

## Celebrating <sup>45</sup>~~40~~ Years of Ministry

In May of 1952, a mission Sunday School was organized and sponsored by the Woodland Hills Baptist Church of Atlanta. In August of 1952, 18 individuals agreed to unite for the purpose of constituting a Baptist Church. On September 21, 1952 Bouldercrest Baptist Church was constituted as a church with 28 members and met at Bouldercrest Elementary School. The Church began under the sponsorship of Woodland Hills Baptist Church and the Atlanta Baptist Association. Rev. C.J. Johnson served as the first pastor.

On March 7, 1954, ground was broken for the first building, a two story cement block educational building, located at 2295 Bouldercrest Drive in Southeast Atlanta. In June, 1956, Rev. Ebb Kilpatrick, Jr. came as the first full-time pastor.

In 1960, the church purchased a 10 acre tract of land on Bouldercrest Road just two miles from the existing site. The cost was \$ 10,000. Second Avenue, Kirkwood, Clairmont Hills, and Columbia Drive Baptist Churches agreed to send the church \$50 per month to help meet payments. The Atlanta Association gave the Church \$2000.

In May 1960, the church began construction on an education & worship building at the new church site at 3200 Bouldercrest Road. The building was dedicated October 14, 1962. Rev. Howard Norman came as pastor in May, 1964. Construction for a new sanctuary, new educational department, office facilities, & parking was completed and dedicated in October, 1965.

Bonnie -  
I hope this  
is the information you  
needed.

Alma Hollis, Sec.  
Bouldercrest Baptist Church

Rev. Russell T. Barker was called as pastor and began serving in November, 1968. In 1970, the church faced a critical need for additional space. The church built two buildings of 4 classrooms for temporary relief. In May, 1976 the church voted to build a metal all purpose building for educational and recreational space. This building was dedicated on September 18, 1977.

In October 1982, Rev. Russell Barker resigned to become the director of missions for the Atlanta Baptist Association. The Church called Rev. Larry Boswell as pastor in May of 1983. In May 1992, the Church called Rev. Ed Galbreath who currently serves as pastor.

#### Pastors:

Rev. C.J. Johnson (Sept 1952-Dec 1955)  
Rev. Ebb Kilpatrick, Jr. (June 1956-Dec 1963)  
Rev. Howard Norman (May 1964-May 1968)  
Rev. Russell T. Barker (Nov 1968-Oct 1982)  
Rev. Larry D. Boswell (May 1983-August 1990)  
Rev. Ed Galbreath (May 1992-Current)

#### Music Directors:

Mal Rabern (Spring 1962-Summer 1963)  
Byron McCarty (Sept 1963-Sept 1973)  
Jim Cook (Sept 1973-Jan 1975)  
Jerry Chandler (Jan 1975-May 1981)

Interim-  
Neil Bullock (Aug, 1986-~~Summer~~ Nov. 1996)  
Rick Gattori (Nov. 1996-Current)

Music & Education: Jack Tewart (June 1981-Apr 1986)  
Activities & Youth: Jimmy Cochran (Feb 1975-Apr 1978)  
Linda May (May 1978-1988)



2011.22.2

WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH  
1772 COLUMBIA DRIVE  
DECATUR, GEORGIA 30032

Dr. W. J. Crowley, Jr.,  
Pastor

HISTORICAL SKETCH

- "The history of Woodlawn Baptist Church is brief in time, but filled to overflowing with testimonies of blessings of God.
- "On Sunday, June 28, 1953 at 3 p.m., a group of sixteen people met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Tyson on Columbia Drive to discuss the organization of a new Baptist church. Dr. L.E. Smith, Pastor, Park Avenue Baptist Church, Atlanta, stated that a lot had been purchased by the Atlanta Baptist Association, and that Park Avenue Baptist Church and White Oak Hills Baptist Church would work together in organizing a church.
- "Weekly business and prayer meetings were held in homes in the neighborhood until August, and on August 2, 1953 at 3 p.m., a meeting was held in the Community Room of the Glenco Fire Station for the purpose of constituting a church. There were approximately 70 adults present — and of this number, 33 came forward at the invitation to join the church. These 33, together with 3 others who had signified their willingness to join at previous meetings, became the original 36 members of Woodlawn Baptist Church. The period for accepting charter members was extended through the first Sunday in October of 1953, at which time sixty-nine names were on the chartered roll. At the time the church was constituted (August 2, 1953) an offering was taken in the amount of \$145.49.
- "The first Sunday School was held on August 9, 1953 in the Glenco Community Room with some of the departments meeting in the homes in the community. The records indicate a total of 47 present that first Sunday divided as follows: 2 general officers; 6 nursery; 7 beginners; 4 primaries; 3 juniors; 3 intermediates; 5 young people; 7 adult ladies and 10 adult men. Mr. C.F. Simpkins was the first Sunday School Superintendent.
- "There were 13 present at Training Union on Sunday evening, August 9, 1953, and Mr. Horace Hitchcock was the first training Union Director.
- "The church continued to meet in the Community Room of the Fire Station, having the worship service at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School at 11 a.m. Dr. L.E. Smith from Park Avenue Baptist Church and Rev. H.T. Daniel from White Oak Hills Baptist Church, as interim pastors, brought the morning message on alternate Sundays, and the assistant pastors of these two churches, Mr. L.C. Warren, White Oak Hills and Mr. Frank Brown, Park Avenue, alternated on Sunday evenings.
- "On September 22, 1953, the first meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union was held at the home of Mrs. C.F. Simpkins, and Mrs. M.M. Carswell was elected president. Mrs. C.W. Allen, 1st vice-president, and Mrs. C.F. Simpkins, 2nd vice-president.
- "In January, 1954 a sunbeam band was started with Mrs. John Bates as counselor. In March, 1954 a Junior Girls Auxiliary was organized with Mrs. Tom Turner as leader and nine girls. In June, 1954 a Vacation Bible School was held. The primaries met under the trees at the home of Mrs. M.M. Carswell; the beginners met with Mrs. John Bates at her home, out in the yard; the juniors met at the community room of the firehouse. On August 24, 1954 a night circle was organized with Mrs. Mildred Keen as chairman. There were 9 ladies to start, which made the W.M.U. membership 27.
- "The first pastor, Joe E. Franklin, took up his duties on October 1, 1954. He came to Woodlawn from Smyrna Baptist Church, Burlison, Tennessee, and remained pastor until May 26, 1957 when he left to take up the pastorate at Hickman, Kentucky. James L. Wright, coming to Woodlawn from Memorial Baptist at Aiken, South Carolina, became the second pastor on September 1, 1957.
- "Services were held in the Fire Station and homes in the community until March, 1955, at which time the first floor of the Educational Building was completed. The second floor of the Educational Building was completed in September, 1956, and in December, 1956 a house was purchased on the corner of Rosewood Road and McAfee Road for use as a parsonage.
- "The organizational meeting of the Brotherhood was held on March 7, 1955 at the home of Mr. W.O. Tyson. There were approximately 32 men present. The brotherhood was organized with 27 charter members, and George Gentry was elected president; Robert Hall vice-president.
- "The first half of the recreational building in the rear of the Educational Building was completed in 1957, and the second half was completed in 1958. Also in 1958 the house next door to the church was purchased for use as additional Sunday School space.
- "The auditorium was completed in June, 1959, and even before completion of the auditorium, plans were being discussed to add a third floor on the Educational Building.
- "Woodlawn's kindergarten was organized in September, 1959 under the direction of Mrs. Gus Mitchell.
- "The Lord has wonderfully blessed the growth of Woodlawn Baptist Church, not only in physical property and in numbers of people reached, but in the spiritual growth of its members.
- "To you who will read this in the years to come, greetings from the members of Woodlawn Baptist Church and might our Lord bless you as you work for Him in this community." . . . (Taken from History of Woodlawn Baptist Church, undated) . . .

Since the above history was recorded, seven other pastors have served Woodlawn Baptist Church: Joe Abstance; Randall Green; Fred Wolfe; Doug Chatham; James DeLoach; Wayne Tucker; and our present pastor, Dr. Bill Crowley, who has been with us since January 10, 1982.

The 47 present for Sunday School that first Sunday (8-9-53) increased over the years to come. The highest Sunday School enrollment recorded was in 1971 with 1,727\* enrolled, and average attendance of 735\*. Around this time, we also had two morning worship services, two Sunday Schools and a flourishing bus ministry. 106\* people were baptized in 1971. Church membership was highest in 1972 with 1,724\* on the church membership roll. Our church property is valued at \$750,000.00\*.

Today (1988) Woodlawn Baptist Church ministers in an extremely diverse section of our city. The congregation faces squarely the myriad spiritual needs of such a multi-ethnic community with optimism and Christ-like concern.

God has provided His providential watchcare and empowered us to come to this time with continued conviction as to the potential for ministry into the future. We give glory to Jesus through our dedicated people as we seek to be what He would have us to be.

Church members have come and gone but . . . "we have fought a good fight, we have finished our course, and we have kept the faith." (our emphasis)

(\*Figures taken from Annual Report, Atlanta Baptist Association)

#### Charter Members

(Listed in order that they joined . . .)

- |                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. C.F. Simpkins       | 37. Robert G. Carswell         |
| 2. Mrs. C.F. Simpkins      | 38. Mrs. H.S. Hitchcock        |
| 3. Mr. W.L. Tyson          | 39. Mr. H.S. Hitchcock         |
| 4. Mrs. W.L. Tyson         | 40. Mrs. Jessie M. Woodson     |
| 5. Mr. W.A. Williams, Jr.  | 41. Mr. Robert E. Christian    |
| 6. Mrs. W.A. Williams, Jr. | 42. Mrs. R.E. Christian        |
| 7. Mr. J.R. Cook           | 43. Mr. Robert E. Williams     |
| 8. Mrs. J.R. Cook          | 44. Mrs. R.E. Williams         |
| 9. Glenda Nash             | 45. Mr. James H. Alverson, Sr. |
| 10. Mrs. John Bates        | 46. Mrs. J.H. Alverson         |
| 11. Mr. C.W. Allen         | 47. Mrs. R.K. Crane            |
| 12. Mrs. C.W. Allen        | 48. Mr. Walter B. Crow         |
| 13. Linda Allen            | 49. Mrs. W.B. Crow             |
| 14. Woodrow Allen          | 50. Elizabeth Crow             |
| 15. Mr. Milton N. Carswell | 51. Mrs. Wayne Groce           |
| 16. Mrs. M.N. Carswell     | 52. Mr. D.E. Austin            |
| 17. Mr. M.M. Carswell      | 53. Mr. B.T. Hairston          |
| 18. Mrs. M.M. Carswell     | 54. Mrs. B.T. Hairston         |
| 19. Mrs. Cleburne Grady    | 55. W.B. Hairston              |
| 20. Mrs. Sara Keheley      | 56. Jerry Hairston             |
| 21. Mrs. Myrl F. Nix       | 57. Mrs. H.G. Chandler         |
| 22. Mr. J.C. Nix, Jr.      | 58. Miss Nell Bates            |
| 23. Mrs. P.S. Anderson     | 59. Miss Dell Bates            |
| 24. Mr. P.S. Anderson      | 60. Mrs. Roy N. Lashley        |
| 25. Sandy Anderson         | 61. Mr. John F. Chastine       |
| 26. Mr. C.O. Prince        | 62. Mrs. John F. Chastine      |
| 27. Mrs. C.O. Prince       | 63. Ronald Chastine            |
| 28. Mr. D.E. Austin, Jr.   | 64. Ollie Gunter               |
| 29. Mrs. D.E. Austin, Jr.  | 65. Sandra Lashley             |
| 30. Danny Austin           | 66. Mr. Roy N. Lashley         |
| 31. Richard Austin         | 67. Mrs. J.H. Richardson       |
| 32. Mrs. S.D. Lovell       | 68. Mr. W.A. McClendon         |
| 33. Mrs. R.O. Gunter       | 69. Mrs. W.A. McClendon        |
| 34. Mrs. V.J. Clotfelter   |                                |
| 35. Mr. James H. Keen      |                                |
| 36. Mrs. J.H. Keen         |                                |

---

60 came by letter  
9 came by baptism

---