mail order house. Soon thereafter it was
found that First Baptist was interested in this area so Parkway began looking elsewhere. Later, Mr. Allen took the committee to the lovely and strategic location on the Parkway. At the time, it was a wooded lot and the Parkway was still on the drawing board.

The motion and actions taken by the Asheboro Street Baptist Church to bring the mission church in existence are noted:

1. In 1954 a group of Asheboro Street Baptist Church members met in the home of W. A. Aydelette to discuss the possibility of starting a mission somewhere in Greensboro.

2. On January 5, 1955, the deacons of Asheboro Street Baptist Church recommended that the pastor, Dr. A. L. Parker and the chairman of deacons, Mr. V. E. Jones, appoint a committee to work out the details of establishing a mission somewhere in the city.

3. On November 9, 1955, a motion was made by W. A. Aydelette and seconded by H. R. Phillips that the church approve the starting of a mission in the Northwest section of Greensboro.

4. On December 7, 1955, the deacons recommended that the pastor and Nolan Johnston (Minister of Education) contact the superintendent of city schools, asking for the use of Brooks School on Westover Terrace.

5. On January 4, 1956, a motion was made that the church accept the offer from the business manager of Greensboro City Schools to use Brooks School on a temporary basis until land could be purchased and a building erected.

6. On February 1, 1956, a motion was made that the mission would begin operation on March 11, 1956, in Brooks School. This action was taken on the pastor’s birthday.

7. On February 8, 1956, the deacons recommended the following schedule:

   Sunday Morning Worship— 9:45 A.M.
   Sunday School—11:00 A.M.
   Sunday Evening Worship— 6:30 P.M.
Training Union— 7:30 P.M.  
Prayer Meeting (Tuesday)— 7:30 P.M.  

Dr. Parker was to preach at all services at the mission and the mother church.  

8. On March 7, 1956, the deacons recommended that Asheboro Street Church buy advertising space, 6” x 8” in the local papers to advertise the new mission and that 500 copies of the New Baptist Hymnal be purchased.  

9. Proper arrangements were made with the Missions Committee of the Piedmont Baptist Association as to the constitution and location of the mission.  

10. On May 16, 1956, the deacons recommended that a letter be written to the Piedmont Baptist Association Missions Committee and the Missions Committee of the Baptist State Convention requesting financial support in purchasing all or part of a lot of 700 feet on the Parkway.  

11. On May 23, 1956, the deacons recommended that the church purchase a lot on the Parkway, said lot will be 350 feet frontage by 300 feet deep at a cost of $30,000.00. The church would investigate the possibility of purchasing an adjoining 350 foot lot on the Parkway and financing it.  

12. On July 11, 1956, a motion was made by W. A. Aydelette that a census of Garden Homes be taken, that L. L. Morgan of the State Convention staff visit with our Missions Committee for consultation on the mission building and that an appropriate sign be erected in front of Brooks School announcing the time of services.  

13. On August 8, 1956 the church appointed Carl Andrews as the architect to work with L. L. Morgan on overall plans for the erection of a church building on the Parkway.  

14. On September 12, 1956, Don Trexler was employed to direct the music at the mission and Mrs. Ruth Trexler was employed as organist.  

15. On January 2, 1957, O. B. Teague, Sr., Earl Johnson and J. B. Mims were appointed to work out plans to finance the building.
Congregation at ground breaking ceremony, April 1957.
16. On January 10, 1957, Carl Andrews was authorized to proceed with drawings for the mission’s building.

17. On February 27, 1957, the church approved the architect’s drawings and plans for the building, and that bids be taken for the construction of the building, and that the Finance Committee be authorized to secure a construction loan.

18. On April 17, 1957, the church voted to accept total bids of $170,000.00 for the construction of the building, to use the American Bonding Company in raising $150,000.00 and to authorize the trustees to proceed with the contract signing.

Contractors for the building were:
General Contract ...............H. D. Barnes, Inc.
Electrical .....................Commercial Electric Co.
Heating .......................Atlantic Engineering Co.
Plumbing ......................White Plumbing Co.

19. A ground breaking ceremony was held at the mission site on Westmoreland Drive and Benjamin Parkway. Those taking part included the Missions Committee, Dr. Parker, Carl Andrews, Victor Jones, J. B. Mims, Nolan Johnston and other church members.

The three story building went up on schedule and was judged by the Architectural Department of the Sunday School Board as first in its class for the year. Carl Andrews received an appropriate award.

At this point, two significant worship services need to be recorded. The first was the initial service in Brooks School on Sunday, March 11, 1956. The best analogy would be the birth of a baby to loving parents, and the ensuing joy and happiness. It was a lovely day and all 118 were present, plus several visitors. There was such anticipation and enthusiasm. My, the hand clasping, embracing, the tears and smiles of gratitude. Most of these were back for Evening Worship and Training Union. It was indeed a red letter day on the calendar of the Kingdom of God.
Ground breaking ceremony of our first building, April 1957. Dr. Leroy Parker and family in foreground.
First educational unit completed February 1958.
The mission church was born, strong, healthy, vigorous and enthusiastic. Here she was a new instrument in the hands of the Holy Spirit of God. Every person who was a part of that day will be forever grateful for the opportunity.

The second significant worship service was the initial service held in the new Parkway building on Sunday, February 2, 1958.

In 22 months the new mission church experienced rapid growth. Sunday School attendance was 369 with over 400 in the morning service. There were two periods of open house at 2:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M. divided by the significant corner stone laying at 3:00 P.M. The corner stone container was filled with several items of interest for posterity, included with the current Greensboro Daily News and Record, a Bible properly inscribed, associational minutes, The "Announcer" of Asheboro Street Baptist Church, list of staff and present members, minutes of business meetings leading to the establishment of the mission and other items and articles of interest.

Taking part in the corner stone laying were the pastor, Dr. Parker; Mrs. A. W. Edwards, W. M. U. president; W. A. Aydelette, chairman of the building committee; Carl Andrews, architect; Victor Jones, chairman of the deacons; Nolan Johnston, Minister of Education; and a host of church members and friends. The day ended with a large number present for the evening Worship Service and Training Union. This was indeed another red letter day on the calendar of the Kingdom of God.

20. Sunday night, October 5, 1958 marked the first baptismal service held at Parkway Mission. Those baptized were Claudia Culbreth, Mrs. Mack Simpson, Jr. and Martha Rose Henderson. It was the hope and prayer of many, that the baptismal waters would be stirred frequently as people would follow the Lord in baptism by immersion, signifying symbolically their faith and trust in Him as Lord and Saviour.

21. Wednesday night, December 17, 1958 was an historic time for the Asheboro Street Church. Three hundred fifty
View of fellowship hall in first unit used as an interim sanctuary.
church letters were granted so that the Parkway Mission might be constituted as the Parkway Baptist Church. This is the largest number of letters to be granted from one church at one time in the history of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The mother church prayed God's blessings on her daughter church.

22. On Wednesday night, December 31, 1958, the Parkway Mission was duly constituted an independent autonomous body and named the Parkway Baptist Church. The name was derived from the geographical location of the church, Benjamin Parkway. This new local body of Christ became the largest and strongest new church ever started in the history of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Regular and necessary procedures were followed in the constitution of the church including adoption of "Articles of Faith." On the same night the church voted to purchase from the Starmount Company the other portion of the original tract of land for the sum of $35,000.00. The church now owned approximately 5½ acres dedicated to the cause of Christ in Greensboro and around the world.

23. In the original structure of the mission the prayer meeting was set on Tuesday night. Business meetings were held at the mother church on Wednesday nights and at the mission on Tuesday nights. It was soon apparent that this was not a good arrangement so the mission group began meeting with the mother church on Wednesday, discontinuing the Tuesday night prayer meetings. This meant that every discussion and every vote was taken with the combined groups. There was no chance for any misunderstanding and disunity. Rather, these meeting fostered mutual strength and goodwill. The mission grew strong in the atmosphere of prayer and Christian fellowship. It was felt by many that this was providential.

24. Now a few words about missions. Asheboro Street Baptist Church became a 50-50 mission giving church in 1953. This meant that for every dollar spent on current expenses, another dollar was given for missions through the cooperative
Copy of original program for First Service and Corner Stone Laying.

First Service

and

Corner Stone Laying

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
2411 Benjamin Parkway

Sunday, February ?, 1958

Mission of the
ASHEBORO STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
708-710 Asheboro Street
Greensboro, North Carolina
PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Mission of
ASHEBORO STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

A. L. Parker, Pastor
Greensboro, N. C.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1958

MORNING WORSHIP, 9:30 O'CLOCK

ORGAN PRELUDE: "Jubilant Deo" Silver

DOXOLOGY

INVOCATION

HYMN No. 380: "The Church's One Foundation" Wesley

SCRIPTURE READING

ANTHEM: "Except the Lord Build The House" Bitgood

EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE

Except the Lord build the house, thy labor is in vain that build it. Let them make a sanctuary that I may dwell among them. This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. My house shall be called the house of prayer, O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come. Let our prayers come before Thee as incense. We will call upon Him as long as we live. Holiness becometh Thine house. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart. Cleanse Thou me from secret faults. Praise waiteth for Thee, O Lord, praise the Lord from the earth. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Thy walls are salvation; Thy gates praise.

PASTORAL PRAYER WITH CHORAL RESPONSE

HYMN No. 379: "O Thou Whose Hand Hath Brought Us" Webb

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SOLO: "Forward to Christ" O'Hara Donald Trexler

SERMON

HYMN No. 240: "Just As I Am" Bradbury

BENEDICTION AND CHOIR RESPONSE

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION AT 7:30

Last Week's Attendance 131
Open House
2:00 p. m.

Corner Stone Service
3:00 p. m.

HYMN No. 286: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"
SCRIPTURE
PRAYER
HYMN — ANTHEM: "Dedicatorly Hymn"
RECOGNITION:
Chairman of the Deacons
Chairman of the Mission Building Committee
Chairman of the Finance Committee
Architect
Contractors
Minister of Education
Sunday School Superintendent
Training Union Director
HYMN No. 500: "Anniversary Hymn"
ADJOURNMENT TO THE OUTSIDE
LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE
PRAYER

Open House
4:00 p. m.

EVENING WORSHIP, 6:15

ORGAN PRELUDE: "Prayer"
CALL TO WORSHIP
INVOCATION
HYMN No. 382: "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"
CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
SCRIPTURE AND EVENING PRAYER
HYMN No. 417: "Lead On, O King Eternal"
WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY: "No, Not Despairingly"
SERMON
HYMN No. 170: "Holy Ghost, with Light Divine"
BENEDICTION AND CHOIR RESPONSE

The flowers and the urn are presented to the Parkway Baptist Mission by the Fidelis Bible Class, Ashboro Street Baptist Church.
Rev. A. L. Parker, Jr.  
Nolan C. Johnston  
V. E. Jones  
O. B. Teague, Sr.  
W. A. Aydelette  
Carl Andrews  
Earl Johnson  
Jessie Watson  
Mrs. A. W. Edwards  
William Poad  

Contractors:  
General  
Electrical  
Heating  
Plumbing  

Furniture:  
Dixie Equipment Co.  
Southern Desk Co.  

Mission Building Committee:  
W. A. Aydelette, *Chairman*  
Mrs. A. W. Edwards  
Mrs. C. B. Haskins  
John Mims  
Mrs. W. S. Sherwood  
O. B. Teague, Sr.  
Jessie Watson  

Finance Committee:  
O. B. Teague, Sr., *Chairman*  
Ed Bradley  
C. B. Haskins  
Ewert Hollins  
Grover Jones  
Earl Johnson  
John Mims  
J. Tracy Moore  
S. W. Williams
program. As long as Parkway was a mission, she was giving on
the 50-50 basis. This laid a strong foundation for mission giving
in the future. Incidentally, only six churches in the Baptist
State Convention of 3,000 churches gave on that basis at that
time. Fewer do so today. The 350 people lettered out of the
Asheboro Street Church represented over one-third of the total
church budget. In the fall of 1958, both churches put on the
Forward Program of Church Finance hoping to develop and
pledge budgets that would enable them to remain 50-50 in
mission giving. The Finance Committees were chaired by John
Mims at Asheboro Street Church and Earl Johnson at Parkway.
Both committees drew up 50-50 budgets. When the pledges
were in, there simply was not enough money to undergird 50-50
budgets. It is wonderful to know that both churches wanted to
give and share in this manner.

25. Here is a personal word from Dr. A. L. Parker: "I
know I am a child of God by virtue of the truth contained in
John 3:16 and my response to it. I know I am called of God to
preach the gospel. I know that He called me to pastor the
Asheboro Street Baptist Church. I know that He led us to
establish the Parkway Baptist Mission and church.

"I remember just before walking out of the pulpit at
Parkway for the last time, saying, 'When I walk down these
steps and out of this building, I will no longer be your pastor.
Some of the dearest friends I have in all the world sit before me.
Though the pastor-people relationship will be no more, the
friendship will always remain.

"May God's richest blessing abide on you now and al-
ways."
CHARTER MEMBERS
PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

*Adams, Thomas N,
*Adams, Mrs. Thomas N.
Adams, Thomas N. Jr.
Adams, A. J.
Adams, Mrs. A. J.
Adams, Paul
Adams, Larry
Allen, Fred, Jr.
Allen, Mrs. Fred, Jr.
Allgood, C. W.
Allgood, Mrs. C. W.
Anderson, R. A.
Anderson, Mrs. R. A.
*Andrews, Carl F.
*Andrews, Mrs. Carl F.
Andrews, Mrs. Lola
Andrews, Wilbur C.
Andrews, Mrs. Wilbur C.
Anthony, H. C.
Arnote, Wendell K.
Atchison, Mrs. Douglas
*Austin, C. L.
*Austin, Mrs. C. L.
Austin, Wayne
*Aydelette, W. A.
*Aydelette, Mrs. W. A.
Aydelette, Kenny
Ayers, Jas. T.
Ayers, Mrs. Jas. T.

Ballenger, Mrs. E. E.
Barker, T. R.
*Barker, Mrs. T. R.
*Barnes, Mrs. H. O. Sr.
*Barnes, Ralph
Barnes, Bobby
*Barnes, Alton

*Barnes, Mrs. Faye
Batten, Willard
Batten, Mrs. Willard
Batten, Johnny
Beck, Mrs. B. E.
Blackwell, Marvin L.
Blackwell, Mrs. Marvin L.
Boyles, G. Fred
Boyles, Mrs. G. Fred
Bradley, E. P.
Bradley, Mrs. E. P.
Bradley, Susan
Bradley, Judy
Bray, Herman
Bray, Mrs. Herman
Brewer, Paul
Brewer, Mrs. Paul
Brewer, Brenda
*Brewer, J. H.
Brewer, Mrs. J. H.
Brown, Boyce
Brown, Mrs. Boyce
Brown, Mrs. Mattie
Busick, Ronald Burton
*Butler, Mrs. V. E.
Butner, Miss Sabra
Bryson, Charles Frank
*Bryson, Mrs. Charles Frank
Bryson, Miss Julia Kay
Bryson, Frank Jr.

*Charter members who are current members of Parkway Baptist Church
Charter members who are current members of Parkway Baptist Church
*Irvin, Frank
*Irvin, Mrs. Frank
Irvin, Diane
Irvin, Jimmy

Jensen, Harold
Jensen, Mrs. Harold
Jensen, Janice
Jensen, Daniel
Johnson, Earl L.
Johnson, Mrs. Earl L.
Johnson, Robert
Johnson, Mrs. Robert
Jones, J. C.
Jones, Mrs. J. C.
Jordon, J. M.

Keel, W. H.
Keel, Mrs. W. H.
Kimel, A. B.
Kimel, Mrs. A. B.
Kimel, Sue

*King, Mrs. James (Billy)

Lee, W. K.
Lee, Mrs. W. K.
Lee, Bill
Lee, Walter
Lentz, Robert
Lentz, Mrs. Robert
Lentz, Brenda
Long, Richard
Long, Mrs. Richard

Mahala, Mrs. H. C.
Manley, Mrs. Paul
Manuel, Miss Edith Elizabeth
Medlin, W. L.
Medlin, Mrs. W. L.
Medlin, Jean

Medlin, Ronnie
*Medlin, Mrs. Carrie H.
Melvin, Mrs. C. S. Jr.
Melvin, Teddy
*Messick, Jerry
*Messick, Mrs. Jerry
Mims, James Edwin
Mims, Mrs. James Edwin
Mims, Robert Wallace
Mims, Mrs. Robert Wallace
Montgomery, Floyd L. Sr.
Montgomery, Mrs. Floyd L.
Montgomery, David
Montgomery, Mrs. David
Moore, William T.
Moore, Mrs. William T.
Moore, Wade G.
Moore, Mrs. Wade G.
Moore, Burley
Moore, Doyle
Morgan, Mrs. C. C.
Mullis, Mrs. Ruth

McCuistion, W. H.
McCuistion, Mrs. W. H.
*McFetters, E. J. Jr.
*McFetters, Mrs. E. J.
McGinley, J. E.
McGinley, Mrs. J. E.
*McNeal, A. H.
McNeal, Mrs. A. H.

Nave, Miss Lois
Neese, Elmer
Neese, Mrs. Elmer
Norris, Merrill
Norris, Mrs. Merrill
Norwood, J. J.
Norwood, Mrs. J. J.

*Charter members who are current members of Parkway Baptist Church
*Oliver, Mrs. M. C.
Overman, J. D. Jr.
Overman, Mrs. J. D. Jr.
Overman, Welker W.
Overman, Mrs. Welker W.
Overby, Richard
Overby, Mrs. Richard
Partian, Mrs. William S.
*Paschal, Ann LeRoy
*Phillips, H. R.
*Phillips, Mrs. H. R.
Pike, Alfred
Pike, John C.
Pike, Mrs. John C.
Poff, Cecil
Poff, Mrs. Cecil
Poplin, Mrs. C. B.
*Poole, N. S.
*Poole, Mrs. N. S.
Poole, Bobby
Poole, Jerry
Powers, William F.
Powers, Mrs. William F.
Powers, Patsy
*Price, Mrs. Tom E.
Pugh, Mrs. James
Pugh, Janet
*Purvis, Marvin
*Purvis, Mrs. Marvin
Pruitt, Ralph
Pruitt, Mrs. Ralph

*Ray, Milton
Ray, Mrs. J. R.
Reitzel, R. Maxton
*Reitzel, Mrs. R. Maxton
*Rice, W. T.
*Rice, Mrs. W. T.
Rice, Billy

Richardson, Everett L. Sr.
Richardson, Mrs. Everett L. Sr.
Richardson, Barbara
Richardson, Everett L. Jr
*Richardson, James
*Richardson, Mrs. James
*Rivenbark, James A.
*Rivenbark, Mrs. James A.
Rivenbark, Susan
*Rouse, Elmore
*Rouse, Mrs. Elmore
*Rogers, John C.
Rogers, Mrs. John C.
Sasser, Claud
*Sasser, Mrs. Claude
Sasser, Carroll
Sasser, Mrs. Carroll
Scott, Mrs. Maude
*Seay, George A.
*Seay, Mrs. George A.
*Shaw, Robert E.
*Shaw, Mrs. Robert E.
Sharpe, Mrs. P. M.
Sherwood, W. S.
*Sherwood, Mrs. W. S.
*Simmons, J. G.
*Simmons, Mrs. J. G.
Simmons, Judy
*Simmons, W. L.
*Simmons, Mrs. W. L.
Simmons, Jan
*Simpson, Mack C.
*Simpson, Mrs. Mack C.
*Simpson, Ronnie
Smeitzer, Mrs. G. R.
Smith, Preston
Smith, Mrs. Preston
Soots, Miss Margaret
Stigall, Mrs. Bill

*Charter members who are current members of Parkway Baptist Church
Twenty Years of Service

Stone, R. M. Jr.
Stone, Mrs. R. M. Jr.
*Stone, Hunter
*Stone, Mrs. Hunter
Stone, Tony
*Stout, Brooks
*Stout, Mrs. Brooks

Tally, T. T.
*Tally, Mrs. T. T.
Tally, Donna Lou
*Tate, Mrs. J. Lonzie
Taylor, James T. Jr.
Taylor, Mrs. James T. Jr.
*Taylor, Mrs. O. T.
*Teague, J. H.
*Teague, Mrs. J. H.
Teague, Nancy
Teague, Perry
*Teague, Bill
Thompson, Wm. H.
Thompson, Mrs. Wm. H.
Thompson, Boyce
Thurman, J. A. Jr.
Thurman, Mrs. J. A. Jr.
Troutman, Carson
Troutman, Mrs. Carson
Transou, James E.
Transou, Mrs. Jas. E.
Tucker, John
Tucker, Mrs. John
Tucker, David Lee
Turner, Roy S.
Turner, Mrs. Roy S.

Vestal, Mrs. Alma
*Varner, Mrs. Jerry
*Vincent, Mrs. T. W.

Walden, Don

*Walden, Mrs. Don
*Wall, Bernard
*Wall, Mrs. Bernard
Watson, Jesse D.
Watson, Mrs. Jesse D.
Watson, Rebecca
Watson, Judy
*Weaver, Rose Marie
*Webster, Mrs. C. R.
Westmoreland, Baxter H.
Westmoreland, Mrs. Baxter H
Westmoreland, Martha Lynn
Westmoreland, Carol
Williamson, Mrs. J. S.
Williams, Jason Van
Wright, Reid
Wright, Mrs. Reid
Wright, Reida

*Charter members who are current members of Parkway Baptist Church
First Called Pastor

THE MISSION was ably served by Dr. A. Leroy Parker as pastor for three years while pastoring the mother church as well. A Pulpit Committee composed of Everette Richardson, Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Aydelette, Mrs. Lucille Bradley, Thomas L. Henderson and Harold R. Phillips was selected in September, 1958, to seek a pastor for Parkway.

Anticipation was running high for the newly constituted church when a call was extended to the Rev. Frank Eugene Deese to become its first called pastor. Mr. Deese was then serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Clayton, North Carolina. Having received a unanimous vote, the new pastor accepted the call on January 11, 1959 to become the pastor on March 1, 1959. A reception was held for the Deese family on February 6, 1959 at Parkway.

On March 25, 1959 the church voted to loan the pastor an amount of $3600.00 with no interest for a down payment on his house, located at 308 Woodbine Court. The loan was to be repaid with an amount of $500.00 each year beginning in April, 1960.

Rev. and Mrs. Deese were elected in May, 1959 to be the church’s first messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

On June 19, 1960, Mr. Deese resigned the pastorate at Parkway, due to a crisis that had arisen in the church. His resignation was effective at noon on that date. The church payed his salary and housing allowance through August.

DEACONS

The first deacons to serve the new church in northwest Greensboro were Claude Gentry, W. A. Aydelette, E. L. Richardson, Ed Bradley, J. H. Teague, Oscar Hundley, James Transou, John Eggers and J. D. Watson. Claude Gentry was
elected the first chairman and was succeeded by W. A. Aydelette in October 1959.

In September, 1959 the church chose its first deacons who were to be ordained. They were Thomas Adams, Gilmer Cheek and Gaylord Simmons.

To keep the standards high and the Biblical principles clearly set forth, the church drew up a questionnaire for all deacons to fill out and sign and set forth the requirements for deacons, listed in twelve statements.

REVIVALS

During the fifteen months of Mr. Deese’s pastorate three revivals were held. In April, 1959, the new pastor preached a ten day meeting with Roger Cole, Minister of Music at Green Street Baptist Church, High Point, North Carolina, leading the singing. Nineteen cottage prayer meetings, sponsored by the Brotherhood, were held on April 14, 1959 in preparation for this revival.

Another week long revival was held in the fall of 1959 (September 27-October 3). The evangelist for this meeting was Rev. Harold Steen. The music was led by Hal Shumaker minister of Music at the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Rev. Tom Freeman, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dunn, North Carolina, was the guest speaker for the revival in the spring of 1960. A forward program of church revival was planned for the months of February and March to promote the April 25—May 1 meeting.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mr. Earl Johnson led the growth of the vital Bible teaching organization of the church, the Sunday School. The Sunday School grew steadily during the first year of the church's
history, with an enrollment of 522 reported in March, 1959. This grew to a high enrollment of 699 by July, 1960.

By May, 1959 the growth had been so great that the Sunday School Council recommended that the church rent four rooms at the General Greene School from June 7 to August 16 for $2.00 per room. The school was used for many months beyond the time designated.

The Vacation Bible School in June, 1959 enrolled 194.

TRAINING UNION

An active and growing Training Union was directed by Everette Richardson. The enrollment reached a high of 248 in December, 1959. The previous month of November had registered an average attendance of 155. Study courses, participation in associational events, and a fish fry at Guilford Dairy Clubhouse highlighted the extracurricular activities.

MISSIONS

The Woman's Missionary Union was guided during these early months of the new church by president, Mrs. Grace Johnson. The Brotherhood had two leaders as president, Oscar Hundley and Ed Bradley.

Six women attended the state Woman's Missionary Union meeting in Durham on March 11, 1959.

The mission organizations provided a full range of program for the youth and children.

The enrollments of both organizations will be reflected in the Associational Letter of 1959-60.

CHURCH STAFF

Four secretaries were employed by the church between March 1, 1959 and September, 1960. Mrs. Ann Wilkerson Floyd served as temporary secretary until June of 1959. Mrs.
Mattie Lee Davis filled in July and August and was replaced by Miss Jean McPherson in August. Miss McPherson served the longest period during this time, resigning on August 26, 1960, to enter college in the fall of the year. She was succeeded by Mrs. Jean Allen who was employed as secretary when this period of history closed.

Three janitors served on the staff for these months listed above. Norman Grier was the first janitor and was part-time. The second janitor was Clarence McCollum who was employed as the first full time janitor. He was replaced in January, 1960 by Pinkney Jeffries, who was paid $45 per week.

**MUSIC**

Soon after the congregation moved into the new building a Junior Choir was organized by Mrs. T. L. Henderson. The members of this first choir were:

Adams, Tommy
Allen, Paul
Austin, Wayne
Bray, Madeline
Butler, Joan
Cheek, Lynn
Culbreth, Claudia
Eggers, June
Elkins, Bill
Fisher, Linda
Hyslop, Patty
Keith, Wayne
Moore, Burley

Price, Sankey
Price, Brenda
Richardson, Bill
Rivenbark, Susan
Sasser, Nancy
Simmons, Jan
Simmons, Judy
Smith, Ann
Talley, Donna Lou
Teague, Bill
Teague, Nancy
Thompson, Boyce
Tucker, David

The next year a Primary Choir was organized.

The music program was led by three different directors. Mr. Wendell Arnote was serving when Mr. Deese became pastor. He resigned on August 1, 1959 to move to Charlotte, North Carolina. Mrs. T. L. Henderson became the temporary director at that time and directed the adult, junior and primary
choirs until October 28, 1959, when she tendered her resignation. After Mr. Arnote's departure, Baxter Westmoreland was elected director of the men's chorus and leader of the Sunday evening services. Bob Lentz filled in as choir director after Mrs. Henderson's resignation.

The church minutes reported in March 11, 1959 that the junior choir had 23 enrolled with 17 average attendance. The adult choir averaged 16 on Sunday mornings and 11 on Sunday evenings with an average of 13 in rehearsals on Wednesday evening. These figures were for February.

The organist for the entire period of March, 1959-September, 1960 was Mrs. Betty Hill.

GENERAL EVENTS

The church minutes, recorded ably by Mrs. Roy Davis (March—September 1959) and Roy Turner (October 1959—September 1960), report the following interesting and historical events of the new church's first eighteen months:

Mrs. T. L. Henderson received the information to be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

When the new pastor came, the church reversed its schedule of Sunday services and for the first time the Sunday School met at 9:45 A.M. and the Training Union at 6:45 P.M. These services were followed by worship at 11:00 A.M. and 7:30 P.M.

The budget adopted for 1959 called for a total of $75,680.50 annually with $14,393.50 going to the Cooperative Program. The total amount designated for debt retirement and new building site was $30,600.00.

On April 5, 1959, Doyle Moore, a member and a second year student at Mars Hill College, was licensed to the ministry. Doyle had led a youth revival at the church in the summer of 1958.
The church paper was named "The Parkway Messenger" in April, 1959, upon the suggestion of Carl Andrews and the vote of the church.

Parkway's first messengers to a Baptist State Convention were Rev. Eugene Deese, E. L. Richardson, Harold Jensen, Mrs. Grace Johnson, and W. A. Aydelette. This was a special called session that met in May, 1959 in Raleigh.

In the regular business of May, 1959 the church voted to start a correlated program on Wednesday evenings. Also, the nominating committee was changed to the enlistment committee to better reflect its duties. The summer picnic for the church, sponsored by the Sunday School, was set for July 1, 1959. The vote was taken to use the Forward Program of Church Finance in the fall.

The church permitted a Boy Scout troop to use a room in the spring, 1959 and sponsored the troop in the fall. The first scout investiture service was held on February 7, 1960 with Jerry Messick serving as scoutmaster of Troup 256.

Mrs. Flora Cowan was employed to prepare the suppers on Wednesday evenings with assistance being given by Mrs. Lilly McGinley. A stove was purchased in July, 1959 for the kitchen.

Church committees for this era of history were: personnel, music, committee on committees, pulpit, enlistment, house and grounds, love fund, church constitution, baptismal, audio-visual, ushers, visitation and finance.

The church officially protested the opening of an ABC Liquor Store in Friendly Shopping Center.

In September, 1959 the promotion date for all organizations was moved from April 1 each year to October 16 to coincide with the public school year.

A youth council was formed in October, 1959 to develop and coordinate future youth programs.
The Piedmont Baptist Association met in its annual session at Parkway on October 23, 1959.

The associational letter for that year from Parkway reflected the following statistics and information: Baptisms, 26; additions by letter, 55; loss by death, 1 (Mr. Floyd L. Montgomery, Sr.); resident membership, 380; non-resident membership, 13; total membership, 393; number of tithers, 270; total value of church property, $325,000.00; Brotherhood enrollment, 60, with 12 enrolled in Royal Ambassadors; W.M.U. enrollment, 174 with 47 in Sunbeams, 30 in G.A.’s, 10 in Y.W.A.’s and 87 in the Women’s Missionary Society; grand total receipts to budget, $51,117.86, of which $3,594.78 went to missions.

The Sunday School enrollment of 587 was broken down to show: Cradle Roll, 14; Nursery, 63; Beginner, 54; Primaries, 64; Juniors, 74; Intermediates, 40; Young People (single) 21; Young People (married) 9; Young People away, 7; Adults (25-34), 98; Adults (35 up), 140; Extension Department, 2; General Officers, 4. The average weekly attendance was 300.

The Training Union enrollment was 242, divided as follows: Nursery, 21; Beginners, 16; Primaries, 27; Juniors, 43; Intermediates, 30; Young People (single), 13; Adults (25-34), 22; adults (35 up), 67; General Officers, 3. The average attendance was 147.

The music ministry reported 15 enrolled in the primary choir, 25 in the Junior, and 25 in the Adult. Two general officers brought the total enrollment to 67.

In November, 1959 the church authorized Carl Andrews, architect, to employ the services of Southern Mapping Company to survey and map the church lots. A planning and development committee was proposed to plan for the church’s future growth.

The church endorsed a statement of the Greensboro Pastors Conference on Sunday observance, asking the businesses to
remain closed and urging church members to refrain from buying on Sunday. The date was Sunday, November 22, 1959.

On its first Thanksgiving as a constituted church Parkway sent a letter of thanks to the Asheboro Street Baptist Church, for what had been done by the mother church. The letter was dated November 28, 1959.

A committee on constitution and by-laws was elected by the church in December, 1959 to draw up a proposed constitution, by-laws, church covenant, articles of faith and rules of order. The committee reported back to the congregation with a document that was presented and discussed on February 14, 1960. Changes were made in a further meeting on May 18, 1960 with the final approval coming on June 19, 1960.

The first plans for a church library were presented to the church on December 9, 1959 by Mrs. O. E. Hall.

The first funeral held in the new building was that of W. A. Ellis, held on January 15, 1960 at 2:00 P.M. Rev. Eugene Deese and Dr. A. L. Parker officiated.

The Piedmont Baptist Association received the Parkway Baptist Church into its full fellowship on January 18, 1960 at a meeting of its Executive Board. Those representing Parkway on this occasion were Rev. Eugene Deese, W. A. Aydelette, E. L. Richardson, Claude Gentry and Tom Adams.

The planning and development committee turned out to be the planning and survey committee. Those elected to this work on March 20, 1960 were: Mrs. J. H. Teague, Mrs. G. L. Cheek, Mrs. J. T. Taylor, Mrs. W. A. Ellis, Mrs. W. R. Bryant, Tom Adams, Alton Barnes, Howard Brewer, Robert Barkley, James Fisher, W. A. Elkins, J. G. Simmons, W. A. Aydelette, Earl Johnson, and Wade Moore.

Three actions by the church in the summer of 1960 improved the looks and facility of the grounds and building. The church voted to create a playground for the use of youth
activities. The trees between the building and Benjamin Parkway were cleared to give the church a better showing from the road. In July, 1960 the third floor of the building was air-conditioned, with a damper installed to switch it to the first floor for worship services.

After the resignation of Mr. Deese, Dr. Parker was engaged to preach on a temporary basis. However, with the merger of the Battleground Road Baptist Church, its pastor, Rev. Roy Liner, became the interim pastor at Parkway.

On July 17, 1960 the Parkway Baptist Church voted to accept the proposal of the Battleground Road Baptist Church to merge the two congregations. The Battleground Church had a building on Martinsville Road just off Battleground Road and a nine room parsonage at 3302 Nathaniel Road. All property and all debts were transferred to Parkway, as well as the entire membership of 200 resident members and 29 non-resident. The property value was $75,000.00 with an indebtedness of $17,000.00. The active members at Battleground numbered approximately 125 with an average attendance of 100-105.

On July 24, 1960 those present from Battleground were received into the fellowship of Parkway, and the entire roll of the former church was transferred. Rev. and Mrs. Roy Liner and members were honored at a reception at Parkway on August 21, 1960.

Thus this period of history of the new church in northwest Greensboro closed on a positive note to compensate for the
crisis that had developed in the summer of 1960 that saw the pastor resign and a number of members withdraw to form the Westridge Baptist Church, which met in Claxton School.

A church was lost in the merger and another church was born out of trying times. So goes the way of Baptists and the forming of new churches. This period closed in September, 1960 to prepare the way for a new pastor and a decade of expansion, growth, and more crises. God’s kingdom moves on through the church and in spite of its weaknesses and problems.
SOME FIRSTS
OF
PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
CONSTITUTED AS AN
INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

First Pastor ..................................................... Eugene F. Deese
First Choir Director ................................................ Wendell Arnote
First Organist ................................................. Mrs. Raymond Hill
First Church secretary ............................................. Mrs. Ann Floyd
First S. S. Superintendent ...................................... Earl Johnson
First church clerk ................................................ Mrs. Roy Davis

Asso. Gilmer Cheek

First S. S. Gen. Secretary ....................................... O. E. Hall
First W. M. U. President .......................................... Mrs. Earl Johnson
First Brotherhood Pres. ......................................... Oscar Hundley
First Training Union Director .................................. Everette Richardson
First Trustees .................................................... Preston Smith

W. A. Aydelette
Herbert Teague

First Finance Committee ....................................... Earl Johnson
E. P. Bradley
Tom Adams
Jessie Watson
A. J. Allen

First Board of Deacons ......................................... Claude Gentry (Chairman)
W. A. Aydelette
Everette Richardson
E. P. Bradley
Herbert Teague
Oscar Hundley
James Transou
John Eggers
Jessie Watson

First Treasurer ..................................................... W. A. Ellis

Asso. Mrs. Earl Johnson

First Librarian ................................................... Mrs. O. E. Hall
First Budget ....................................................... $75,680.50
First Licensed for Ministry ...................................... Doyle Moore
First Minister of Education ..................................... William A. Alexander
PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH LIBRARY

Plans for starting a church library were presented by Mrs. O. E. Hall in December, 1959.

Later Mrs. Kittie Sullivan, who was then church secretary, donated two hundred fifty books from her own collection to start the library.

At first the books were kept in a portable cabinet that could be locked. After the present chapel and educational unit was completed in 1964, a conference room adjoining the chapel was converted into an interim library, with shelves installed for the books.

Mrs. Sullivan placed the books on the shelves and acted as librarian. She started the practice of getting books from book stores on Mother’s and Father’s days to be purchased by church members and then placed in the library. This was a great help in adding books.

Each year the church budgets money to be used to purchase books for the library.

Mrs. O. E. Hall was the first official librarian elected by the church. She was well qualified for this position since she worked for the Greensboro City Schools as librarian.

Mrs. Billie Jane Vasut was the next church librarian and was assisted by Mrs. LaVerne Wiggs.

In 1969 Mrs. Leonard McGarity became librarian and still serves in that capacity. Her first assistant was Carolyn Andrews. At the present time she is assisted by Mrs. Tom Henderson and Ricky Andrews.

When someone gives a book to the library in memory of another, the family is notified by letter. If someone donates a book to the library in honor of another, the one honored is notified by letter.

At present there are over sixteen hundred books in our church library.
WILSON LANNING STEWART

PASTOR

The second called pastor of the Parkway Church was Dr. Wilson L. Stewart, who came to Greensboro after a three year pastorate at the Walkertown Baptist Church in Walkertown, North Carolina. The new pastor, his wife, Dorrence, and son, Lanning, moved into the newly acquired parsonage at 3302 Nathaniel Road. The pastor’s home had become the possession of the church when the Battleground Road Baptist Church merged with Parkway. The church received the pastor and family in a reception in the church fellowship hall on Wednesday night, October 5, 1960. Dr. Stewart preached his first sermon as pastor on Sunday, October 9, 1960.

The church was gracious to the pastor and his family through recognitions during the decade of service. Some of the highlights are: At Christmas in 1960, the church presented a lovely stereo to the Stewart family;

On the second anniversary, the pastor was honored by the church at a supper in the fellowship hall. Dr. and Mrs. A. Leroy Parker, the pastor of the mother church and his wife, were invited to the affair, which was sponsored by the brotherhood of the church;

A surprise fellowship was planned for the fifth anniversary, and the church presented the pastor’s family with gifts, a lovely reclining chair going to the pastor;

In 1968, the eighth anniversary was recognized by presenting the pastor with a beautiful robe to use at weddings.

The crowning event took place in 1969 to celebrate the ninth year of the pastor’s service. The church, under the leadership of the deacons, presented to Dr. and Mrs. Stewart a wonderful trip to the Holy Land. The Stewarts left on January 4, 1970, from the Raleigh-Durham airport to fly to New York to join the tour group for departure on the fifth. After a ten day tour to Rome, Israel, Athens and Corinth, the pastor and Mrs. Stewart re-
turned to Parkway and gave a slide presentation to the church on the Sunday evenings of February 8 and 22.

A daughter, Lannette, joined the Stewart family on February 9, 1963.

In the fall of 1965, the pastor and his family moved to the church’s house at 2707 Westmoreland Drive and the house on Nathaniel was sold.

The pastorate of Dr. Stewart continued to June 30, 1970. Dr. Stewart resigned on April 25 to become a part-time teacher with the Luther Rice Seminary of Jacksonville, Florida. In connection with the seminary position, Dr. Stewart was called to become Associate Pastor and Minister of Education of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Greensboro. His last service at Parkway was on June 28, 1970. A farewell supper was held for the Stewarts on Wednesday evening, June 24, 1970.

BUILDING PROGRAM

The largest project of the Parkway church was the building program of constructing the chapel and the educational addition. The Planning and Survey Committee received the floor and plot plans from the Architecture Department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. These plans were presented to the church for adoption on October 18, 1961.

An important event in November of 1961 was the election of the Building Committee. This signaled the official beginning of the new additions. Those elected were: Chairman, Tom Henderson; Vice-Chairman, Roy Farlow; Secretary, Mrs. A. J. Allen.

Sub-committees and members were:

Plans and Construction: Gaylord Simmons, Chairman; C. H. Walker and Tommy Grantham.
Finance: Bob Lentz, Chairman; Alton Barnes and Willard Robbins.

Legal: Herbert Teague, Chairman; Dick Routh and Jesse Watson.

Publicity: Mrs. Kittie Sullivan, Chairman; Claude Gentry.

Furnishings: Mrs. Ed Bradley, Chairman; George Leonard and Tom Adams.

Nursery: Miss Helen Canaday, Chairman; Mrs. H. R. Phillips and Mrs. J. H. Brewer.

Kitchen: Mrs. W. A. Elkins, Chairman; J. C. Jones and Jim Transou.

Grounds: O. E. Hall, Chairman; Preston Smith and Carney Allgood.

The next major task was the selection of an architect. In January, 1962, Carl Andrews was employed to proceed with the plans. Mr. Andrews had been the architect for the first educational unit and was the logical choice to continue the work on the new additions.

By June, 1962, the church began the financing of the new structures. First the old bond program was revamped by calling in all the existing bonds to be redeemed or traded. Mr. Harold Jensen headed up this phase of the program as bondsman. New bonds totaling $65,000 were sold to replace the old bonds in order to remove the first mortgage on the building. This transaction was done to finance the new building through a loan as well as with bonds. This first phase of the bond program was completed by August, 1962.

The plot plan was presented to the church in August, also. The months of September and October, 1962, were to have seen the plans adopted, released for bids, bids received from contractors and contract awarded. The high cost of the building delayed the procedure, requiring further study and financial planning.
September, 1962, did call for an all-out effort to sell more bonds to raise new funds with which to build. A drive was begun to sell $92,000, the remaining amount of the new bond issue.

By October, 1962, the plans for the new educational building and chapel were ready. A beautiful water color painting of the interior of the chapel showed the unusual design and artistry of architect Carl Andrews. Revisions were made to the plans in November, 1962, because the cost prohibited the church from doing the whole project at once. Changes that were made took months for meetings and revision. Financial arrangements had to be made because of the delays and the size of the structure. By May, 1963, there was some hope that construction would begin in the near future.

The big news came in June, 1963: Go ahead! King-Hunter was awarded the general contractor's job for the amount of $180,262.00. Other contractors and the amounts were:

- Starr Electric Company .................$19,500.00
- Jackson plumbing Company ..............$14,354.00
- Dick and Kirkman Heating Company ....$14,712.00

The total for construction was $228,828.00. Gate City Savings and Loan made the construction possible by loaning the church the finances to add to the bond program already instigated.

Special editions of the Parkway Messenger were put out, entitled the Parkway Builder to promote the building program. The Builder listed three special financial drives in the June 6, 1963 issue. A building fund drive to raise $50,000.00 over a three year period was begun to raise funds for building and to help meet payments in the years ahead. The "Pocket Pig Club" was used to help children have a part in contributing to the building fund. The "Pocket Pig" bank held dimes amounting to three dollars. Several children filled more than one bank. The third drive was more bonds that needed to be sold.
The ground breaking ceremonies were held on Sunday morning, August 11, 1963, at the eleven o'clock worship service. The first spade of dirt was turned by the pastor with an engraved shovel furnished by the contractor. This signaled the beginning of construction which was a long awaited event that finally became a reality when the big machines started moving the dirt. The construction took over one year to complete, because part of the building that was left off had to be added, which required new financial arrangements and caused some delays.

Ground breaking ceremony of second educational unit and chapel.—August 11, 1963.
Chapel and second educational unit nearing completion.
Building completed. View from General Greene School—October 1964.
After some further delay in completion of the new building and the day for entering, the day finally came on October 4, 1964, when the first services could be held. For the first time the Parkway Baptist Church had a sanctuary in which to worship. The new chapel was beautifully constructed and decorated in contemporary styling. Funds had been raised for the purchase of a new Allen organ, which was installed for the first service. Attendance was high for the special event, but rain delayed the cornerstone laying which had been planned at the close of the service. A covered dish dinner was held in the fellowship hall. The day was climaxed by the observance of the Lord’s Supper in the evening service.

REVIVALS

Several revivals were held during the years from 1960 to 1970. The first meeting during this decade was held in April, 1961, with the pastor doing the preaching. Dwayne Zimmer, Minister of Education and Music of the Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, led the music. There were nine additions to the church.

In the fall of 1961 Mr. Gary Harthcock, Associate Director of the Evangelism Division of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina led an evangelistic workshop and revival meeting. Ryland Young led the singing for the revival services.

Rev. Raymond Lanier preached during the week of services in April, 1962, replacing the Rev. Tom Young of Asheville, who became sick and could not come. The music was led by Mr. Conrad Willmon, Minister of Education and Music at Magnolia Street Baptist Church in Greensboro. Six joined by letter and fifteen came for baptism during this crusade.

The fall revival in 1962 was preached by the Rev. R. O. Baker, who served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Cramerton, North Carolina. The church’s choir director, Miss Elizabeth Ann Miller led the music.
Building completed, October 1964. View from Benjamin Parkway.
Cottage prayer meetings in the homes and an all-night prayer meeting between the two weeks of revival laid the groundwork for the spiritual emphasis in the Spring of 1963. The pastor preached the first week with Bob Lentz leading the singing. The Rev. Frank Marks, pastor of Holloway Street Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina was the evangelist for the second week. Mr. Ed Miller, Music Director of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church of Greensboro led the music. Eight additions to the church were noted during the revival.

Rev. Elmer Painter was the evangelist for the revival in April, 1964. Furman Holt, the church’s choir director, who had joined the staff the year before, led the music. The next year the pastor preached during the spring meeting with Mr. Holt again leading the choir and congregation.

A real treat awaited the church as Rev. Troy Bennett, missionary to East Pakistan, came to bring the messages in October, 1965.

The next major revival event was in the fall of 1968 and was perhaps the best publicized, best attended and received of all the meetings of the decade. Dr. Chester Swor, noted youth and revival speaker in the Southern Baptist Convention, was the evangelist. Jerry Merrimon came with Dr. Swor to lead the music. Dr. Swor with his dynamic personality, brought inspiring messages, beginning with a leadership banquet on Friday evening and a youth emphasis on Saturday evening. The meeting proper began on Sunday, September 15, 1968, and closed on Friday evening.

The concluding series of revival services for these ten years of history were conducted in April of 1969 and included three churches and three weeks. The Eller Memorial Baptist Church and the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church joined with Parkway for the Crusade of the Americas, a continent-wide evangelistic crusade sponsored by several Baptist conventions in North and South America.
One week was held at each church with the pastors rotating with the preaching. The revival services were preceded by months of weekly prayer meetings attended by members from all three congregations and rotated among the churches. These prayer meetings continued for several months after the meetings were closed. Having begun out of a prayer meeting started by the three pastors, Rev. Gerald Primm, Rev. Alfred Wright, and Dr. Stewart, it was appropriate that the meeting should have been preceded and continued with the weekly emphases on prayer.

**STAFF MEMBERS**

During the period of 1960-1970 many staff members filled the positions that were needed in the church. Those who served in the field of church music will be discussed in the next section; all others will be presented here.

The job as secretary was held by Mrs. Jean Allen, who was serving in the capacity in October, 1960, and continued until June, 1961. The church office at that time was on the second floor of the first educational building at the north end of the hall. The pastor’s study was the room behind the baptistry on the first floor.

Mrs. Ruth Wise was the next secretary coming to work for the church from the Sears Company. She served in this capacity until March, 1962. During this period the church offices were moved to the third floor of the education building in order to get all three offices together when the educational director came.

Bill Alexander became the first educational director at Parkway in March, 1962. He came from the First Baptist Church in Whiteville. Bill was a native of Tarboro, North Carolina. For the first few months the family remained in Whiteville until a house, which was purchased by the church, was vacated. In June, 1962, the family moved into the house at 2707 Westmoreland Drive, when Mrs. Alexander and the four children, Fran, Ann, Jan, and Stan came from Whiteville.
Bill worked in every area of the church's educational program and with the youth in activities and recreation. He resigned in July, 1965, having served over three years with the church, to take a position as Bible teacher in the public schools of Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

The church employed Mrs. Meda Howell to be the church secretary in May, 1962. Once again the church office was moved, along with the pastor's study and the educational director's office. All were relocated on the first floor of the educational building at the back of the temporary sanctuary. Mrs. Howell served until June, 1963, leaving Parkway to become the educational director of the Bessemer Baptist Church of the same city.

Mrs. Jean Capps filled the position for five months, resigning in January, 1964.

The secretary who served the longest during this decade was Mrs. Kittie Sullivan who became secretary when Mrs. Capps resigned and continued in this position until May, 1969. Mrs. Sullivan retired from church work and moved to Knoxville, Tennessee to live with her daughter.

Miss Hazel Martin came to be the next church secretary and still serves in the capacity of secretary to the pastor.

All of these staff members did a splendid job filling the important positions of educational director and church secretary with their many and varied tasks. They contributed greatly to the onward moving program of the church as well as to growth and expansion. Many of them, as well as their families, were active in all phases of church life.
MUSIC

The church was blessed to have capable and talented musicians during the sixties. All of these served in a part-time capacity, with some of the members filling in between staff members. Bob Lentz helped in this manner upon several occasions during the times between directors.

The church called James Pegram in April, 1961 to be choir director. James was a native of Greensboro and had served at the First Baptist Church of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He stayed only four months, leaving to take a job in Florida. Choir rehearsal was moved for a brief time in this period from Wednesday nights to Friday nights.

Ryland Young was the next called director, coming to the church in September, 1961, after having led the music in the fall revival. He directed the music for the next six months, resigning in March, 1962.

One of the two ladies who served as music director was Elizabeth Miller, who came to the position the last Sunday of August, 1962. A student at UNC-G, majoring in Music, she remained at Parkway until the fall of 1963, when she left to attend seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

The director who had the longest tenure of service was Furman "Hap" Holt who came to the staff position in November, 1963. Hap became active in the other activities of the church, such as youth work and serving as a deacon. In February 1967, he resigned to accept the music director’s job at Guilford Baptist Church.

The next three choir directors stayed only a brief time at Parkway. They were Ron Hill (April 1967 to December 1967); Steve Vaughn (January 1968 to August 1968); and David Pegg (July 1969 to April 1970). Ron Hill served a second time between Vaughn and Pegg.

All of these directors did a good job with the choirs, some
of them leading the youth choir as well as the adult. They were assisted by capable accompanists at the instruments.

Mrs. Betty Hill was the organist during the years from 1960 to April, 1965. She resigned when her husband, Ray, was transferred out of Greensboro with the Y.M.C.A. During this span of time, Miss Barbara Hanner and Mrs. Evelyn Hill played the piano.

For more than a year, Mrs. Ruth Griffin played the organ, beginning in May, 1965 and continuing to June, 1966.

Mrs. Griffin was followed by Mrs. Martha Rimmer, who served as organist for eight months from August, 1966 to April, 1967.

The youngest organist to hold the position was Jackie Madon, who played while still a student in high school. Another student who played the piano was Cathy Chandler. Both of these young ladies served under Ron Hill’s first directorship.

David Pegg became the next organist in February, 1968. During his stay he and the director Steve Vaughn played some beautiful organ-piano concerts.

DEACONS

A list of the deacons of the Parkway Baptist Church is given elsewhere in this history. This section is presented here because of the stability and leadership of these men across the decade of the sixties.

Those who served as chairmen were Ed Bradley, Bob Lentz, Tom Adams, Bobby Madon, Howard Brewer and Roy Farlow. These men carried great responsibility as they headed up the business affairs of the church. Some were called on to help with the expansion program of the new building, while others filled the gap during times of tension and stress. All of them supported the pastor and worked in close harmony with
him. They were recognized as special guests on the last Sunday of Dr. Stewart’s ministry in 1970.

YOUTH

The youth of the church were very active during the 1960’s. During most of this period the activities were planned and carried out by a youth council, composed of representatives from the Junior and Senior High Departments. Each year a youth week was held when the young people filled the teaching and administrative positions of the church. This week was always a highlight in the program of the church.

Recreational events were many and varied, with teams from the church participating in softball, basketball and football leagues. These were coached by the men of the church and at times by the Educational Director, Bill Alexander.

Drama became a major activity among the youth. Some of the plays produced were, The Youngest Thief, End of the Rainbow, Antic Spring, Little Red Schoolhouse, and The Littlest Angel. Mrs. Doris Johnson and Mrs. Sue Andrews were the main leaders in the drama department and were aided by many others who helped.

Two of the young people who had been called into full time Christian service were Linda Elkins and Doyle Moore. Linda attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, where she met and married the Rev. Erby Mangum. Doyle was ordained on September 30, 1962 to the ministry and became the pastor of the mission of Balfour Baptist Church, Asheboro, N. C.

For the summer of 1969, Miss Rebecca Taylor, a student at Mars Hill College, was the youth director. A native of Goldsboro, Miss Taylor was one of the college students chosen by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to work in the churches across the state. She led all phases of the youth activities for the summer and did a fine job with the youth.
Many of the young people attended the assembly at Fort Caswell during the summers. Chaperoned by the adults of the church, these youth received great spiritual inspiration from the programs and from the fellowship of being together.

Other activities included the associational youth banquets, state youth conventions and the city-wide musicals, such as Good News. A Youth Laymen’s Day was held on January 27, 1963, and the youth had charge of both the services. John David McGee, a student at Mars Hill College, spoke at the morning service and Doyle Moore at the evening service. A group of forty students from Gardner-Webb College led a youth revival in April, 1970. Larry Thomas and Charlie Morrison were the preachers.

An active Boy Scout troop was sponsored by the church and was led during many of these years by Carney Allgood and Jerry Messick. Eight boys in the church and/or troop received the Eagle Scout Award: Joe and Kirby Faulk, Sankey and Ricky Price, Gene and Joe Fuller, Bill Teague, and Donny Cole.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

An important part of any church is the Sunday School. At Parkway this was no exception. The Sunday School was the instrument of reaching many new people during the 1960’s.

Three men led this organization during this time. They were Harold Phillips, Earl Johnson and John Pike. Many other dedicated workers followed their leadership through years of expansion, organizational changes, and times of crises.

The enrollment of the Sunday School was 619 in October, 1960. This figure grew to an enrollment of 717 in December, 1964, which was the highest for this decade of history. Attendance grew from an average of 331 for the month of October, 1960 to a record high attendance of 480 on March 22, 1964. The construction of the new building, a full staff, and the return of the members from the Westridge Baptist Church spurred the
high enthusiasm in the church during these months of high attendance.

Each year in the fall the Sunday School would sponsor a church-wide picnic. These events were held at the Country Park, Hagan Stone Park and the church. Recreation preceded the covered dish supper, which reflected the talents of the good cooks of the church.

Some of the leaders of the Sunday School attended Caswell and Ridgecrest at various intervals to receive the training and inspiration offered at these summer assemblies. A group that went to Caswell enjoyed the teaching of Dr. Findley Edge, whose books were studied in the weekly officer’s and teacher’s meeting.

Because of the growing pains, the organization was changed many times to make the membership fit the space in the building. For several months the men met in the General Greene School auditorium which was rented from the city. The youth were restructured in 1961 into Junior and Senior High departments to follow the pattern of the public schools. In January, 1967, a couples class was organized, which permitted husbands and wives to attend the same class for the first time. The class proved to be needed, because it grew rapidly and reached new couples.

For a brief period of time the Sunday School workers received training during the Training Union hour in classes provided for the adult, youth and children’s divisions. On other occasions parents’ night was held to better acquaint parents with what their children were receiving and to seek to make better relations between the youth and their parents.

Vacation Bible Schools were conducted each summer for either five, eight or ten days duration. These always were a delight to the children, were served by a capable staff of volunteer workers, and were concluded with a commencement program. The youth division changed from being a part of the
morning program of the Bible School to having evening sessions, called the youth forum.

Although there was some increase in the enrollment of the Sunday School and several months of high attendance the organization maintained a rather level measure of performance due to the crises that the church went through. The real success of the Bible teaching ministry was not measured in numbers, but in the quality of work done and the people reached over the ten years of this period of history.

TRAINING UNION

Parkway had an active Training Union during the 1960’s, with several new ventures tried to reach more people and provide better training.

In the fall of 1962, a new course of study was offered for adults. Instead of the regular unions where the program was presented from quarterlies, classes were provided for various subjects to be taught and for the divisions of the Sunday School to receive training. This change produced the all time high attendance of 191 on the opening night of October 4, 1962. The courses or divisions and teachers were as follows:

Children’s Workers .................Miss Helen Canaday
Youth Workers .....................William A. Alexander
Adult Workers .......................Wilson L. Stewart
Christian Ethics ....................Mrs. Meda Howell
Evangelism ........................Robert L. Lentz
Music .............................Miss Elizabeth Miller

At the same time a new time schedule was adopted for the Sunday evening services. The order was reversed with the evening worship service coming before the Training Union hour. The time was altered, also, to meet at the earlier times of 5:30 for the evening worship service and 6:30 for Training Union. This time schedule was popular with the congregation and with some alterations for the summer months was followed for several years.
The beginning of the new church year in October, 1969 brought another change. The evening worship service was combined with the adult Bible study, and the class met at 6:30 P.M. while the other age groups were in their training unions.

Other activities sponsored by the Training Union were: (1) trips to Caswell for the youth (2) an annual fish fry, that was held for several years; (3) backyard studies during the summer; and (4) fellowships on Sunday evenings.

MISSIONS

The mission education and ministry of the church is carried out by the Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood. The 1960's brought great change to both of these programs on the Southern Baptist Convention level. Parkway adopted these new structures in the local organizations.

The W.M.U. has always been the stronger department of the missions program. At the beginning of the decade the W. M.U. consisted of the Woman's Missionary Society, the Young Women's Auxiliary, the Girl's Auxiliary, and the Sunbeams. The new organization provided groups named Baptist Women, Acteens, Girls in Action and Mission Friends.

The ladies met monthly in a general meeting at the church and in group meetings in the homes. Missionary programs were presented and various projects were planned to minister to others. The ladies actively supported all phases of Southern Baptist mission programs: Foreign, home, state and associational. Offerings were taken annually for these areas of work, with the amounts growing steadily over the years.

The youth and children groups met weekly or twice monthly as suited to the age groups. Special weeks were held each year in recognition of each group. One of the most meaningful and beautiful ceremonies was the coronation service for the G.A.'s. Associational week long camps were attended by the girls, except for the sunbeams who only went for the day.
The Brotherhood was the name for the men’s missionary organization. The boys went under the name of Royal Ambassadors. Later during the 1960’s the name for the men and boys became Brotherhood with the men taking on a new title, Baptist Men, and the boys retaining their old name. The age groups for the boys were Crusaders, Pioneers and Ambassadors. The Brotherhood was not as strong as the W.M.U., but did manage to survive through meetings and activities for this period of history.

Both organizations sponsored the weeks of prayer and offerings for foreign, home and state missions. In 1966 the state missions emphasis included not only the work of state missions in general, but combined the offerings for the Homes for the Aging, The Children’s Homes, The Baptist Hospital and the colleges in one emphasis. More was raised in this drive for each cause than had been given separately before.

Many special speakers came to the church with varied mission emphases. Dr. W. R. Grigg taught a home mission study in 1962. The week of prayer for foreign missions was highlighted in 1963 by missionary Glenn Hix’s message. Other speakers were Miss Ola Lee, Rev. Bill Simmer, Dr. Frank Lide and Mr. and Mrs. James Lockeridge.

The W. A. Mitchinners spoke to a meeting sponsored by the Baptist Men in 1965. The men heard Mr. Walter Anderson, former S.B.I. chief, speak during the same year.

The Brotherhood observed Baptist Men’s Day (formerly Laymen’s Day) in the church one Sunday in January of each year. The men took charge of the morning service.

Several of the R.A. boys attended the association at R.A. camp, when Dr. Stewart was associational R. A. leader. Five of the boys, Jimmy Brewer, David Pike, Alan Wiggs, Donny Cole, and Franky Andrews, along with the pastor who went as a sponsor, enjoyed the trip to the National R. A. Congress in Oklahoma City in 1968.
Many general church events occurred during the decade between 1960 and 1970.

In the fall of 1961 two morning worship services were begun. There were 115 present for the 8:30 A.M. service on October 1. These double services continued until the last Sunday in July, 1962, and the early service was never used again.

A church directory was printed in November, 1961, for the use of the members in knowing the church organization and families.

A second house was purchased by the church for the use of the Minister of Education and his family. Bill Alexander and family moved into the house at 2707 Westmoreland in June, 1962.

A 3.86 acre plot was purchased from the Starmount Company for a cost of $22,750. This property was to the west of the two sections that the church had purchased previously. The additional land increased the total amount of land owned to nine acres. Buying this property removed the need for Robinhood Drive to be built behind the church, and the city removed the dedication from the land to be used for the street.

In June, 1963 extended services were begun for four and five-year-olds during the morning service. This was an aid to the children and the parents of these ages.

One of the highlights of the decade was the return of many of the Westridge Baptist Church members to Parkway. They had formed a new congregation in 1960 during a time of crisis at Parkway. Thirteen of the Westridge group joined on November 3, 1963, with others coming later.

Several conventions and associational meetings were held at the church. The N.C. Alumni Association of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary met in the fellowship hall for
their annual meeting in November, 1964. A statewide Church Building Conference used the facilities in October, 1966 for one of its meetings.

Five churches joined together to hold an annual Thanksgiving service on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving Day. The first meeting was held at the Lawndale Baptist Church in 1965, with Parkway, Lawndale, West Irving Park Methodist Church, Guilford Park Presbyterian Church and St. Francis Episcopal church participating. The services rotated among the churches and the pastors led the program, with a different pastor preaching the sermon each year.

A collection of books had been made available for reading which composed "The Church Library." This phase of the work was organized in January, 1964, by the Library Committee. Mrs. O. E. Hall, a member and a school librarian, was instrumental in beginning this work and in having the books processed. When the new building was complete in 1964, the Library had a nice room with adequate shelves, table and chairs.

The annual custom of decorating the chapel at Christmas with poinsettias was begun in 1965. They made a beautiful display in the new chapel. The next spring at Easter the custom was extended by putting Easter lilies in the chapel windows and about the pulpit.

The tenth anniversary of the organization of Parkway Baptist Church was held on March 10, 1966. Dr. Leroy Parker, the pastor of Friendly Avenue Baptist Church, and the mission pastor of Parkway from 1956-59, preached the sermon. Dinner was served in the fellowship hall following the morning service.

A unique service was held at Parkway on February 26, 1967. The First Moravian Church in Greensboro joined with Parkway to have a Moravian Love Feast. Moravian pastor, Rev. Lewis Swaim, brought the message, after which coffee and Moravian buns were passed to the combined congregations.
The service was truly symbolic of Christian unity during Brotherhood month.

Other special events were: A piano concert by Paul Beckwith of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship; a message by Dr. Karlis Leyasmeyer on communism; a message on the revival in the Scottish Hebrides Islands in the 1950’s by Dr. Owen Murphy; and a concert by the King’s College Choir.

In May, 1967, there was a fellowship featuring a cake bake. All the cakes were baked by members, young and old. Prizes were awarded for six different categories.

A ceremony for renewing the wedding vows of couples was held on Sunday, May 21, 1967. Each couple was reminded of the vows that they had taken and the responsibility of keeping these vows.

A special Ladies Day was held in May, 1967. Mrs. Clyde V. Hickerson was the speaker for the morning service on May 28, 1967. Several ladies of the church had part on the program.

For two summers (1967 and 1968) the church secretary, Mrs. Kittie Sullivan, conducted a Bible Explorer’s Club for children. This was a popular event and was well attended. Bible study, visual aids, and handwork constituted the activities of this weekday program.

For several years the men of the church had a bowling team. In 1967 they won the championship of their league. Those who played were Ralph Barnes, Alton Barnes, Jim Thurman, Tommy Grantham and Jack Foxworth.

The chapel was air-conditioned in July, 1967, with much of the work being done by the men. The members contributed above their regular giving to make this possible. It was a much needed project.

The fellowship hall received new stage curtains in June, 1968. These were made possible by the ladies’ classes, which were the Gleaners, the Joy, the Fidelis, and the Steadfast.
Mrs. Claude Sasser, Mrs. A. H. McNeal and Mrs. Clyde Haithcook made the curtains. The next year, 1969, the back of the fellowship hall was decorated with blinds and drapes. All of this added greatly to the beauty and usefulness of this much used area.

When the hurricane, Camille, struck the Gulf Coast in 1969, the church raised $61.00 to be sent to Mississippi for the relief of those in distress.

**KINDERGARTEN AND DAY CARE**

The kindergarten for five-year-olds began in the fall of 1964 with Mrs. Carolyn Bilyew as lead teacher. There were 26 enrolled.

Along with the kindergarten, a nursery school was opened for three and four-year-olds. These groups were a part of the day care program that opened at the same time. Mr. D. Russell Myers, Jr. was the director with Miss Betty High serving as associate.

The volunteer staff adviser for the entire weekday program was a Parkway member, Miss Helen Canaday, Associate Professor of Home Economics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her knowledge and background made this ministry possible.

The day care program offered full time and part time care for children, ages five and under. Provision was made also to care for elementary school children of working mothers after school. Lunch was served to those who needed this service.

The five year kindergarten continued through the decade, with Mrs. Dawson Lee becoming the lead teacher. The four year program was continued until February, 1965, dropped then, and was begun again in the fall of 1967.

The day care center was short lived, lasting only a little more than three months. The center was closed because of financial difficulties.
ASSOCIATIONAL PARTICIPATION

The Parkway church was active in the Piedmont Baptist Association during this time. Groups attended the “M” night programs each year that they were held. The organizations participated in the training clinics and inspirational programs that were provided.

The pastor taught a course on theology in the winter of 1961. Other classes were held in preaching, religious education, and the Old and New Testament.

The church contributed regularly to the support of the association. Support was given to the regular program, the athletic union and the camp at Lakewood.

The annual associational meeting was held at Parkway in October, 1964. The pastor served as program chairman for the annual session in 1965. The associational Royal Ambassador clinic and banquet was held at the church in 1967, when the pastor served as Associational R.A. leader.

The church, also, supported the causes of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the Southern Baptist Convention. Five members attended the Baptist World Alliance in Miami in 1965. These members were Mr. and Mrs. Tom Henderson, Mrs. Kittie Sullivan, and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Aydelette.
CHARLES HERBERT HOWELL


Parkway Baptist Church proved her flexibility in the first half of the decade sometimes called the "era of chaotic change in the church." In 1970, Dr. Wilson L. Stewart resigned as pastor after serving faithfully for ten years. The church called Dr. Ronald E. Wall to lead during the interim period which stretched out to thirteen months. When Dr. Charles H. Howell accepted the call of the church in 1971 to become her fourth pastor, the congregation met the challenge to evaluate her resources and to identify the needs of the community. The people laid the foundation for a dynamic ministry. A final foundation stone was placed in October, 1975, with the calling of Mr. Larry H. Austin to serve the church as minister of education and administrator.

PASTORAL MINISTRIES

The spirit of the pastoral ministries in the first half of the seventies responded to the changing conditions of the people. The structure was basically through proclamation, ministry and worship. The most significant development was the growth of the practice of the priesthood of believers. Worship was more informal and fellowship among the people grew.

Ronald Wall had recently retired after thirty-five years in the ministry when he came to Parkway. His last full-time pulpit ministry was the College Park Church of Greensboro. Through the years he gained a reputation as a scholar and a skillful pastor. His sensitivity and his energy made him a most effective...
interim pastor. He preached his first sermon at Parkway July 5, 1970. He preached almost every Sunday until August 1, 1971.

Dr. Wall’s sermons were always characterized by a Biblical base and a strong supportive emphasis. He began his preaching ministry at Parkway with a sermon entitled “Refusing to Enter the Kingdom” based on Luke 15:25-32. The following titles reflect the nature of Dr. Wall’s ministry: “God Is Love,” “Make the Best of It,” “Can We Make it Better?”, “He Leadeth Me,” and “Let Us Reason Together.” As the weeks grew to months without a pastor being called, Dr. Wall’s messages matched the needs of the people. “What Do We Really Want?”, he asked. He encouraged the people with “Measuring a Church” and the “Message of Spring.” His final sermon at Parkway on July 25, 1971, was “Building Up the Church.” His text was I Corinthians 14:1-33.

Charles Howell began his preaching ministry the next Sunday with a similar message, “Building a Great Church.” The pulpit ministry of Dr. Howell in the first half of the seventies is divided into three parts: evangelistic, consecrative and doctrinal. A careful study of the sermons preached during these years demonstrates a consistent emphasis on the good news of salvation through Christ. The major emphasis of the pulpit ministry during this period, however, was to call the people to a full commitment to God. The pastor challenged the Christians to dedicate to God all the resources under their control, including time, talent and personality. The doctrinal messages of this period underscored two important themes for the “chaotic seventies.” One was the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and the other was the doctrine of the priesthood of believers.

The evangelistic emphasis of the preaching ministry is reflected in the 124 baptisms recorded from 1971 to 1975. Unique among those baptisms were the pastor’s seventy-one year old grandfather, Henry C. Heath (October 31, 1971), and the first black member, Louis Robinson (December 23, 1973).
The thirty-four baptisms performed in 1973 were the most recorded during any year of the church’s history. (These and other statistics are based on the Associational Minutes.)

Another unique evangelistic ministry at Parkway occurred November 5-10, 1972. Bob Harrison, a black evangelist from San Francisco, preached for the fall revival. Though this event was almost ignored by the media, it was a historical first for Greensboro, the city where the race revolution of the fifties and sixties began with a sit-in at the F. W. Woolworth Company. Parkway has always demonstrated the spirit of Christ in matters of race and evangelism. She has been a leader in this area in North Carolina.

The major portion of Dr. Howell’s preaching ministry would have to be characterized as consecrative. Of the 500 sermons preached during this period, 200 were actional sermons calling for dedication. A good example of the meaning of this ministry and its results in the life of the church is illustrated in the area of stewardship. In the four years, 1971 to 1975, money was very seldom mentioned from the pulpit. There were no sermons calling for more and more contributions. There were, perhaps, three sermons which called for total stewardship of time, talent and money. The overture was that if the people are committed the money will be available for the work of the kingdom. The church had only one formal stewardship promotion (November, 1971) in the four years. That called for pledges to tithe. The budget and the receipts rose from $82,000 in 1971 to $135,000 in 1975.

The doctrinal emphasis of the pulpit ministry stressed two major themes: the Holy Spirit and the priesthood of believers. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit was important at Parkway in the early seventies because a number of the members joined the swelling group of neo-pentecostals or charismatics which permeated the Christian community in Greensboro and around the world. A lack of concern for the ministry of the Holy Spirit by Baptists through the years left a void in the understanding of
this doctrine and consequently in the experience of the power of the person of the Holy Spirit. Extra-church groups began to expound the doctrine during the sixties. By the seventies these neo-pentecostal groups were making inroads in all the major denominations. The people were hungry for a more satisfying emotional experience and a more dynamic religious experience. This movement promised both. With it came some confusion about the Biblical doctrine of the Holy Spirit and his role in the Christian life.

The neo-pentecostals strengthened the work at Parkway in the beginning. They believed firmly that the Holy Spirit works in the lives of believers to perform the will of God. They believe that the church of the seventies needs more people yielded to the Spirit. Their involvement in ministry and their proclamation of the power of the Holy Spirit are spontaneous. Their zeal is genuine.

By 1974 at least forty leading members of the congregation were actively supporting a neo-pentecostal theology and ministry. A fourth of the deacons, including the chairman, were charismatic in persuasion.

Their zeal threatened the average church member. He could not understand all the excitement. The life-style of the charismatic, of course, is different from that learned in the traditional Baptist church. Speaking in tongues and faith healing are activities of the pentecostals, not Baptists. The tendency is to reject the experience completely.

The attitude of the pulpit during these years, however, was one of appreciation of the strengths of the movement and of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. No less than forty-eight sermons were preached on the various aspects of this doctrine. Always the strengths of the charismatics were underlined. They have a genuine commitment to the Bible, a real dependence on the Holy Spirit and a warm enthusiasm for ministry. Ninety per cent of their doctrine, any conservative student of the Bible will
agree, is accurate. The ten per cent is critical, however. That required a firm but loving stand on the part of the pastor. He stated unequivocally his position on the doctrinal issues.

A second major theme of the doctrinal emphasis of the pulpit was the concept of the priesthood of believers. This doctrine has come to mean to most Baptists that a person can pray without a priest. The New Testament concept obviously is far more than that. Every Christian is a priest, or to put it in more contemporary language, every Christian is a minister. Whatever one’s occupation or avocation, his basic calling is to minister Christ’s redemptive mission in the world.

This common thread ran through the messages and Bible teachings of Dr. Howell from January, 1973, through April, 1974. It coincided with his study at Southeastern Baptist Seminary. In May, 1974, he was awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree for his work in developing the ministry of believers. Dr. Howell’s project for the degree was “Developing the Ministry of the Believers at Parkway Baptist Church.”

“Every Christian a minister” had its effects in the lives of the people. Not only did they find new meaning in the routine task of day to day living, but they also took a more active role in the care of souls in the church and community. This verified the nature of the doctrine that the individual believer is responsible for ministry and that the church is responsible for carrying on the work of Christ in the world.

A deacon shared what this message had meant in his life. He understood for the first time that he is a minister even though his vocation is an executive in an industrial company. As a college student he was impressed to enter a church vocation but did not. With this new insight into ministry, he was freed from the guilt that plagued him for not entering the career ministry. He accepted a new commission from God to minister where he lived and worked. He already served faithfully as a Sunday School teacher, committee chairman, church visitor and deacon. Now his workday was his ministry too.
A number of neighborhood Bible studies and prayer groups sprang up as men and women sought to express their faith where they lived. A Bible study group began meeting downtown at lunch.

An evening group met weekly at a different home. The group grew to forty or fifty persons a week. There was a charismatic accent in this Thursday night meeting. The leaders were also leaders in the church. Each Thursday night someone would lead a Bible study then the group would sing and pray for the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Frequently, there would be a "word of knowledge," i.e., someone would sense a need among the group. Some than laid hands on the person in need and prayed. Speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues were a part of the meeting. Sometimes there would be a "prophecy," i.e., a word from God through a "prophet" about the future. Sometimes demons were exorcised.

This Thursday night prayer group caused some confusion. Many people attended who had never known that kind of experience. Some were frightened. Some were enraged. Some were convinced. Some simply were bewildered.

The influence of this group dwindled. A positive maturing force grew out of this for the congregation. More Bible study, more soul searching and more serious consideration of basic beliefs resulted in a better informed and capable "priesthood."

Perhaps a more significant caring ministry demonstrated the priesthood of the believers in the development of the deacon ministry during the seventies. In the interim year, July, 1970-August, 1971, it was necessary for the deacons to act as the board of directors of the congregation. They became primarily an administrative body. With the emphasis on ministry among the members of the body of Christ, the deacons were forced to take a closer look at their function in the church. Nineteen seventy-one and 1972 were years of introspection. Most of the meetings were spent discussing the role and the ministry of a deacon. Finally the men were ready to write down the function.
the requirements and the duties of a deacon. The 1975 class of deacons (enlisted in October, 1972) and all the subsequent classes agreed to the following contract.

The principal function of a deacon at Parkway Baptist Church: In accordance with the meaning of the word and the practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church. They are to guard the unity of the spirit within the church. They, with the pastor, have general oversight of the church.

The requirements for a deacon at Parkway: He will have been a member of the church at least two years or have had previous experience as a deacon in another missionary Baptist church. He will be able to attend all of the regular and called meetings of the deacons. He will be a faithful and loyal supporter of the entire church program and be regular in attendance at all the general meetings within the church program. He will be a tither in belief and practice and be a faithful and loyal supporter of the missionary program of the church and denomination. His spiritual standards will be in keeping with I Timothy 3:9-13 and Acts 6:3.

Through duties the deacon will attempt, along with the pastor, to proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers, to care for the church’s members and other persons in the community and to lead the church in performing its tasks of worship, witness, education and ministry.

In worship the deacon will be faithful and regular in attending the morning and evening worship and prayer meeting. He will lead his family in regular family worship and he shall develop in his own personal life a daily quiet time with God.

In witness and ministry the deacon will visit weekly. His priorities should be evangelistic prospects, problems, shut-ins and other members. He will average at least two hours a week visiting. He will participate in any deacon visitation effort and make reports of his visits at the monthly deacons’ meeting. He
will attend a training session on witnessing and one on ministering during his first year as a deacon.

In administration he will set a good example by faithfully discharging the duties of any additional church office or committee to which he may be elected. The deacons advise the pastor in all matters pertaining to the welfare and work of the church and the deacons have oversight of the discipline of the church in accordance with the New Testament teachings (Matthew 18:15-17).

By example the deacon will conduct himself at all times in a way that brings honor to the name and cause of Christ and credit to the church and community. He will conduct himself so as never to cause embarrassment to the church and the cause of Christ. His social and moral standards shall be above question.

In 1973 the deacons adopted the family ministry program. The church assigned twenty families to each deacon. Because of the difficulty of ministering to twenty families, the school of deacons was expanded from fifteen to eighteen in June, 1975. Now each deacon serves about fifteen families.

The deacons meet each month for fellowship, prayer and training. Business is only an incidental part of the monthly meetings. The Finance Committee and the House and Grounds Committee report directly to the deacons each month by order of the church constitution. These are generally just reports. Most of the time is spent in praying for family needs and training to meet those needs.

The worship services were more relaxed and informal during these years. Personal testimonies were frequently a part of the services. Simpler music and more congregational singing were encouraged. The children’s sermon was introduced as a regular part of the worship experience on August 22, 1971. In the beginning the pastor told a short Bible story to the children who gathered around him at the front of the church. This punctuated the service, coming in the middle of the hour after
the offering and before the anthem. Later other staff members and volunteers taught the children, but it remained an important part of the worship experience.

The ordinances were given a more prominent place in worship in the seventies. Baptism and the Lord’s Supper were observed in alternate months. The entire service was given to the ceremony. At first both were observed at a morning service. But because the temporary baptistry is located in the fellowship hall of the church and the morning crowds are too large for this area, baptism is observed on Sunday evenings.

Variety has been a part of the Lord’s Supper. Beginning with Christmas, 1973, this ordinance has been observed on Christmas day. Families take the bread and wine at the table. This brief, beautiful service is well attended and makes a profound impact on the worshippers. The Supper has also been a part of churchwide fellowships and an annual occasion on Maundy Thursday.

Bible Teaching

The spirit and structure of the Bible teaching program emerges through a study of the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, fellowship Bible groups and Bible conferences. In the seventies the Sunday School remained the largest, best organized and most effective program for Bible teaching. John Pike, who began his service July 25, 1965, continued to direct the organization through the seventies.

The average attendance by 1971 had fallen to 215 from an all time high 383 in 1964. This called for evaluation. September 20-22, 1971, was the first annual leadership preparation week under Dr. Howell’s ministry. The teachers and officers were asked to define the needs of the Sunday School and to set some goals. The needs defined were leadership training and outreach. In order to train teachers and leaders the school adopted the “Teacher Improvement Plan” which involved a self-taught course of study for each age group. Three programs were
suggested: Christian development, Bible teaching and Christian leadership. Each teacher was asked to commit himself to one of the study programs.

The teacher completed the course in six weeks, studying at home and answering the questions for individual credit. The success of the program is measured by the fact that Parkway was fifth among all North Carolina churches in credits earned for study courses that year.

Outreach was a second need set fourth at the 1971 leadership preparation week. The school set a goal that every teacher visit and every absentee and prospect be contacted. The Person to Person Attendance Campaign was planned for October. On October 24, 1971, Sunday School attendance reached a high of 379. That record for the seventies stood until Easter Sunday April 15, 1973. Three hundred and eighty-five attended Sunday School that day, which remains the high Sunday for the first half of the decade.

The second major promotion of the Sunday School was a Sunday School revival led by Leon Kilbreth July 23-30, 1972. Mr. Kilbreth made a study of the Sunday School organization and potential. He led the church to take some bold steps. The organization was broadly expanded. Many teachers took "paper classes," just names of potential members. Five adult departments were organized. Visitation was emphasized. Enthusiasm was at a peak.

Unfortunately, the anticipated growth was never realized, even though the 1972-73 Sunday School year was the best overall year of the seventies. The attendance averaged 292, the best since 1967. In 1974 the five adult departments were cut back to two, but the twelve classes were retained.

Vacation Bible School is the second most important aspect of the Bible teaching program in the early seventies. In 1972 the school ran eight days from Sunday morning through Sunday morning. Two hundred and fifty-seven children enrolled. In
1973, with the same schedule, 254 enrolled. In 1974, 212 enrolled.

In 1975 Vacation Bible School instituted another change. The school met at night and included adults. The program ran from Sunday evening to Friday evening. Two hundred and ninety people enrolled. More than fifty of these were adults. They studied the minor prophets. Vernon B. McDaniel taught the class.

Another important facet of the Bible teaching program of the seventies is the fellowship Bible groups that met in homes, at schools and at offices. There is no way to trace down the first fellowship group that began during the seventies. The first one to appear on the church calendar was at the Len Holmes’ house on May 15, 1972. Since that time there have been a number of different group meetings. The youth met at times for a breakfast study. A group of women met in the morning, young women in the afternoon and a mixed group in the evening. Most of these groups met once a week and studied a book of the Bible until they finished the book, usually about twelve weeks. One group of neighborhood children were organized into a Monday afternoon Bible club taught by Mrs. Evelyn Robinson.

A fourth aspect of the Bible teaching program featured Bible conferences. They added much to the depth of Bible teaching available at Parkway each year. During the seventies such scholars as Richard Henderson, Gerald Smith, David Garland and John Carlton taught in conferences on the Holy Spirit, the Letters of John, Daniel and Galatians. These studies were usually in January. The study lasted about ten hours.

MISSIONS

The spirit and structure of the missions program projects another important phase of the ministry of Parkway in the seventies. Mission organizations failed to fulfill their assigned task in the life of the church during this half decade. But that is
not to say the people failed to carry on the work of Christ in the community and world. Churchwide mission programs kept the congregation aware of worldwide needs. Mission giving increased. Volunteers responded to the Macedonian call.

As the seventies began the mission organizations at Parkway were weak. The Brotherhood recorded seventy-four men and boys in three organizations; the Woman’s Missionary Union reported ninety-nine women, girls and children in four organizations. In September, 1975, the men had no one enrolled in mission organizations while the women showed six organizations with ninety-nine enrolled.

Because of the failure of the organizations to teach the congregation, especially the men, about missions some other method was necessary to inform the people of the world’s needs. The first step was to promote on a churchwide level the work of state, home and foreign missions. An attempt was made to include as many of the fellowship as possible in the weeks of prayer and offering at the appropriate times during the year (home missions in the spring, state in the fall and foreign in the winter).

The foreign mission emphasis was the most successful. In 1970 the offering for foreign missions totaled $1,700. That offering increased each year until in 1974 the people gave $5,060. For the five-year period Parkway gave $17,300 to foreign missions, $3,600 to home missions, $1,200 to state missions and a total of $33,300 to all missionary causes.

The primary method of missionary education during this time was the mission conference and seminar. In 1971 the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions featured Mrs. Virginia Oliver of Brazil, Dr. and Mrs. Richard C. Henderson of the Philippines and Mr. Jack Wilder, pastor and evangelist in the Japan Crusade of 1966. These speakers brought missions to the home church. All ages could understand their sermons, pictures, stories and curios. Subsequent conferences included such
missionaries as Dr. Jerry Bedsole, the first missionary of veterinary medicine, and Dr. Sam Cannata, medical missionary to Ethiopia.

Mission seminars became a regular part of the total church program. Without men’s and boys’ missionary organizations, it was imperative that some means be devised to teach the people about missions. The Biblical message could be taught in Sunday School. The challenge could be proclaimed in the pulpit. But how would the people know what the larger church community was doing? For some time the church families had shared a covered dish supper one Wednesday night a month. After supper the mission organizations met. In September, 1974, one Sunday night a month was designated as “Missions Night.” The covered dish supper was moved to that evening. The mission organizations continued to function but the purpose of “Missions Night” was to educate the congregation to the world of missions. Each monthly meeting is dedicated to a different aspect of Parkway’s total world program. Baptist homes, Baptist hospitals, associational missions, state missions, home missions, foreign missions, Youth for Christ, B.S.U., Baptist colleges, the Cooperative Program—they all have their night.

Mission action is not ignored in this approach. Specific needs are met by the church as a whole or by special groups organized for the purpose. Of course, the W.M.U. functions to meet many of these needs. Sunday School classes are involved in local mission action projects. The Baptist men, though unorganized, still band together for specific purposes.

The pulpit continually called for the people of God to be involved in the work of Christ in the world. On December 16, 1973, the fellowship of Parkway dedicated Cliff and Philecta Staton to serve as missionaries to Ethiopia. On August 4, 1974, Ted York was dedicated to serve as a missionary journeyman in Liberia. On December 29, 1974, the church sent Dr. and Mrs. Howell to Africa to lead prayer retreats for the missionaries and to visit the Cliff Statons and Ted York.
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Cliff and Philecta Staton publicly volunteered for missionary service on January 7, 1973. At that time the Statons announced that they had applied for appointment by the Foreign Mission Board to serve as a civil engineer and a homemaker in Ethiopia, East Africa. Cliff resigned from his position as an
engineer with King-Hunter Construction Company and enrolled at Southeastern Seminary. He completed in one semester the requirements necessary for appointment by the Foreign Mission Board.

Cliff had already received a Bachelor of Science degree from North Carolina State University. Philecta was graduated from Meredith College. When they volunteered for service their children, Deirdre and Clarke, were six and two years old.

Cliff and Philecta Staton were commissioned at the Week of Foreign Missions at the Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N. C., Sunday evening, August 12. About thirty people from Parkway attended the service.

After being commissioned the Statons began missionary orientation at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Philecta described the experience:

Cliff's day begins at 5:30 A.M. when he leaves to run around the three mile drive. His gasping usually awakened me upon his return around 6:00.

Dierdre leaves to meet her bus at 7:40 A.M. Clarke leaves to carpool to Kiddieland at 7:50. Cliff and I are in class by 8:15. We have an hour for lunch and get through with our classes at 3:00 P.M. We pick up Clarke, and Deirdre's bus gets her here around 3:20.

Our classes consist of a large variety of things. This past week, for instance, we had classes on major world religions, photography techniques and stable homes. Naturally, we can't cover all that is needed on things such as various religions. We just highlighted them and we follow up with outside reading on those pertinent to our area.

In addition to the regular classes, other subjects are covered at times after 3:00 P.M. Each Tuesday Cliff and I are learning about short-wave radios and aiming at being ham radio operators. This is completely out of my element; but, since it will be our only means of communication after we leave Addis, I have a great deal of incentive! Next week we want to take a hair styling class. This is another area we'll be dependent upon each other.

Each couple also is preparing a research file on their country and each person is writing a paper on a certain aspect of their country. As an example, I'm writing on the political situation in Ethiopia and the prospects at Haile Salassie's death.
Parkway Baptist Church

Each day is started with prayer and devotions. The testimonies mean so much to us—each so different and yet the common factor of God’s unmistakable call.

The cottage we live in is with others among the many pine trees. We have a porch with a charcoal grill. Inside is a living room-kitchen-dining room combination and two bedrooms and one bath. It’s cozy and very livable. Clarke repeatedly asked the first week, “Why is our kitchen in the living room?” They love the bunk beds in their room.

Following orientation the Statons stopped in Greensboro for the dedication service at Parkway. The service was based on Acts 13:1-4. Dr. Wilson Stewart preached the sermon. Others participating included: Charles Howell, pastor; Mrs. J. E. Collette, member of the Foreign Mission Board; Ted York, assistant pastor; and Mrs. E. J. McFetters, W.M.U. Director. The Statons shared their personal testimonies. The church gave $2,500 to the Statons as an expression of love and support and $2,500 to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for other missionaries around the world.

On December 27 Cliff and Philecta Staton with Deirdre and Clarke left Greensboro on Eastern flight number 362 for New York and then to Zurich, Athens and Addis Ababa.

Ted York came to Parkway January 30, 1972. The church called him at that time to serve as Youth Director. He was a student at Wake Forest University and his plans were to teach in the Greensboro area. Before his graduation in June, 1972, Ted had committed his life to serve God in a full-time church-related vocation. He enrolled in Southeastern Seminary in the fall. Beginning in June, 1973, Ted served Parkway as Assistant Pastor. He continued in this role until January 1, 1974, while Mr. Howell was working on the Doctor of Ministry degree.

When Ted returned to Southeastern Seminary in January, 1974, he also began the process that led to his commission by the Foreign Mission Board as a missionary journeyman, July 26. A number of the family of Parkway attended the ceremony in Richmond, Virginia.
August 4, 1974, Parkway dedicated Mr. York as a journeyman from this fellowship. Dr. Howell, pastor; Mrs. McFetters, director of W.M.U.; Mr. Don Hartig, chairman of the deacons; and Mr. Dennis Hill, former journeyman and representative of the Foreign Mission Board participated in the service. Mrs. Betty Fuller sang. Mr. Hill presented a charge to the church. The congregation gave Ted a reception that evening.

After some delay in receiving a visa, Mr. York left for Liberia on September 19. His work as a journeyman meant teaching the Bible in the public schools and leading the youth and music programs of the Mount Nimba Baptist Church in Yekepa. A letter from Ted reads:

I arrived in Monrovia on Sunday morning, September 22, 1974. After taking me to the home I would stay in for a few days, Bob Bellinger, the business manager for the Liberian mission, invited me to go with his family to Saint Simon Baptist Church, a Bassa dialect church, in Monrovia. During the worship service, Tucker Callaway, the missionary pastor, introduced me to the church. He told the congregation that I would be teaching Bible in the public schools in Nimba County. Tucker then asked Sister Teetee Glapoh, governor of the Bassa community in Monrovia and a leader in Saint Simon Church, to pray that God would use and direct me as a teacher in Liberia. Sister Teetee began by saying that she was praying “to the God who understands all languages.” She prayed, dedicating me to do God’s work in Liberia, both in Bassa and in English. It was a beautiful prayer.

Later Ted was ordained to serve as the minister of the Mount Nimba Church while the missionary pastor was on furlough. Again his letter describes the experience:

On Sunday, November 17, I was ordained as a minister here in Yekepa at Mount Nimba Baptist Church. It was an historic day for the church, because this was the first ordination service at Mount Nimba and the church ordained its first deacon at the service. There were three of us to be ordained—Moses Gbato as pastor of the Redeemer Baptist Church at Camp Four, Anthony Jonah as a deacon and me.

My call to the ministry was not a dramatic burning bush experience. It was a realization or a sense that God could use me best here in Liberia at Mount Nimba Baptist Church as an ordained minister. God has given me
certain spiritual gifts to be used in the ministry and I feel that He is guiding and directing me into the ministry. God has given me the opportunity to pastor the Mount Nimba Church when Pastor Williams leaves for a short furlough in December.

Parkway Church continued to invest in the foreign missionary enterprise and to support her foreign missionaries in Ethiopia and Liberia by sending the pastor and his wife, Gail, to Africa to lead prayer retreats for the missionaries and to visit the Statons and Ted. December 29, 1974, the Howells left Greensboro on a three week mission tour in Africa that took them to Kenya, Ethiopia and Liberia. The ministry was in response to an invitation from the missions of Kenya and Ethiopia. Parkway sponsored the trip. In Kenya more than a hundred missionaries gathered for the Prayer Retreat at Limuru. In Ethiopia the entire mission participated—about fifteen families. In Liberia the Howells visited with Ted and spoke at a G.A. Camp.

MUSIC

Mr. Donald Bowden guided the spirit and structure of the music program during this first half of the seventies. Mr. David Pegg led the music program into the decade. Mr. Pegg offered strong leadership. A trained organist and an experienced choral director, he helped develop the adult choir and train the voices of those dedicated to a music ministry.

March 22, 1970, Mr. Pegg and the adult choir joined Magnolia Street Choir and English Street (High Point) Choir in a sacred Easter cantata, The Seven Last Words of Christ by Theodore Dubois. May 24 the Parkway choir, along with Mr. Pegg and Mr. Steve Vaughn, a former music director, presented a “full program of sacred music.”

David Pegg left Parkway that June for work in Florida. Mr. Jim Council was called to serve as choir director and Mr. Dwayne Blair, organist. Their first rehearsal with the choir was Wednesday, July 29, 1970. These men led the adult and youth
choirs in a program of Christmas music consisting of "a selection of sacred music, carols and spirituals."

On Palm Sunday, April 4, 1971 the Woodbridge Senior High School Concert Choir of Woodbridge, Virginia, and their director, Miss Jeanne Meredith, joined the adult choir at the morning worship service to present two special Palm Sunday anthems. The adult choir presented a special service on Maundy Thursday, April 8. The program, "The Service of the Tenebrae," was composed of narration and music for the Holy Week. The music is an adaptation of the ancient Tenebrae service. A gradual extinction of candles during the service is accompanied by chorales. At the end, only one candle remains burning. This light is removed for a short time, symbolizing Christ's three days in the tomb. The light is then returned and spreads its light through the disciples symbolized by the choir. The congregation observed the Lord's Supper.

In June, 1971, David Pegg returned to Parkway as Music Director and organist. Mr. Pegg resigned September 15. November 17 the church called Mr. Bowden as Music Director. Mr. Roger Stanley, a student at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, was called as organist. These two led the adult choir in presenting the Christmas cantata, "Joy to the World," by John W. Peterson December 19. Soloists for the cantata were Mrs. Michele Arnold, Mrs. Sue Andrews, Mrs. Diane Foxworth and Miss Jody Hartig.

The choir directed by Mr. Bowden and accompanied by Mr. Stanley performed another Peterson cantata for Easter. "The Glory of Easter" presentation, March 31, 1972, included a brass ensemble. Mr. Jerry Garmon narrated and Mrs. Andrews. Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Philecta Staton, Mr. Larry Arnold and Mr. Russell Luther sang solos.

The Christmas music for 1972 was a cantata by Carl W. Vandre, "Love Came Down at Christmas." It was presented at the morning worship service Christmas eve. Mr. Sam Marion
accompanied the choir. (Mr. Marion succeeded Mr. Stanley as organist in April, 1972.) Soloists were Mrs. Carol Ann McCracken, Mrs. Brenda Grogan and Mrs. Marty Keith. Miss Debbie Alderman and Mr. Tom Henderson sang a duet.

“Hail, Glorious King!” by John W. Peterson was the Easter cantata presented April 15, 1973, at the evening worship hour. Mrs. McCracken, Mrs. Keith, Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. Grogan sang solos. The Christmas music, “A City of the King” by Jack Coleman, was dedicated to Parkway’s new missionary couple, Cliff and Philecta Staton. The solos featured Mr. David Pike, Mrs. Keith, Mr. John Price, Mrs. McCracken and Mr. Jeff Williams. Mr. Ivan Battle accompanied the cantata.

The youth choir joined the adults in presenting Peterson’s “The Glory of Easter” on Good Friday, April 12, 1974. Mrs. Ruth Myers, who began as interim organist at Parkway in February and was employed in April, accompanied the choir on the organ. Miss Candi Guffey played the piano. Soloists were Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Keith, Mr. Randy Greene, Mrs. Foxworth and Mrs. Louise Welborn. Mrs. Betty Fuller narrated.

The 1974 Christmas music was a program of four choirs—the preschool, children, youth and adult. The preschool choir directed by Mrs. Foxworth sang “God Loves Me” and “My Best Friend is Jesus;” the children directed by Mrs. McCracken sang “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” “Ring Bells Ring” and “Sing Noel;” and the youth under Mr. Bowden’s direction sang “Mary Had a Baby,” “Joy to the World” and “Still, Still, Still.” The adult choir presented a folk cantata “God Man” by Don Wyrtzen. Mrs. McCracken, Ms. Louise Lovell and Miss Carolyn Andrews sang solos.

Easter 1975 featured another Peterson cantata, “The Last Week,” with soloists Mrs. Judy Almon, Mrs. Joyce Guffey, Mrs. Keith and Mr. Carl Ginther. Mr. and Mrs. Ginther sang a duet. Christmas 1975 was a repeat performance of “A City of the King.” This presentation featured the voices of Mr. Randy
Twenty Years of Service

Greene, Mr. Glenn Jones, Mrs. Keith, Mrs. McCracken and Mrs. Guffey. There were staged scenes and pantomimes with the musical. The preschool choir directed by Mrs. Kathy Hunt, the younger children by Mrs. Keith and the older children by Mrs. McCracken also sang.

The overall choir program developed dramatically during this half decade. In 1970 Parkway recorded only two choirs with a total enrollment of twenty-seven. In 1975 under Mr. Bowden’s leadership the choir program had grown to four organizations with 108 enrolled. The preschool choir had eight members; the children had twenty-six; the youth, twenty-five; and the adults, forty-three. Plus there were six general officers. Weekly attendance averaged eighteen in 1970 and seventy in 1975.

Some significant events to occur during this period included several adult choir retreats, adult and youth performances at other churches and institutions and participation in regional choir festivals. The choirs sponsored a number of social events.

The children’s choir presented a moving musical drama, “Sam, the Story of the Good Samaritan” by Bobby Hammack and Tom Adair. This June 29, 1975, production was directed by Mrs. McCracken.

The characters were:
Philip Cambell—the peddler
Neal Guffey—Sam
Eric Cheek—Jesus
Mark Cranford—lawyer

The costumes were made by Joyce Guffey.

Accompanists:
Candy Guffey—piano
Bobby Fuller—string bass
Some of the special guests and groups singing at Parkway during these years were: Herb Meadows, Dale and Gilda Riddle, Don Harrington, Calvary Church (Winston-Salem) Youth Choir, Howell Simmons, Jamall Badry, Oaklawn Church (Winston-Salem) Children’s Choir, Erv Lewis, the Bridge, the Truth, the New Directions, Westfield Church Youth Choir, the Turning Point, the New World Singers, Lowell Listner, Jim and Aletha Sheets, Terry Turney, Dick Nelson, the Lamplighters, One Way, Sabra Romeo and the Oaklawn Church (Winston-Salem) Adult Choir.

CHURCH TRAINING

In addition to the pastoral ministries, the Bible study program, the missions program and the music ministries, the training program at Parkway during the 1970-1975 years proved flexible and dynamic. The church training organization disappeared during these years at Parkway. In 1970 the church reported in the Associational Letter enrollment in each age group with an overall total of 168 and an average weekly attendance of eighty-nine. There were no new member training, church leadership training nor any member training projects reported. In 1971 the training organization was reduced to a program for children while the youth and adults met for worship. Later the program was limited to preschoolers. At the same time, however, the number of people involved in new member training, leadership training and other training projects increased. In 1973 and in 1975 Parkway was among the top twenty churches in the state convention in receiving training awards. Five regular studies are offered each year: new member orientation, training in Christian discipleship, training in Christian life and Biblical doctrines and training in developing leadership skills.
Another significant area in the work of any dynamic church is administration. These five years witnessed important changes in the spirit and structure of church administration. It was evident early in the seventies that something had to be done. Many of the goals and dreams of the sixties just had not been reached. The organization had been developed, the property purchased and buildings completed. The biggest achievement, however, was the accumulation of a heavy debt. In 1970 the total receipts were $81,427 and the debt retirement obligations were $43,287. The annual debt retirement amounted to fifty-three per cent of the receipts. Nineteen seventy-one was the same story. Mission expenditures, for both these years amounted to only $6,215 or about four per cent of the total receipts. Obviously something had to be done. After months of study and prayer, the church approved in October, 1973, a plan to restructure the financial program. The plan adopted was recommended by Mr. Elmore Rouse who served as chairman of the Finance Committee. The church borrowed from Gate City Savings and Loan Association $162,000 at eight per cent interest for twenty years to pay off all outstanding bonds. This move enabled the church in 1974 to reduce the percentage of receipts committed to debt retirement to twenty-one per cent. The congregation adopted a policy that limits the monies that may be used for debt retirement and capital improvements to twenty-five per cent of the annual budget. Also, ten per cent of the 1974 regular offerings and at least a one per cent increase each year for ten years were committed to mission projects.

This financial accomplishment was spearheaded by the Finance Committee. Committees took an increasingly important role in the administration of the church in the seventies. Two things made this necessary and possible. The first was the change in the role of the deacons. The second was the priorities established by the pastor for his time. Since the church had only two full-time staff members (the pastor and a church secretary),
the pastor's time was limited to pastoral ministries and the administration of the educational program.

The deacons in 1972 made a year-long study of their role. They concluded that deacons are ministers, not administrators. They adopted the following attitude toward the administration of church affairs: (1) a deacon will set a good example by faithfully discharging the duties of any additional church office or committee to which he may be elected; (2) he will encourage church committees to report directly to the church business meeting; (3) the deacons advise the pastor in all matters pertaining to the welfare and work of the church; (4) the deacons have oversight of the discipline of the church.

This move by the deacons, coupled with the attitude of the pastor, forced committees to take more seriously their responsibilities to the church. That same year the duties of each committee were outlined and given to the respective chairmen. An annual committee workshop was instituted in September to train committee members.

With committees taking a more active role, the congregation voted to hold quarterly rather than monthly business meetings. Committee responsibilities were clearly outlined. Any emergency action needed by the congregation as a whole would be handled through a special called business meeting. The committees give a report of their work at each quarterly meeting. These quarterly meetings on Sunday nights involve more of the total membership than did the monthly meetings on Wednesday nights.

On September 28, 1975, the church met in a special business session and called Mr. Larry H. Austin to serve as minister of education and administrator. He is expected to refine and continue to develop the educational program and the administration of the total church.
Three other activities deserve to be mentioned: the development of the youth program during these years, the growth of the kindergarten and the creation of the Life of Christ Tableaux. First, one of the greatest needs at Parkway in the seventies was the development of a more effective youth ministry. When the church called Dr. Howell as pastor in 1971, the congregation outlined some needs. A strong youth emphasis was urged. January 30, 1972, the church called Ted York, a student at Wake Forest, to serve as youth director. His contract called for him to work during the school term on Wednesday and Friday nights and Saturday and Sunday. During the summer months he worked forty hours a week. Ted served in this capacity until May, 1973, when he became assistant pastor by vote of the church. Judy Clark was elected youth coordinator. During the summer of 1975 Mr. David Bruce, a student at Southern Seminary, served as youth director.

One of Ted's earliest accomplishments was the organization of the Youth Council. The Youth Council was composed of representatives from each class in the junior high and senior high divisions plus adult advisors. This group planned, coordinated and evaluated all youth activities. Randy Greene, Jerry Messick, Jr., Eric Cheek, Chuck Purvis and Bobby Doss served one year terms as president. Each year featured a full calendar of youth activities including camps, retreats, fellowships, prayer groups, Bible study groups and youth weeks. Special events included an all day Bible conference in October, 1973, and two Jesus Music Festivals, August 1972, and July, 1973.

The second area that deserves mention is the kindergarten program. Kindergarten has been an activity at Parkway since the early 1960's. In 1974 Parkway Baptist Church Kindergarten became a functioning part of the church with a combined budget and church control. The program now consists of two classes for four year olds and one class for five year olds. The
kindergarten is approved by the State Department of Public Instruction.

Mrs. Sue Andrews was employed as director of the program March, 1972. The church honored Mrs. Dawson Lee for ten years service in the kindergarten May 14, 1974. Mrs. Lee teaches five year olds.

"Developing the Total Child" is the motto. The purpose is twofold: (1) To extend the effort of Parkway Baptist Church to carry out Christian education as defined by (a) providing a learning atmosphere in which it is easy for the child to have worship experience throughout the day and feel God near him and (b) establishing a teacher and student relationship which exhibits love and concern and (2) to provide a curriculum based on the principles of Early Childhood Education (emotional, physical, social, mental development).

A third event important to the continuing ministry of Parkway is the creation of the Life of Christ Tableaux displayed for the first time Christmas, 1975. Mrs. Selma Holmes originated, planned and supervised the creation of twenty scenes depicting the life of Christ from the annunciation to Pentecost. More than sixty people were involved preparing over a hundred dolls. The cost in hours of work is incalculable but the cost of materials was over $1,000. All the time, money and energy was donated. This display attracted the attention of the community. About a thousand people came to view the scenes which were covered by the local newspaper and the local television news. The scenes are stored to be displayed each Christmas.
CONCLUSION

The first five years of the seventies were years of transition and maturity at Parkway. During these years of change, the church met the challenge of ministry. The spirit is at its best. The buildings, leadership, organization and resources are at hand. The church is on the move. Greensboro is going to be a better city because of the continuing ministry and mission of the people of God known as the Parkway Baptist Church.
Past and present members of Parkway Baptist Church who are ordained deacons.

Adams, T. N.
Allen, A. J.
Allen, J. J.
Andrews, Carl F.
Arlidge, James E.
Arnold, Larry G.
Austin, L. Martin
Aydelette, W. A. Jr.
Bradley, Edward P.
Brewer, J. Howard
Brewer, Paul
Brown, Boyce
Chapman, Roger
Cheek, Gilmer L.
Clayton, Richard
Daniel, Lindsey E.
Doss, W. Robert
Eggers, John H.
Elkins, W. A. Sr.
Farlow, Roy C.
Fesmire, Charles
Fisher, James E.
Fuller, Leon T.
Garmon, Jerry
Gentry, Claude O.
Gibson, Wade J.
Godfrey, John
Greene, Grady
Guffey, Dean
Haithcock, Clyde R.
Hall, C. B. Jr.
Hall, O. E.
Hartig, Don
Hatcher, Lester
Henderson, Thomas L.
Holt, Furman E.
Howell, James E.
Hundley, Oscar W.
Johnson, Earl L.
Jones, Glenn
Jones, J. C.
Jones, Rudolph C.
Kay, Broadus
Keith, Preston W.
Lentz, Robert
Lovell, Clarence H.
McFetters, E. J. Jr.
McKinley, J. E.
McKinney, Bobby W.
Madon, Bobby L.
Meadows, Charles
Messick, Jerry, Sr.
Newcomb, Jeter P.
Phillips, Harold R.
Pike, John C.
Reitzel, R. Maxton
Richardson, Everette L.
Robbins, Willard C.
Robinson, Paul B.
Rouse, Elmore
Ruis, W. Charles
Sessoms, Wade H. Jr.
Sherwood, William S.
Simmons, J. Gaylord
Spivey, Charles J.
Staton, R. Clifford Jr.
Taylor, J. T. Jr.
Teague, J. Herbert
Transou, James E.
Troutman, Carson
Tucker, Harvey
Turner, Roy S.
Waters, A. E. Jr.
Watson, Jesse D.
Yarboro, Stephen O.
DEACONS THAT HAVE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN

October 1958-1959 ........................................ Claude Gentry
October 1959-1960 ........................................ W. A. Aydelette
October 1960-1961 ........................................ E. P. Bradley
October 1961-1963 ........................................ Robert Lentz
October 1963-1966 ........................................ Tom Adams
October 1966-1967 ........................................ Carl Andrews
October 1967-1968 ........................................ Bobby Madon
October 1968-1969 ........................................ Howard Brewer
October 1969-1970 ........................................ Roy Farlow
October 1970-1971 ........................................ E. J. McFetters
October 1971-1972 ........................................ Claude Gentry
October 1972-1973 ........................................ Roy Farlow
October 1973-1974 ........................................ Don Hartig
October 1974-1975 ........................................ W. A. Aydelette
October 1975- ........................................ E. J. McFetters

CHURCH SECRETARIES

Feb. 1959-June 1959 ....................................... Mrs. Ann Floyd
July 1959-Aug. 1959 ....................................... Mrs. Mattie Lee Davis
June 1961-Mar. 1962 ...................................... Mrs. Ruth Wise
May 1962-June 1963 ...................................... Mrs. Meda Howell
Aug. 1963-Jan. 1964 ...................................... Mrs. Jean Capps
June 1969 .................................................. Miss Hazel Martin
Apr. 1974 ................................................... Miss Betty Bailey

MINISTERS OF EDUCATION

March 1962-July 1965 ................................... W. A. Alexander
October 1975 ............................................. Larry Austin

ASSISTANT PASTOR


PASTORAL INTERN

September 1975 ........................................... Mark Cranford
CHOIR DIRECTORS OF PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Sept. 1956-Oct. 1958 ........................................... Don Trexler
Oct. 1958-July 1959 ............................................ Wendell Arnote
July 1959-Nov. 1959 ............................................ Mildred Henderson (supply)
Nov. 1959-Apr. 1961 ........................................... Robert L. Lentz (supply)
Sept. 1961-Mar. 1962 ........................................... Ryland Young
July 1962-July 1963 ............................................ Elizabeth Ann Miller
Apr. 1967-Jan. 1968 ............................................ Ronald Hill
Dec. 1969-June 1970 ........................................... David Pegg
(organist and choir director)
June 1970-July 1971 ............................................ James Council
July 1971-Sept. 1971 ........................................... David Pegg
Nov. 1971- .......................................................... Don Bowden

CHURCH ORGANISTS

Sept. 1956-Oct. 1958 ........................................... Mrs. Don Trexler
Oct. 1958-May 1965 ............................................. Mrs. Raymond Hill
May 1965-June 1966 ............................................. Mrs. Ruth Griffin
Aug. 1966-May 1967 ............................................. Mrs. Ronald Rimmer
May 1967-Feb. 1968 ............................................. Miss Jackie Madon
Feb. 1968-Dec. 1969 ............................................. David Pegg
Dec. 1969-June 1970 ........................................... David Pegg
(organist & choir director)
(Pianist)
June 1970-June 1971 ........................................... Dwayne Blair
June 1971-Sept. 1971 ........................................... David Pegg
Nov. 1971-Apr. 1972 ........................................... Roger Stanley
Apr. 1972-Oct. 1973 ............................................. Sam Marion
Mar. 1974 .......................................................... Mrs. Ruth Myers
REVIVALS HELD AT PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

April 1959
Preaching: Rev. Eugene Deese  Music: Roger Cole
October 1959
Preaching: Rev. Harold Steen  Music: Hal Shumaker
April 1961
Preaching: Dr. Wilson Stewart  Music: Dwayne Zimmer
September 1961
Preaching: Gary Harthcock  Music: Ryland Young
April 1962
Preaching: Rev. Raymond Lanier  Music: Conrad Willmon
October 1962
April 1963
Preaching: 1st week, Dr. Wilson Stewart  Music: Robert Lentz
Preaching: 2nd week, Frank Marks  Music: Ed Miller
March 1964
Preaching: Rev. Elmer Painter  Music: Furman Holt
October 1965
Preaching: Missionary Troy Bennett  Music: Furman Holt
September 1968
Preaching: Rev. Chester Swor  Music: Jerry Merrimon
October 1971
Preaching: Rev. John C. Mitchell  Music: Don Harrington
July 1972
Preaching: Leon Kilbreth  Music: Howell Simmons
November 1972
Preaching: Bob Harrison  Music: Bob Harrison
Pianist: Bob Anderson
April 1973
Preaching: Dr. Charles Howell  Music: Dale & Gilda Riddle
April 1974
Preaching: Dr. Cary Chapman  Music: Terry Turney
October 1975
Preaching: Rev. Mark Corts  Music: Dick Nelson