



Memory Book

April 2002

would go and do the same.

The crown suggests the One to whom we pledge our ultimate allegiance.

The staff calls to mind the image of a Good Shepherd leaving the 99 safe ones to seek out the one who is lost.

And finally, the cross reminds us that authentic love is always costly.

In reflecting upon the last 50 years of Highland Park's ministry at 52006 Balcones Drive, it is clear that these three images have done their work among us, working as yeast in dough, causing the best in us to rise up and mature. And who are we when we are at our best?

We, like that Good Shepherd, go out under the banner of cross and crown, seeking those who get lost in all the ways we humans lose our way. As we celebrate in 2002 the 50 years just past, may we do so by remembering what these symbols meant to us when we started out together, and what they may yet come to mean to us as we become more and more, a people of the staff, the crown and the cross.

Highland Park Baptist Church Staff

Dr. Stephen W. Lucas, Senior Minister

The Reverend Cheryl Hill, Associate Minister for Children and Family Life

The Reverend Jill Spruce, Associate Minister of Spiritual Formation

The Reverend Dan De Leon, Minister to Youth

Dr. Suzanne Pence, Minister of Music

Dr. Brooks Whitmore, Organist

Dr. C. Ray Burchette, Pastor Emeritus

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Charter Members

Charter Members of Highland Park Baptist Church Received April 27 through July 27, 1952

Received April 27, 1952

Mr. U.O. Andrews
Mrs. U.O. Andrews
Jerry Andrews
Mrs. C.E. Alvis, Jr
Mrs. A.J. Baker
Mr. R.H. Bentley
Mrs. R.H. Bentley
Mr. C.E. Boyd
Mrs. C.E. Boyd
Mr. G.S. Foscue
Mr. G.S. Foscue
Mr. C.H. Jung, Jr
Mrs. C.H. Jung, Jr
Mr. E.H. Perry, III
Mrs. E.H. Perry, III
Mrs. G.A. Pruitt
Mr. A.J. Sherrod
Mrs. A.J. Sherrod
Mary Jo Sherrod
Mr. Avery Smith
Mrs. Avery Smith
Mrs. David Teich,
later Mrs. James Cole Jr.

Received May 4, 1952

Mr. Telford Ferguson
Mrs. Telford Ferguson
Mr. B.J. Henderson

Received May 4, 1952 (con't)

Mr. Jack Hudson
Mrs. Jack Hudson
Sarah Hudson, later Sarah Fryman
Miss Julie Lee, later Julie Kidd

Received May 18, 1952

Mrs. J.M. Lee

Received June 8, 1952

Mr. T.B. Porter

Received July 13, 1952

Mr. J.D. Culley
Mrs. J.D. Culley
Miss Patsy Hunt
Mrs. Lewis Richardson

Received July 20, 1952

Mr. Victor Carrington
Mrs. Victor Carrington,
later Mrs. Homer Smith
Wayne Smith

Received July 27, 1952

Mr. Ramon Allen
Mrs. Ramon Allen
Miss Victoria Lyman

On May 18, 1952, at a church business meeting, the name of the church was declared as Highland Park Baptist Church, and it was declared that charter members would be accepted through the end of July 1952.

—History of Highland Park Baptist Church, 1952-1955

Staff and Personnel

Staff and Personnel of Highland Park Baptist Church 1952-2002

Pastors and Senior Ministers

Rev. T.E. Pennington, 1952-1953
Rev. John Lee Smith, 1953-1958
Rev. I.W. Oliver, 1958-1964
Dr. C. Ray Burchette, 1964-1989
Dr. John Stanley, 1990-1997
Dr. Bob Ballance, 1997-1998
Dr. Stephen W. Lucas, 1999-present

Pastor Emeritus

Dr. C. Ray Burchette, 2001-present

Associate Pastors

Rev. Gary Bonner, 1965-1967
Bob Bennett, 1968-1970
Charles Dodson, 1975-1979
Rev. Joe Phelps, 1979-1985
David Breckenridge, 1994-1998
Rev. Sue Enoch, 1996-1998

Associate Minister for Children and Family Life

Rev. Cheryl Hill, 1999-present

Associate Minister of Spiritual Formation

Rev. Jill Spruce, 1999-present

Youth Ministers

Fred Miller, 1966
Roger Paynter, 1975-1978
Joe Phelps, 1984-1985
Cindy Simpson, 1985-1990
Gary Willson, 1990-1993
David Breckenridge, 1994-1998
Rev. Dan De Leon, 2000-present

Children's Activity Directors

Craig Russell, 1988-1989
Ouida Hartman, 1992-1997

Education Ministers

Charles Dodson, 1971-1975
Fred Prince, 1959-1960
Don Searles, 1960-1962
Victor Pecorino, 1964-1966
Bob Bennett, 1968-1970
Rev. Charles Dodson, 1971-1979
James M. Sapp, 1979-1981
William R. Hornbuckle, 1981-1994

Music Directors and Ministers of Music

Bill Baskin, 1952-1954
Tommy Anderson, 1954-1960
Don Searles, 1960-1962
Bob Sorenson, 1962-1963
Victor Pecorino, 1964-1966
Michael Stoune, 1966-1967
Ivan Baugh, 1968-1969
Andrew Gainey, 1969-1970
J. D. Goddard, 1970-1972
Steve McDaniel, 1974-1977
Rob Minor, 1977-1978
Linda Hurstad, 1979-1981
William R. Hornbuckle, 1981-1994
Dr. Suzanne Pence, 1997-present

Organists and Pianists

Lou Ann Cole, 1953
Brooks Lipscomb, 1959
Michael Lacewell, 1982
David Weigle, 1989
Brooks Whitmore, 1997

Church School Principal

Lucille Casner, 1967-present

*This list came from many sources.
Positions left out are done so
inadvertently.*

Pastor Emeritus

Pastor Emeritus C. Ray Burchette: Spanning 25 Years

From 1964 to 1989, C. Ray Burchette was pastor, teacher, mentor, and friend of Highland Park Baptist Church. During his tenure, the church fostered eight firsts in the field of pastoral care and ministry.

Following is a chronological listing of his and Mona's and their son Matthew's years as an integral part of the growth and outreach of the church. Throughout the years, Dr. Burchette led the congregation of Highland Park Baptist Church to be a progressive-minded, inclusive and loving congregation.

Dr. Burchette had the title of Pastor Emeritus of Highland Park Baptist Church bestowed on him during services at the church on September 10, 2001.

1964 Rev. Ray Burchette accepted the call to be Highland Park's fourth pastor. Thanksgiving Breakfast Service was the first of many traditions established by Ray.

1965 Maundy Thursday services observed, beginning a serious look by Highland Park Baptist Church at customs and traditions of the larger church.

1966 Pre-school ministry established, meeting a need for children in Northwest Austin. The Joe Teague Jr. Memorial Chapel erected in front of the sanctuary, providing a place of prayer for the community day or night. Education building for the Steve Mathews classroom is completed. Ray and Mona's son, Matthew Roger Burchette, is born.

1968 All-church picnic tradition began, an annual time of fellowship and communion. Parent-Child Dedication Services began.

1969 First Christmas Eve Service observed, called "Carols and Candles." This has become one of Highland Park's most popular services, drawing people from all over the city.

1972 After-school day care program began in response to a community need.

1975 New special service entitled Children's Time became part of Sunday worship.

1977 First women ordained to serve as deacons.

1979 Ray graduated with the Doctor of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Seminary.

1982 A program of church-wide support and care was established called "Circle of Touch." Church began a mission relationship with a Navajo congregation in Tohatchi, New Mexico. Led by Ray, a group of 20 went the first year to minister to the Indians.

1984 Dr. Burchette assumed duties as president of the Christianity Chaplaincy Commission.

1989 Dr. Burchette was elected chairman of the Texas Funeral Commission. He resigns as pastor and soon takes a job with the Baylor University Alumni Association.

1952–2002 Timeline

1952

April 16 Letter mailed to persons living in the vicinity of Highland Park with the salutation of "Dear Friend." The letter invited people to come to an organizational meeting on April 18 at 5007 Valley Oak, home of Rev. T.E. Pennington.

April 18 Four motions made and all carried: First Baptist Church be petitioned to sponsor the Highland Park group; Highland Park group meet for Sunday school and worship service on April 27 at the Camp Mabry Armory; signs be placed at the proposed site of the new church for advertising purposes; Rev. T.E. Pennington be named as first pastor. Dr. Carlyle Marney, First Baptist Church pastor, moderated the meeting.

April 27 The first worship service had approximately 100 in attendance. Sermon topic was "Upon This Rock," using the scripture from Matthew 16:18. Twenty-five placed their membership with the church.

April 28 The Building Committee retained Mr. Henry Steinbomber of San Antonio as architect, and plans included having the front of the building facing Parkcrest Drive.

May 4 First Sunday school meeting on this date, with 29 in attendance.

May 18 Goal of 100 members set for charter membership by the last Sunday in July. At that time, charter member status would be closed.

September The church organization moved from the Armory to Highland Park Elementary School.

November Mr. Avery Smith selected as Sunday school superintendent.

1953

Leaders in Sunday school included holdover Mr. Avery Smith as superintendent; Mr. Tom Cole, assistant superintendent; Mr. A.J. Sherrod, secretary; Mrs. A.J. Sherrod, church clerk; Tilford Bean, song leader; and Lee Ann Cole, pianist.

April 5 Record attendance in Sunday school on Easter Sunday was 92, with an average attendance of 76; church membership was 72, with 128 enrolled in Sunday school.

Aug. 12-15 The first revival, a Youth Revival, held outdoors at Highland Park Elementary School.

Nov. 11 Voted to extend a call to Rev. John Lee Smith to be church pastor.

1954

Nov. 15 First meeting of Women's Missionary Union, organized by Mrs. G.S. (Elsie) Foscue and Mrs. Avery (Beulah) Smith.

Dec. 5 First HPBC deacons ordained at First Baptist Church. They were Tilford Bean, W. H. Jung, Jr., Johnson Gault, Edgar Perry and Vernon Matthews.

1955

Feb. 20, 1955 Groundbreaking ceremonies held for church building.

June Church deacons voted to accept Lot 9, Block L, Balcones Section 5 on Madrona Drive as the parsonage; minutes for the meeting signed by Mrs. Avery Smith.

August Church petitioned City of Austin to include Highland Park property in city limits.

December Brotherhood was organized with Edgar Perry as president.

1956

March 4 One of the deacons suggested that the church service be dismissed no later than noon on Sunday.

March 4 A committee consisting of Avery Smith, William Saunders and Rev. John Lee Smith developed a set of rules and regulations for duties and responsibilities of all staff members, committees of the church, deacons, trustees and volunteer workers.

March 11 At a called business meeting, the deacons recommended that an organ offered by Mr. R.W. Gimble of Oklahoma City be purchased at a price not to exceed \$4,500. An organ was also purchased from First Baptist Church at a cost of \$1,200.

April 1 The first church service in the new sanctuary was held on this date. The title of Rev. Smith's sermon was "Triumph Transforming Tragedy."

April 29 Rev. Smith reported that a Mrs. Kirby had offered to donate a piano to the church, but the piano would need to be tuned at a cost of \$50. Motion made and carried to purchase the piano, but noted that the piano should be placed where children could not abuse it.

July 5 At a called meeting of parties interested in the organization of a Boy Scout troop sponsored by the church, officers were elected: scoutmaster, J. Fred Jones; assistant scoutmasters, John Miller and Herbert Skinner.

July 11 One of the deacons recommended that a plaque be placed on the northeast corner of the church with the following inscription:

Highland Park Baptist Church
John Lee Smith, Pastor
Erected 1956
Sponsored by First Baptist Church
Carlyle Marney, Pastor

July 17 At the Sunday evening service, the church held its first dedication of children service. Children dedicated included Charrise and Jim Fred Jones, Robert Miller, Steve Skinner, and Meredyth Smith.

Aug. 1 Moved by Edgar Perry, seconded by Johnson Gault, "that the church accept the deacons' recommended budget for 1957 of \$18,000," which had previously been approved by First Baptist Church.

Nov. 25 Dedication Day set on this Sunday to give members an opportunity to pledge their support to the church in commitment of life and dedication of their tithes to God.

Nov. 29 On this day, the church held the first Thanksgiving.

1957

Jan. 2 At the regular church business meeting, the following recommendation passed unanimously: "That the parsonage lot be deeded to the pastor, subject to

approval of the church and further subject to the pastor securing a satisfactory loan commitment to assure that the lot be used in building his residence."

April 24 Motion made by William Saunders that the church "reaffirm our existence as a Southern Baptist church, recognizing that ours is a New Testament church and that our services should be governed by principles adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention." Motion carried unanimously.

1958

The church address at this time was 5206 Parkcrest; Rev. John Lee Smith remained as pastor; the Deacon Board was all male.

March A Board of Deacons member suggested "that consideration be made about discontinuing Good Friday and Maundy Thursday services since they are not traditional Baptist services in the Southern Baptist Convention and are probably causing criticism of the church as not being truly a Baptist church and seems to be preventing Southern Baptist people from uniting with the church."

March 5 A special meeting of the Board of Deacons of HPBC was called to consider the necessity of reducing the church budget; a reduction of \$855 was made.

May 11 A representative from the Finance and Mission Committee of the First Baptist Church spoke on a proposal that HPBC organize and become an independent church. Present were the HPBC Board of Deacons. Discussion followed for several months concerning this proposal, but the independent status was delayed due to HPBC's financial condition and its need to raise \$28,000 to meet budget. HPBC expected to do this by Jan. 1, 1960.

June 8 A motion was made by a member of the Board of Deacons "to take the matter up through the official Boy Scout organization to see if they would set their Wednesday night meeting on a different night or an earlier or later hour that will not conflict with church service."

Aug. 10 Tilford Bean reported that the Brotherhood fishing trip had been a very successful and enjoyable outing, except for not catching any fish.

Sept. 7 The Building Fund received \$2.60 during the month of August.

Oct. 5 Prior to this date, no official action had been taken relative to the resignation of Rev. John Lee Smith. A motion was then made that "the Rev. John Lee Smith's resignation be accepted with regret."

Nov. 9 The deacons reported the pledges received were far short of the \$28,000 for desired church budget.

Nov. 30 A special called business meeting was held to vote on Rev. I.W. Oliver for new pastor.

Dec. 17 Board of Deacons convened for purpose of welcoming Rev. I. W. Oliver as new pastor.

1959

March 8 Board of Deacons met and recommended hiring Brooks Lipscomb as church organist.

June 14 Board of Deacons accepted recommendation from Sunday school class that everyone not be required to attend any particular class, but that everyone be allowed to attend any class of their choice.

June 17 A special called business meeting was held to take a secret vote on the proposed Sunday school enlargement; the vote was 53 yes and 3 no.

Sept. 13 The group discussed the possibility of developing the basement to get two Sunday school classes off the stage.

Sept. 15 It was noted in the Mirror that the church planned its independence from First Baptist Church at the very end of 1959.

Sept. 15 It was also noted in the Mirror that talks were underway about "Family Night" (This is something new and probably the beginning of the regular Wednesday suppers).

Sept. 27 At the business meeting, the number of deacons was increased to 15, effective Jan. 1, 1960. Also at this meeting, a change was made from the nominating committee electing deacons to entire church body nominating and electing deacons.

Nov. 4 "Several have asked about the new construction going on adjacent to our property . . . When completed this will be 65 new apartments. Rev. Oliver, pastor, visited with the builder last weekend and suggested the apartments only

be rented to Baptists. He reported that the builders would not make any promises. Between the HPBC parking lot and the new apartments, a fence will be built and the builder promised to build a big gate to make it more convenient for the prospects to attend Highland Park." — *Mirror*, Nov. 4, 1959

Fall Men of the church worked on finishing the basement; women of the church asked to bring cookies to the men to "demonstrate their culinary art."

Dec. 7 Membership at end of 1958 was 171, representing 79 families; and at this date there were 268 members, representing 125 families.

1960

Jan. 13 Paul Manning selected to supervise the youth activities, and Ray Logan was selected as his assistant.

April 13 Church members voted to call Don Searles as Minister of Music and Education at a salary of \$400 per month with a \$50 car allowance.

July Deacon's Covenant adopted which set out the expectations of deacons.

July 19 Church services dismissed the previous Sunday because Rev. I.W. Oliver, pastor, had unexpected guests arrive from Arkansas. He decided to call the chairman of the deacons to tell them he would not be there on Sunday. The deacon's wife was given the message to get someone to fill the pulpit. Sunday afternoon, a committee of deacons informed Rev. Oliver that the church had to be dismissed because he was not there. In the *Mirror*, Rev. Oliver wrote a letter of explanation and apology.

Church membership was 328; Sunday school enrollment was 160; Training Union enrollment was 44; Brotherhood membership was 44. Appraised value of land and church building was \$440,000. Church gifts totaled \$16,856.66.

1961

Church membership was 400; pastor's salary was \$5,720.

Feb. 7 Deacon's report: Authorized the church hostess to pay a babysitter \$2 per week on Wednesday afternoon while she is preparing the Fellowship meal.

March 5 Deacons presented the plan for independence for the church as proposed by First Baptist Church. Huff Baines made a motion to accept the plan to be effective May 1. The motion carried unanimously.

April 5 At a special called meeting with the Board of Deacons, Ramon Allen made a motion that the name of this church be "Highland Park Baptist Church." Steve Matthews seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor of motion.

April 5 It was noted that "all property, improvements, furnishings and equipment shall divert back to the ownership of First Baptist Church in the event that Highland Park Baptist Church ceases to be a Southern Baptist church in the present location."

April 26 A resolution adopted by the church body on this date "whereby trustees were authorized to enter into a contract of sale with First Baptist. If Highland Park fails to make said payments or should cease to be a Southern Baptist church, this contract of sale shall be of no force and affect."

April 30 Western Union delivered a telegram from Rev. Jimmy Allen, Director of Christian Life Commission of Baptist General Convention, congratulating the congregation on becoming an autonomous church.

1962

Jan. 7 Rev. Oliver asked that no smoking be allowed at the deacon's meeting. Telford Ferguson recommended that suggestion be considered at the next meeting.

March 1 Two new groups of G.A.'s organized: Junior G.A.'s and Intermediate G.A.'s. Sunbeams already organized.

April 11 Women's Missionary Union adopted the following plans: Begin work on baptismal robes; participate in services at Baptist Goodwill Center; sponsor pre-revival cottage prayer meeting.

May 16 Rev. Oliver along with the Church Council recommended that a Youth Council be established for purpose of helping to plan and promote the work of members from Intermediate and Single Young People's Department. The Youth Council would work with and under the guidance of the pastor, minister of education, recreation committee, and/or the adult leaders. Motion made by Don Searles and seconded by Avery Smith. Motion passes unanimously.

June 13 Don Searles, music director, submitted his resignation effective July 8.

July 8 Roger Spencer moved that the church pay \$20 for the church's part in the anti-horse racing ad which appeared in the Austin American- Statesman.

Sept. 8 Music Committee recommended hiring Bob Sorenson as Music Director at \$150 per month.

Oct. 7 Even though Rev. Oliver suggested no smoking be allowed at the deacon's meeting, a motion was made by Avery Smith that smoking be allowed. The motion was seconded and passed.

Oct. 7 Vernon Rutland made a motion that the pastor's personal long distance phone calls be deducted from his salary. The motion was seconded and passed.

1963

Jan. 9 Roger Spencer brought a recommendation from the deacons that the pastor be instructed to write a letter to Dr. Abner McCall, president of Baylor University, commending his stance on the play by Eugene O'Neill, "Long Day's Journey Into Night."

1964

Feb 23 Herb Skinner moved that the deacons accept the resignation of Rev. I.W. Oliver with service to be discontinued immediately, but that his salary continue through March 31. Motion seconded by O.T. Baker and carried unanimously.

May 20 Deacons received a letter of appreciation from Junior Girl Scout Troop 121 thanking the church for use of the building.

June 7 Huff Baines stated that he thought the Pulpit Committee should divulge more information on what is being done to find a pastor. The deacons then discussed the matter for two hours, primarily devoting the session to discussing the secrecy imposed by the committee.

July 12 A biographical data sheet on Rev. Ray Burchette presented to the deacons by William Saunders, chairman of the deacons. It was requested that the data be kept in confidence until next week in order to protect Rev. Burchette who was in a revival. Dr. and Mrs. Lymon Reese were to host an informal coffee-punch meeting in their home so the deacons and membership could meet Rev. and Mrs. (Mona) Burchette. Pastor's salary was set at \$6,500 per year.

July 15 At the church business meeting, Dr. Lymon Reese brought the following recommendation from the Pulpit Committee: that Rev. C. Ray Burchette be called as pastor of HPBC. Subsequent details of his calling were to be worked out at a later date with the appropriate committees. Motion was seconded by Larry McCurry and carried unanimously.

Aug. 9 Jim Patterson presented information regarding the purchase of the Baker residence next to the church. He stated that it was a 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with 2,200 feet of floor space. The owner was asking \$27,500. Building would be used as church parsonage. Deacons decided to offer the owner \$24,000.

Sept. 13 Rev. Burchette recommended that the church tower be lighted in some manner to better advertise the church. He also recommended that the Sunday school be graded according to school grade through the senior high level. Motion made and carried.

Sept. 23 Telford Ferguson recommended that the pulpit area be lighted and that the pastor's name be placed on the sign in front of the church. Motion seconded by Dr. Lymon Reese.

1965

Feb. 6 Plan considered that Wednesday nights be set aside as "Family Night." A light meal would be served at a cost of \$.35 with a maximum of not to exceed \$1 per family. A short worship service would follow with emphasis on prayer. This would also be a time for choir practice and committee meetings.

Feb. 6 A suggestion made to change Sunday night worship service to a program of Bible study.

Feb. 6 A "Blue Book" developed, outlining purposes and duties of each committee to replace the old plan, called "Committee Profile" manual.

Feb. 6 Due to anticipated growth of the church, motion made that a Building Fund be created. Motion carried.

March 6 A team of deacons did regular Thursday night visitation. From Aug. 1 to Dec. 5, a total of 66 families were visited, with 29 of the families joining the church.

March 7 Suggested that a church bulletin board be installed in the front of the church at a cost of approximately \$360. No action was taken.

March 7 Suggestion made noting that the church needed transportation for University of Texas students to attend Sunday service. A bus would be needed and service would start May 16. Motion carried.

April 12 Deacons discussed purchasing foam rubber cushions for sanctuary pews at a cost of approximately \$2,600. No action was taken.

April 12 The Expansion Committee informed the deacons that the church needs 4,200 feet of space for Sunday school classes.

Nov. 6 The deacons decided to appoint a committee to study question of establishing a church kindergarten.

1966

Jan. 9 Huff Baines, chairman of Teague Chapel committee, presented plans of what has been done in regard to proposed Prayer Chapel, which will be financed by friends and family of the Teagues. J. C. Evans Construction agreed to construct chapel at cost.

Jan. 9 James Boothe, a candidate for the God and Country Award in scouting, attended deacon's meeting as part of his requirement for achieving the high scouting award.

Feb. 5 Various methods of filling front pews discussed, with possibility of roping off back pews included in suggestions. No action taken.

March 6 Dr. Lawrence Franks urged serious consideration of a kindergarten program. No action taken.

April 11 In absence of Dr. Franks, Rev. Gary Bonner presented the report from the Kindergarten Committee. Following recommendation made: organize a kindergarten for 5-year-olds to open in September 1966; plan for 10 to 20 students; charge tuition of \$20 per student; hire a teacher who is a practicing Christian at salary of \$215 per month; adopt a basically Christian curriculum; conduct school from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m..

May 6 Dr. Franks, chairman of Kindergarten Committee, reported a decision had been made to offer the teaching position to Miss Jane Wallace. Motion made and carried.

May 6 Motion made by Vernon Rutland and seconded by Paul Manning to arrange for service of Fred Miller to conduct special youth programs.

Aug. 7 Due to financing problems, building program postponed. Alternative plan was to purchase two temporary building to be place at the rear of the church. Motion made and carried.

Sept. 12 Rev. Gary Bonner reported 13 children enrolled in first kindergarten.

1967

March 5 Roger Spencer, chairman of the Building Committee, recommended that the church accept a bid from J. C. Evans Construction Company for \$91,234 for new building addition for classrooms and staff offices alterations. Loan was for \$80,000 from Mutual Savings and Loan Association at 7 percent interest.

April 9 Groundbreaking services for new educational building and expansion of office space held. Expansion expected to be completed by Sept. 20, 1967.

July 9 Marjorie Whiteker asked to develop a Day Care Center for the Elderly, which was approved by the deacons for a one-year trial. Center closed shortly after opening for lack of members.

July 9 At a business meeting, the Mission Committee recommended that Highland Park Baptist Church take charge of the church program at Riverside Baptist Chapel. Recommendation included a small salary to Jack Carver, paying of utilities and upkeep of building. The church was once known as Riverside Baptist Church.

Dec. 8 At a business meeting, budget amended to provide that each member who requested it could receive the Baptist Standard.

1968

History written of Highland Park Baptist Church; first such recording of church history.

March Dedication of Prayer Chapel and new Education wing.

1969

March 9 Prayer breakfasts began consisting of light breakfast, scripture study, and prayer concerns. Breakfasts to be held twice monthly at 7:30, with the starting date being in April.

March 9 Rev. Burchette asked that the church return to a Sunday evening worship service. Deacons endorsed the suggestion.

May 6 Wednesday night program for summer taken from "church house" and moved into three "house churches." These so-called back-yard study groups continued throughout the summer.

Sept. 7 Deacon Tony Crosby moved that wives be invited to join deacons for a covered dish luncheon following retreat on Sept. 13. Motion was seconded by O.T. Baker, but was defeated.

Oct. 8 The deacons had a request from Dr. and Mrs. Bascom Hayes that a gate be placed in the fence separating the parking lot from the apartments next door. Deacons recommended that this be done. Ben Teague donated a gate for installation.

Nov. 7 Church potluck suppers began every Wednesday night followed by family worship, family night activities, and monthly business meeting.

1970

Jan. 10 Church members initiated first pictorial directory.

Jan. 10 Kindergarten Committee opened one more 5-year old class, going from 90 students to 110.

March 8 City requested the church allow the city to use the choir room as a voting precinct for election purposes. Carried by a voice vote.

April Remodeling and repair began on the parsonage located at 5202 Balcones Drive, including painting, a new roof and work on the garage.

May 10 Truett Latimer appointed to chair the committee to rewrite the Highland Park Church constitution.

July 12 Church noted the need for a special committee to seek an Educational Director.

Nov. 8 Loyalty Dinner held with 150 church members and visitors present.

1971

Tax rolls set property value of the church at \$707,000.

March 14 The kindergarten had 110 students enrolled at \$25 each, with plans to add another 3-year-old class in 1972. The fee would increase to \$30.

June 13 Sunday evening services discontinued in July and August. A special deacon's committee was appointed to report in September about continuing Sunday evening services.

Nov. 14 Average Sunday school attendance was 285.

Nov. 21 Dedication ceremonies held for newly remodeled basement for youth Sunday school rooms.

1972

Feb. 13 Rowland Persons made a motion that the Church Council be asked to investigate and report to the deacons regarding the question of "deaconesses."

Aug. 13 Day Care Center slated to open for the first time. Scheduled for the last week in August.

1973

March 22 Church began search for a Youth Director and Music Director, with a salary of \$17,000 for both ministers.

March 22 Rev. Ray Burchette neared his tenth year with the church, and requested a sabbatical. This matter to be discussed later.

April 29 Plans underway to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the church. Rev. John Lee Smith, the first full-time pastor, will be present at the April 29 service. Lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

May 29 Pew cushions ordered for the sanctuary and choir loft.

1974

Jan. 9 Triple L group, which began in 1973 with 23 in attendance, now has 42 senior citizens. The group meets to visit and play dominoes and bridge.

1975

Sept. 18 Roger Paynter, Minister to Youth, requested that deacons serve as his Ordination Council on Nov. 9. Board votes to do so.

Oct. 1-3 First Junior High Retreat held at Latham Springs Baptist Encampment.

Dec. 14 Lighting of church steeple not approved on recommendations from the Building and Grounds Committee. Chains across the church driveway also not approved.

1976

Jan. 7 Sunday school enrollment at 599, with average attendance of 219.

Feb. 29 Youth Choir presented "The Apostle," the story of the life of Paul.

Feb. 29 Betania Mission constituted as autonomous church. HPBC underwrote Betania's building debt of \$10,000.

March 11 Adult Choir sang "Testament of Freedom" with four other churches as a bicentennial concert.

March 14 Rev. Roger Paynter scheduled to teach an 8-week Baptist doctrine class to 8th grade Sunday school classes.

June 13 First of three 8:30 a. m. summer worship services led by Youth Minister and members of the Youth Council. The less formal services were also week of July 18 and August 15.

July 26-30 Vacation Bible School had enrollment of 158 children; including staff, teachers and teenage helpers the number was 218.

Aug. 29 The Summer Youth/Adult Chorus presented "Celebrate Life" directed by Billie Scott.

Dec. 12 Adult Choir presented Gian Carlo Menotti's opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors."

1977

Jan. 5 Sunday school enrollment was 641; budget was \$187,944. 1977 receipts totaled \$189,349.29.

Jan. 26 Music Committee began Memorial Organ Subscription Campaign with goal of \$44,000 to replace the present organ with a pipe organ.

April 29-May 1 Church celebrated 25th anniversary. Events included presentation of "Godspell" by the Youth Choir, Sunday school, morning worship, all-church luncheon and church history presented in slide show and movies.

Sept. 11 Church ordained its first female deacons: Jean Bringol, Babs Davis, Elsie Foscue, Nancy Lamb and Marge Whiteker. Nancy Lamb was elected secretary of the deacon body. Also ordained were Jerry Dow, John Fields, Gary Oliver, Clay Wilkins, Ron Bringol, and Art Coltharp.

October Highland Park Baptist Church Blood Bank established with the official kick-off day and blood drive scheduled for Dec. 3. Ben Teague was the first donor.

1978

January Church members began planning fundraiser for a "quiet room" for meditation, prayer, reading and reflection, also called "Inner Room."

Jan. 29 Family Life Committee organized and sponsored first annual church-wide miniature golf night.

Feb 3-5 First Adult Retreat held at Mo Ranch.

April Echo Ministry organized to take sermon tapes and tape players to ill and shut-ins within Highland Park community.

April 26 The Mirror announced Rev. Roger Paynter's selection by the Jaycees as an Outstanding Young Man of America for 1978.

1979

Jan. 14 Handbell budget first mentioned in deacon's minutes: needed \$1,500 to fund program, already had \$1,000.

March 2 "Remember When" theme of Fundraiser Dinner Theater.

March 20 Bridge Fellowship organized for single adults.

April 8 Organ fund totally pledged; mechanical components complete; pipes slowly available. Construction slated to begin in July with a completion date of October.

April 13 Choir presented "Seven Last Words" on Good Friday. The Choir read from Isaiah 53 and Luke 23.

April 29 Church sponsored Youth Day to honor young people in grades 6-12 and to install Joe Phelps as Associate Minister for Youth.

July 25 First work began regarding adoption of families from Viet Nam.

Sept. 30 First All-Church Banquet described in the Mirror as "a festive occasion for the entire church—a look at the way we were, how we're doing now and what the future holds.

Oct. 14 Remodeled parsonage occupied by Adult I Sunday school, including College, Couples, Headliners, Ruth, Shalom, Singles and Young Marrieds.

Nov. 11 Committee working to establish a church parlor.

Nov. 14 Church members voted to help in the resettlement of a refugee family from Viet Nam.

Dec. 19 The Mirror carried the following information: Final completion of installation of the organ will be prior to January 1.

1980

Jan. 23 The Mirror announced: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7 a.m.

March 16 Memorial Organ dedicated.

Dec. 5 Children's Choir presented "The Music Machine," a musical based on Galations 5:22.

1981

Jan. 21 The Mirror announced that HPBC would underwrite five hunger projects in Bangladesh, the Philippines, North Brazil, Peru and Nigeria.

March 5 Church parlor dedicated.

March 29 Jim Sapp retired as Minister of Education, having served since October of 1978.

July Missions Committee assisted in resettlement of a refugee family from Viet Nam.

Sept. 3-19 Joe Phelps, Larkin Rossiter and Orie Lee Rossiter taught and preached in a Christian Crusade in Salvador, Brazil. HPBC members pledged to pray every day at noon during their crusade.

1982

Feb. 14 Circle of Touch ministry begins with fellowship meeting.

April 2-3 Youth Plan A Famine: For 30 hours, the youth will go without food to identify with starving and suffering people in the world. The youth also participated in the Crop Walk.

April 17 First HPBC golf tournament scheduled at Lago Vista County Club.

June 6 Memorial Handbells dedicated.

1983

March 3 Parking lot to be completed by Easter Sunday. An increase of the parking spaces in front will necessitate one-way driving around the church.

May 4 Building and Grounds Committee reported the cross on top of the church is to be erected by June 5.

September Building and Grounds Committee suggested that a computer would be a very effective item for the church to have.

September Purchase of first church van discussed and approved if donations cover two-thirds of the cost.

1984

Church published a pictorial directory.

Feb. 4 The group known as the Carpenters Crew began its first project of helping with various repairs around homes of the elderly or poor neighbors. Event was sponsored by the Mission Committee. Work scheduled to begin on Feb. 18 on seven homes.

July 22 At an Administrative Board of Deacons meeting, attention called to a newspaper ad in the Austin American-Statesman of church's disagreement with resolution passed by the Southern Baptist Convention, which limited God's call to ordination of males only. The Board of Deacons approved that the ad be sent to the Baptist Standard as a letter to the editor from the deacon body of the church.

July 25 Mission group left for Tohatchi, New Mexico, to conduct two Vacation Bible Schools, complete work on church kitchen, and do some general repairs on other facilities.

Sept. 2 Congregation celebrated twentieth anniversary of calling of Dr. C. Ray Burchette, who began his ministry on Sept. 4, 1964.

Nov. 18 Administrative Board of Deacons noted that Computer Feasibility Committee recommended accepting gift of a Computer 8135 system.

1985

Jan. 9 Church approved mission church, Church of the Savior.

Jan. 23 Associate Pastor Joe Phelps resigned to become pastor of Church of the Savior.

July 17 Search Committee recommended that Cindy Simpson be called as Associate Pastor for Youth. At a called business meeting, motion is made and passed that the Search Committee's recommendation be accepted.

Aug. 18 General Board of Deacons approved hiring Craig Russell part-time to work with 4th-6th graders.

Oct. 20 Lou Sparks accepted position as Touch Coordinator.

Dec. 31 Jim Sapp's resignation as part-time staff became effective.

1986

March 19 Quarterly business meeting created Long-Range Planning Committee.

April Plans formulated to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the church in April 1987.

May 18 Foyer stained glass windows expected to be in place by May 25.

May 18 Three church positions open: Minister of Visitation filled by Jim Sapp until his resignation; Touch Coordinator Lou Sparks resigned effective June 1; and Children's Director one-year position subject to evaluation.

October 9 30th Anniversary Committee selected: chairman Carolyn Coleman, Babs Davis, David McKee and Laura Johnson. Committee planned a special service and reception on April 26, 1987; and an anniversary booklet to include a church history, highlights of activities and long range plans. Sunday services would include tributes to significant individuals, special music and special decorations.

1987

Feb. 15 Carolyn Coleman, chairman of 35th anniversary celebration, presented the following plans: publish church wish book, publish pictorial directory of members, commission special celebration music, speakers present "Anniversary Minutes" each Sunday in April, hold celebration reception on April 26.

March 29 Administrative Board of Deacons voted to oppose Mr. Gatti's request to waive Austin code limitation prohibiting alcohol sales within 300 feet of a church.

1988

April 8 At a called business meeting, motion made to offer job of Associate Pastor to Cindy Simpson at 35-40 percent time with search for a new Youth Director to continue. Motion passed.

April 8 Rev. Burchette stated he felt comfortable in hiring Craig Russell as Youth Minister at 75 percent time with an annual salary of \$18,500. No action taken.

April 26 Cindy Simpson resigned as Associate Pastor/Youth Director. In her resignation she stated, "a full-time Associate Pastor/Youth Director is best for the church."

1989

Jan. 8 Bob Hays and Nancy Lamb reported working on by-laws revision.

Jan. 8 In the first three months of the Lunch Bunch program, 34 visitors have been taken to lunch following the Sunday morning services. Six have joined church.

March 18 Received report from Cox/Croslin and Associates on Long Range Building Plan.

April 16 Church received a grand piano.

May 16 Membership of Recycle had fallen off dramatically from 20-30 young people to only eight.

May 16 Building and Grounds Committee studied church's accessibility to handicapped.

June 11 Gary Willson accepted job as Youth Director.

June 11 Church of the Savior stated in a letter that they are "now assuming financial independence so you may discontinue your monthly \$300 gift to us. Thank you for helping us since the spring of 1985 in beginning our new congregation with the financial help of Highland Park Baptist Church."

June 11 A proposal made for a system for the hearing impaired to be installed in the sanctuary. Survey showed 8 percent of congregation has a hearing problem.

August By-laws adopted.

Aug. 6 Worship service cancelled on this date and on Aug. 13 due to asbestos removal and repair of sanctuary.

August 27 Quoting from the Deacon's meeting minutes: O.T. Baker noted that "the fence at the parsonage was falling down again. He asked if anyone was in defense of the fence. Ned Burns noted he was in disgust with the fence and he would never defend the defense of the fence. The subject fell so as will the fence with no defense."

Sept. 10 Celebrated Rev. Burchette's 25th anniversary with the church.

Oct. 8 Church voted to hire Shannon Smith as Children's Program Director.

Oct. 8 Approved master plan proposing 3 to 5 years of work on church, including sanctuary remodeling.

Nov. 19 David Weigle hired as organist.

Nov. 19 Rev. Ray Burchette submitted his resignation effective Feb. 15, 1990.

1990

Jan. 7 Dr. Bill Bellinger accepted a call to become the church's interim pastor.

February Dr. Bellinger noted: "We can grow and mature during the interim not just hold on until a new pastor arrives."

March First Wake-Up-Weekend planned. Plans included meeting in homes of church members in small groups of youth with a seminary student as group leader. The group would spend two days and two nights in Bible study and recreation. On March 18, the first weekend was held with 18 youth in attendance.

May 6 Pulpit Search Committee scheduled nine visits out of state and six within Texas. The committee consisted of Art Coltharp, John Halton, Lucille Bennett, Dr. David Turner, Nancy Lamb, Sarah Macias and Willie Scott.

May 6 Building and Grounds Committee recommended hiring a money-raising consultant for the church expansion and renovation, and that 50 percent of the anticipated building costs be pledged or in the bank before construction contract is signed.

June 6 At a called business meeting, the church voted to extend a call to John L. Stanley at the June 10 church service.

June 10 Deacons asked to be available on June 10 in view of a call for a new pastor. After the church service, a reconvened business meeting extended a call to John L. Stanley as pastor.

July 22 Dr. Bellinger will conclude his stint as interim pastor on August 19.

Sept. 29 J.C. Evans family hosted their annual fish fry at the Evans residence.

Sept. 30 Installation services held for John L. Stanley as pastor of HPBC. The church also welcomed wife Kathy and daughters Hannah, Leah and Sarah.

Dec. 24 Due to extreme cold, the pipes on the south side of the building froze and burst, flooding the Underground; no long-term damage.

Dec. 24 Two new mission projects for the church were introduced, Austin Baptist Chapel and the Blood Bank.

1991

Feb. 7 New pictorial directory planned, with photo dates set for February and March.

Feb. 17 Noted that 75 percent of the budget for the expansion and renovation program had been pledged: 163 families pledged \$345,266.

Feb. 17 Rev. Stanley asked that the congregation pray about the war in the Middle East. He also stated, "A discussion was held in the last deacon's meeting about yellow ribbons in the church yard. I support our troops with my prayers. But I need to assert our Baptist heritage of separation of church and state. I don't want our church to become an arena of political wrangling."

April 24 At a business meeting, the church voted 6-1 to expand the educational facilities.

April 25 Church participated in Habitat for Humanity Work Day, the first for the church.

May 19 Seniors celebrated with graduation breakfast, and Youth presented a musical, "Live It to the Max."

May 15 Highland Park Pre-School announced plans to celebrate 25 years on May 26. A reception was planned.

May 26 Deacons voted 22-2 to adopt the Long Range Plan and recommended the church accept this plan.

June 23 Rev. Stanley left for five weeks for summer doctoral work. Will return on August 4.

June 5 Shannon Smith, Children's Director, announced plans to resign.

Aug. 28 At a called business meeting, it was noted how the Southern Baptist Convention had moved farther and farther away from HPBC. It was stated that this has been the result of mismanagement and misdirection and their stand against women in ministry.

Oct. 6 Church participated in Annual Church Picnic at Zilker Park.

Oct. 16 The choir presented its first classical concert with works from Mozart, Handel, Brahms and Mendelssohn, accompanied by orchestra.

October The church now has a membership of 1,000, up from 925 in 1991.

November Youth Director Gary Willson announced the highest attendance ever at Sunday school and Night Life, averaging 30 to 40,.

Dec. 11 Youth Choir presented a musical, "Deck the Mall."

1992

Feb. 19 Building plans unveiled to church family at Wednesday night supper. Building Committee reported on architect renderings and schematic plans.

Feb. 19 Ouida Hartman hired as Children's Director.

March 11 Rev. Stanley announced a change of name of Southern Baptist Alliance to Alliance of Baptists.

April 5 Church members invited to Barton Creek Country Club to celebrate plans for "Building for the Future." At the event on April 8, 275 church members were present. Pledges were made of more than \$640,000 toward the goal of \$1.2 million.

April 25 Pledges for the building program reached \$958,182.86.

June 3 God and Country Patriotic Dinner celebrated. The program on Texas heritage was dedicated to Elsie Foscue, a member of a frontier Texas family and a founding member of HPBC.

June 10 Building Committee finished the preparation of construction documents, bid proposals and contracts pointing toward beginning of construction in November.

June 28 Men's Friday Prayer Breakfast group served breakfast to raise money to support the Tohatchi Mission to Indians in New Mexico.

Aug. 8 This date marked the first anniversary of Men's Friday Prayer Breakfast, a group formed to bring the generations of men in the church together for prayer and fellowship.

Aug. 26 Two new Sunday school classes formed: Friendship Class for younger women and Discipleship Class for men and women primarily directed toward new members.

Aug. 26 New Member Sunday celebrated, with new members serving the Lord's Supper, taking offering and reading the scriptures.

1993

Jan. 3 As of this date, \$984,562 pledged for Building for the Future, with receipts totaling \$383,235.

Jan. 10 Groundbreaking ceremonies held for adult education space, administrative offices, choir room, renovation of underground and preschool and church area. Dr. John Stanley turned the first clump of dirt with a ceremonial shovel presented by Building Committee Chairman Bill Musick.

Feb. 13 Contract signed for new construction.

Feb. 21 Youth Fundraiser and Lunch held in Sapp Hall, and youth presented a musical, "Friends Forever, " with money to be used for senior trip.

March 27-28 Marriage Enrichment training session held in New Braunfels.

March 28 HPBC celebrated its 40th anniversary.

Dec. 19 Gary Willson resigned as Youth Minister to take a job at a Fort Worth church.

1994

Feb. 5-6 State Convention of the Alliance of Baptists held at HPBC.

Feb. 27 Sunday school preschool and elementary division moved to new space.

March 28-30 Holy Week Interdenominational services held at HPBC.

April 10 Building dedication—"Behold! I Build a House"—held with an open house reception.

May 13 Family Life Committee sponsored first Church-Wide Camp Out at Blue Hole in Wimberley.

May 15 Rev. John Stanley received Doctor of Ministry degree at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn.

June 22 Church members celebrated the God and Country Dinner in honor of Chris Krieger, daughter of Bob and Laura Johnson. Chris has been waiting for a bone marrow transplant.

July 20 After 13 years as Minister of Music, Bill Hornbuckle submitted his resignation.

Aug. 7 Senior Singles group held organizational meeting.

Aug. 14 Youth and their parents met David Breckenridge in view of a call as Associate Pastor, with emphasis on the youth. He will begin his duties in October.

Sept. 11 Senior Singles hold first meeting and potluck lunch in Sapp Hall.

Oct. 14 A group organized by Barbara and Fred Worley left for a mission trip to Piedras Negras to help in River Ministry.

1995

Nov. 19 Rev. Sue Enoch reported that the church will become a Meals on Wheels Distribution Center on Nov. 28.

Nov. 19 Letter sent to the Austin Baptist Association disagreeing with the association for withdrawing fellowship from University Baptist Church because of the sexual orientation of one of its deacons.

Dec. 15 WMU member Betty Adams reported that the food drive for the Baptist Community Center had been a huge success with 17 boxes and six bags of food going to the Center. Bettie Porter reported that all of the Christmas stockings had been filled and returned to the Center.

1996

Feb. 13 Highland Park Church hosted a meeting of Austin Baptist Association Women on Mission members for a meeting on AIDS ministry. Barbara Holloway, chaplain at Seton Hospital, discussed medical facts of AIDS.

March 17 David Breckenridge noted that the Youth Auction raised more than \$10,000 to be used for their mission trip in the summer.

April 21 Dr. John Stanley announced his resignation as pastor.

May 4 Church members hosted a reception for Dr. Stanley and his family before his last sermon on May 5.

July 24 Committees reorganized into four clusters designated as Worship, Service, Education and Administration.

Aug. 15 Dr. Bill Bellinger began as interim pastor.

1997

April 9 Church scheduled series of meeting to meet potential pastor, Dr. Robert Ballance. Dr. Ballance to preach at Sunday worship services on April 20.

April 20 The church extended a call to Dr. Ballance to become pastor. Bob, Catherine, Emily and Lara Hall will move to Austin in June, and Bob will assume responsibilities on June 16 and preach his first sermon on June 22.

May 5 Dr. Suzanne Pence called as part-time Minister of Music by unanimous vote of the congregation. She will begin her duties on May 18 in the worship service, with installation services held on June 8.

June 18 Church celebrated with God and Country Dinner, an event sponsored by the Elsie Foscue Sunday School class.

August 20 Trainer from Texas Department of Protective Services presented program concerning child abuse and the church's Child Protective Policy.

1998

Feb. 8 Free barbecue lunch held to celebrate "Fulfill the Dream" for paying off the bank note.

Feb. 15 Shalom House began operation for three to four families consisting of a pregnant woman or women with infants who were having financial difficulties. Role is to assist them to become self-sufficient and able to move to subsidized housing.

Feb. 20 Brooks Whitmore presented his doctoral recital at UT.

May 17 Members of the Education Committee distributed Leadership Information forms and copies of the Child Protection Policy.

Aug. 16 Renewed discussion of HPBC's response to action taken by the Southern Baptist Convention concerning women's roles in the church. Discussion tabled until a meeting of General Board of Deacons.

Sept. 13 Rev. Sue Enoch resigned to become pastor at Prescott Memorial Church in Tennessee.

Oct. 7 Dr. Bob Ballance resigned to take a position at the Baptist Today publication

Oct. 18 Mark Bewley presented a report on Choir Loft Update. A motion to expand the choir approved.

Oct. 18 John Miller submitted a letter to the Deacon Board regarding a program for the 55+ members to better serve members in that age group.

Nov. 8 Rev. John Nichol installed as interim pastor.

1999

March 3 At a called business meeting, the General Board of Deacons and the Denominational Relations Task force gave the following recommendation: That Highland Park Baptist Church no longer give a budgeted amount to the Southern Baptist Convention. This action withdraws our association from the convention. In support of the priesthood of the believer, members of HPBC are given the option to give to the SBC.

May 2 Rev. John Nichol preached his final sermon as interim pastor.

June 13 Dr. Bill Bellinger is welcomed back as interim pastor.

July 28 At a called business meeting, the Pulpit Search Committee made a presentation and recommendation to extend a call to Dr. Stephen Lucas as senior pastor.

Sept. 29 Dr. Lucas began tenure as senior pastor, culminating almost a year's search for a new pastor.

2000

Feb. 6 Fulfill the Dream celebrated in Sapp Hall.

Aug. 16 Administrative and General Board of Deacons recommended that Dr. C. Ray Burchette be named Pastor Emeritus of Highland Park Baptist Church.

Aug. 19 Church celebrated Brooks Whitmore receiving his Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

Sept. 10 Title of Pastor Emeritus conferred on Dr. Burchette during worship service.

Sept. 17 At a called business meeting, the Search Committee for the Associate Minister of Spiritual Formation recommended that Rev. Jill Spruce fill the position.

Oct. 1 Rev. Cheryl Hill named Associate Minister for Children and Family Life.

Oct. 1 Rev. Jill Spruce joined staff as Associate Minister for Spiritual Formation.

2001

March The Jim Sapp Memorial Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the deacons purchase a portrait of Jim Sapp and hang it in Sapp Hall. An appropriate plaque would accompany portrait.

April 1 Rev. Jill Spruce ordained to the gospel ministry.

June Church developed and adopted Child Protection Policy.

June 17 Dr. Steve Lucas, senior pastor, presented a Five-Year Strategic Plan for Growth for the church.

July 22 Foundation for the Homeless presented a proposal to return the use of the former parsonage to the Foundation to be used as administrative offices. The house would no longer be used as Shalom House. Motion approved.

Nov. 18 Questions and discussion surfaced on the display of the Christian and U.S. flag in the sanctuary. After several deacons spoke on the issue, it was decided that U.S. and Texas flags would be displayed outside on the designated

poles on days the church is open for business, for worship and education, all in accordance with flag etiquette.

2002

Jan. 5 Dr. Steve Lucas and Carol Young exchanged wedding vows. A reception for the newlyweds held at Schwertner Ranch.

Jan. 20 Youth minister Dan De Leon ordained at First Baptist Church.

Jan. 26 Using the theme "Still Point Day," Rev. Jill Spruce led a day of prayer and meditation at the Schwertner Ranch.

Feb. 24 Chapel Committee discussed the renewal of Teague Chapel and proposed Memorial Gardens.

March 17 Chapel Committee introduced the architect and sketch for landscaping the Memorial Gardens.

April 20-21 Church celebrates 50 years with a Saturday barbecue luncheon, program and children's carnival at Dell Jewish Community Center and a Celebration of Worship on Sunday with former staff, charter members, church members and friends in attendance. Exhibits and videos exploring church committees and activities are displayed and a Memory Book given to each family.

Timeline entries extracted from deacon's minutes, financial reports, Mirrors and orders of worship, which are bound into annual history books and kept in the church library.

Stories of Highland Park

The Ruth Class

By Barbara Lightsey

"From the laziness that is satisfied with half truth, from the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all the truth, oh, God of Truth, deliver us."

— Unknown

The above words are on a bookmark, which I keep in the table beside my bed. Every time I pull it out to mark a book, it brings back a flood of memories. The bottom part of the bookmark states: "In study with the Ruth Class, 1989." Mona Burchette was the teacher of the class that year, and she had the bookmarks prepared and given to all members of the class.

The Ruth Class, as one would expect from the name, was a women's class. I joined it in 1978, about two years after we joined Highland Park. It was the first time since 1963 that I had been a member of a class other than one for couples. I found it to be not only an opportunity for Bible study every Sunday, but a wonderful support group and part of my extended church family.

Just as we learn from our families, we learned from others in the class. We learned from Corrie Fuquay about giving freely of your time to chaperone youth groups. We learned from Betty Smith, LaNell Coltharp and Marie Ingram about how to "think outside the box" about missions. We learned about devotion in a marriage from Annette Dow. We learned about respect and love for in-laws from Shirley Prud'homme. We learned about living with cancer from Sally Paul. We learned about living with chronic pain from Goldie Monroe. Nancy Osgood and I shared the pain of losing our fathers the same month. Then Cookie Ruiz and I shared the sorrow of watching our mothers suffer and die.

Just as families have older and younger sisters, the Ruth Class did too. We spanned a wide age group from we older class members to our "babies" as we affectionately called Pattie Schwertner, Cookie Ruiz, Jody Williams, Kathleen McConnell and Marilee Ross. In fact, those of us who sat in football stadiums around Austin on Friday nights gave advice on Sunday to Jody and Pat Schier during their pregnancies and later assured them they would survive the "terrible twos."

Back to Bible study: We were fortunate to have some wonderfully dedicated teachers. When I joined, Corrie Fuquay was the teacher. I don't count myself as wonderful, but I taught the class next. Peggy Looney was next, and her enthusiasm for learning was contagious. Nancy Norris took over next and discovered that she loved the world of Bible study. Nancy had the audacity to move to Cameron – too far to drive back every Sunday. Pat Schier then took it and proved to be as adept at teaching Sunday school as she had been at teaching public school. Mona Burchette then took her second stint as the class teacher.

There are times now when a parable will be our sermon topic on Sunday, and the minute I hear those familiar words, I think back to one of Mona's lessons.

Inevitably, she helped us to see something in a new light. When Mona left, it became difficult to find a full-time teacher. After struggling for several years, it became obvious that it was time to let our class go. We went our separate ways to other classes.

At this point in my writing, I didn't know how to "end" my writing. My notebook lay on a table in the den for a week. I figured I'd probably not submit anything after all.

One Saturday night, Katherine Beckwith called me. Katherine has moved to Lakeway and is a member of the class we now both attend, a couple's class. The long drive has made it difficult to be in attendance as frequently as she would like. She read in the Mirror that I had written a thank-you note and was concerned that something was wrong. When she calls me, I don't need Caller ID to recognize her distinctive voice. She also can't see that my face lights up because I'm so happy to hear from her.

You see, she was a member of the Ruth Class. It was almost worth having surgery to have Katherine bring a meal to your home. She's a Southern cook. As we caught up on the latest joys of our now-adult children, the subject of the class came up. She said, "I still remember the day you invited me to come to the Ruth Class. You told me that I would feel "at home" there. It was amazing what we could say that we couldn't say somewhere else. We laughed and cried and hugged. I've never felt that way again."

I told her it was meant for her to call me, and now I could finish my article for the Memory Book.

The Ruth Class exhibited and explored God's grace.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

By Fred Worley

The men's prayer breakfast started on August 2, 1991, and has continued every Friday for more than ten years now.

There's a sign-up sheet for cooks and they arrive on their chosen Friday at six in the morning to fix the meal for the one to two dozen men that show up at seven. The breakfast is usually bacon or sausage with eggs, biscuits and fruit. The menu occasionally expands to chorizo and eggs, salmon and eggs, nopales (cactus) and eggs and even scrapple. A box of bran cereal is available, and, like the loaves and fishes, this one box can feed the men without replacement for months.

A woven Navajo bag is passed around for the \$2 donation per meal and this money is used to reimburse the cooks for the food purchased. Most cooks decline reimbursement, and this has resulted in more than \$17,000 donated to charitable causes determined by the prayer breakfast men.

The First Baptisms at 5206 Balcones

By John Miller

As most of us know, Highland Park Baptist Church met at Highland Park Elementary School for approximately three and one-half years before moving to 5206 Balcones. Since the school did not have baptismal facilities and Shoal Creek was not appropriate, persons joining by profession of faith and baptism did not have the convenience of a "next Sunday baptism." Baptisms were conducted at our sponsoring church, First Baptist Church of Austin. The service was set when there were several candidates for baptism and would fit with First Church's Sunday evening worship service.

Finally, on April 1, 1956, Highland Park Baptist Church held its first worship service in its new sanctuary at 5206 Balcones. There were perhaps as many as 25 or 30 new members over the next three months. Of these, six were coming for baptism. I was fortunate enough to be in that group of six. The "next Sunday baptism" was delayed, apparently by a leak in the baptistry, which was immediately above the pastor's office. The leak was noted in Deacon Minutes of June 3, 1956.

Pastor John Lee Smith's newsletter of July 17 announced that a baptism ceremony would be conducted immediately following the Sunday morning worship service on July 22, 1956. The candidates were notified of the date and advised as to appropriate clothing — jeans or slacks, white shirt and t-shirt for the men; and for the ladies, a dress or slacks and white blouse, and they would be provided with a baptismal robe.

Since the baptism was after the conclusion of worship, we were able to enjoy most of the worship service. At a designated point in the order of worship, the candidates retired to their respective robing rooms to change clothes and then moved to the wings flanking the baptistry.

There were three youths, Mavis Rutherford, Billy Frank Saunders and Howard Woerner. James Giddings, I and probably Lon Fitzgerald were the adults. Lon had joined the church prior to this service but the adults were not named in the subsequent newsletter.

John Lee took us one at a time, offering his hand when we entered the warm water. He announced each of us to the audience, asked if we accepted Jesus Christ, pronounced the majestic words, "I baptize you in the name . . .," slowly lowered us into the water and then gently lifted us to a new life. John Lee was of average height, while James and Lon were above average height. We all held our breaths as he supported their weight and then lifted them safely from the waters.

Returning to the robing room, we were quiet as we dried and changed into dry clothes, contemplating the experience and the road ahead — and a moment in the history of Highland Park: that we had been the first to be baptized at 5206 Balcones Drive.

Music Memories of Highland Park Baptist Church

By David Shankle

I remember my first visit to Highland Park. It was in 1991 on Good Friday. Tom and Norma Jean Anderson, my friends from Kinney Avenue Baptist, brought me to this service. John Stanley was preaching and we did this wonderful ritual of writing our regrets on a Touch card. We then placed these cards in a clay pot and took it out to the courtyard to burn them. He also did anointing with oil and a blessing. It was very moving and an enriching experience. It made me come back, and, well, here I am.

Tom was the first music minister at Highland Park. He started in 1954 and left in 1960. John Lee Smith was the pastor then. At that time, the church met in the cafeteria of Highland Park Elementary School. Choir rehearsal was there too. He would direct from the piano. And what elegant surroundings they had. The modesty rail for the choir was a piece of translucent green, corrugated plastic!

The new sanctuary was dedicated in 1956. The first organ was dedicated at the same time. The business manager of First Baptist, Mr. Schwantes, found a used Wicks organ for sale and bought it for the new church. The music minister of First Baptist, Jim Berry, was an alumnus of Westminster Choir College, and he obtained the services of its dean, Alexander McCurdy, to play the dedicatory recital on the new organ.

The choir's favorite anthem was Psalm 100 by Richard Purvis. If they had more than 12 in the choir loft on Sunday morning, they were doing good. Some choir members Tom remembers were Tilford Bean, Boots Gainer, Larry Johnson, Ray and Polly Logan, Minnie Montgomery and Fred and Sally Prince. Tom also directed children and youth choirs.

Starting music programs was Tom's calling. After he established the music program, the church was ready to call a full-time music minister and education minister. So Tom left, and Don Searles was called to succeed him.

Fast forward 40 years: In the spring of 1999, the music ministry made some chancel renovations to expand the choir loft and to give us more flexible use of the space. To pay for that expense, we produced a dinner theatre called the Stardust Club. It was like a '40s nightclub with a jazz combo and choir members singing under the spotlight. I got the honor of coordinating this enterprise. From what I understand, this continued a grand tradition of talent shows held earlier in the church's history. We enjoyed ourselves so much that we decided to do it on a regular basis for fun. In 2000 we went to outer space in the Fantastic Time Machine. Next year we will be going to the tropics. The variety show is a wonderful opportunity for the church to "let its hair down" and have fun. It's also been responsible for bringing people to our church services, so it is, indeed, a ministry.

Participating in the music ministry is one of the most fulfilling hobbies in my life. I have made good friends, and, with them, get to make good music. What more could anyone want?

Special Events and Kitchen Committee

By John Miller

The Special Events and Kitchen Committee was established in 1956 as the church was settling into its new home. At a business meeting in April, it was voted to have Church Fellowship suppers on Wednesday night—with a 75 maximum. The records list the various pieces of kitchen equipment, pots, pans and utensils that were purchased, for what was to become an integral part in the life of the young church. Minnie (Mrs. V.L.) Montgomery was chair of the committee and church hostess for the 1956–1957 year, Sept. 1–Aug. 31. The all-woman committee began serving Wednesday night meals and hosted some special events during the year.

The following year, 1957–1958, Carolyn (Mrs. John) Miller became chair of the committee and church hostess, positions in which she served for several years. Carolyn's education in institutional management equipped her for quantity cooking and food service. A committee member, Mary Jane (Mrs. Homer) Smith, was familiar with institutional cooking in that her husband owned the restaurant supply company that equipped the kitchen. As a team, and with the other committee members, they began to expand the Wednesday evening dinners.

Carolyn and Mary Jane met with the church hostess at First Baptist, who was a paid staff member, to "pick her brain" and get ideas for church dinners and special events. A larger variety of dinners was served, ranging from Tex-Mex to Oriental (not too well received), to fried chicken and on and on. The meals were nutritionally balanced, the food was well prepared and servings were generous. It evolved that Carolyn planned the menus, shopped the grocery ads to find bargains, and she and the other committee members cooked and served the meals. Later, a good portion of the food was purchased from a wholesale frozen food distributor, much as the current Kitchen Committee does.

Within two or three years, Wednesday night attendance had increased to perhaps as many as 100. The shopping and food preparation was taking on a new dimension, pushing Carolyn and the committee's capabilities. The deacons authorized hiring a cook for three hours on Wednesday to do the "heavy cooking."

The original refrigerator was a single-door home refrigerator. How many times did the committee wish for a larger one? Finally, that wish was granted. Carolyn learned that Homer Smith's company was installing a new commercial refrigerator in her sorority's kitchen. She "suggested" to Homer what a generous thing it would be if he donated the old double-door commercial refrigerator to

the church and how much better the kitchen could function with the additional space. With a little arm-twisting, Homer made the donation.

The old refrigerator was moved to the basement for extra storage. Carolyn worked out an arrangement with the bakery lady at what is now Randall's to buy day-old cakes and pies. These were stored in the old refrigerator for Wednesday night suppers. The pastries stayed fresh for a couple of days, it saved money, and the diners enjoyed the variety.

In the days prior to the new refrigerator, Carolyn would sometimes store food in her home refrigerator. Once, she was making Jell-O, but didn't have enough room in the church refrigerator for the large pans of Jell-O. "Why not take these home to set?" was her thought. She placed the two pans of semi-liquid Jell-O in the car and carefully drove home. Not a drop was spilled. As she was bringing in the second tray, it slipped and Jell-O went all over her kitchen floor. She practically sat down in it and cried. About that time, I came home from work to a distraught wife and a floor that was partially covered with orange Jell-O. The Jell-O immediately in front of the refrigerator was already beginning to congeal from the cooling fan. It took a lot of hot water and mopping to get that mess cleaned up. That Wednesday night the diners had a *small* serving of Jell-O with day-old cake.

The "special event" for the committee was primarily the annual Stewardship Banquet and Dedication Day. This was a church-wide seated meal. In 1957, the deacons of First Baptist Church served the meal but in subsequent years, the Usher Committee served it. There were a few reception-type events to recognize Sunday school teachers and special days in the life of the church. Later, the Special Events activities became the Hospitality Committee. Today, the Kitchen Committee continues the original church resolution "to have Christian fellowship suppers on Wednesday nights."

Early Church Memories

By Rev. John Lee Smith

A few months after we came to Highland Park Baptist Church in 1953, I decided that the music in the church was embarrassingly bad, and that we should do something about it. So I announced the establishment of a choir and scheduled an inaugural meeting and rehearsal at Brother Cole's house on Thursday night. We had maybe 12 people show up. I decided to be the director, at least for one night. We began with four sopranos, three altos, two tenors and three basses.

I have no memories of the singing. I only recall that during the rehearsal, the boyfriend or husband of one of an older member's daughter fell to the floor in a dead faint right in the middle of a number I was trying to conduct. I remember seeing him start down, reaching to catch him, missing him by inches, and a crash on the floor. That stopped the rehearsal almost before it started. Incidentally, I don't recall the young couple ever returning to church.

And this story is Peggy's: It was June 13, 1954, our Sunday night worship services at Highland Park Elementary School. Peggy was scheduled to have induced labor the following morning at St. David's Hospital—the old one on Rio Grande Street. During the service, Peggy became upset and left the auditorium.

Mrs. Baker, Merle Page's mother, followed her out into the hallway. Peggy was crying and saying, "I want my mother." Mrs. Baker put her arms around her and comforted her. Peggy said she always loved Mrs. Baker for her comfort in a time of anxiety. And of course, I did too.

Peggy insists I add that after she left and Mrs. Baker followed, I left the pulpit and went out to see her and comfort her myself, leaving the congregation alone trying to figure out what was going on. For Peggy, that was also a special act of grace and love.

Scouting at Highland Park Baptist Church

By James Boothe

I began attending Highland Park about 42 years ago. I was ten years old. The sanctuary seemed huge. I attended Sunday school, made friends and immediately joined the scouts. Church service for me was cutting up on the back row, spending some of my offering money for candy at the bait store next door and sometimes just skipping out and sneaking back in. Scouting is what held my attention.

Troop 410, with Joe McMordie as scoutmaster and people like Jay Evans, Steve Matthews and others as my peers hit the spot. It was the best troop in town. We always won the top awards and were proud to be wearing our turquoise and white bandanas.

Meeting once a week, camping at least once a month—I truly loved the adventure, and it was the best part of my life. I obtained life skills I still count on today.

I remember the Scout Laws. A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent. These were the laws and these were the times out in nature that I felt God's presence. Thank you, God, for Troop 410 at Highland Park Baptist Church.

Jim Patterson later became scoutmaster and the tradition continued. Chuck Croslin and I went to a Scouting Jamboree in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. I could fill a book with all the memories. Thanks to all who made this possible.

Circle of Touch

By Barbary Holloway

The Circle of Touch is 20 years old, having been born on Jan. 17, 1982. When most of us think of the Circle of Touch, we think of all of those Touch Cards we have written and received. The cards have gone near and far. They lodge deep within the heart and spirit as healing words of comfort, as prayer, as encouraging words of faith, as exciting words of affirmation, as words of wisdom, as a cup of cold water to the thirsty.

Those words sent out are living words. They take on a life of their own in ways most of us will never fully comprehend. The Touch Cards are an outer expression of the height and depth and breadth of servant ministry taking place at Highland Park every day.

The Circle of Touch is much more than a symbol. It is a living logo. From the very beginning, it was born out of a yearning to reach out to those in our church who were "falling through the cracks," expressed carefully in a letter written by Carol Lake to Dr. Ray Burchette. The Deacon body appointed a committee to address these concerns. The committee consisted of Verna Baines, Barbara Holloway, Jerry Hunt, Carol Lake, Betty Porter, Betty Smith and Carleen Watson.

This committee listened to all of the needs expressed through our congregation. At the outset we decided we needed a name and a logo which would breath life and Spirit into the ministry. We spent much time in prayer and meditation. The Touch logo Barbara Holloway proposed was adopted. The Circle of Touch represents wholeness as God's hand reaches out to welcome all. As you and I respond to God's love and reach out to touch Christ and one another in love, we find grace, healing, hospitality and growth. The center touch point in the circle is necessary to bring forth the four spiritual touch points of grace, healing, hospitality and growth.

The Circle of Touch was started with three main areas of ministry. To demonstrate a caring community within our church, 40 small family circles were formed. Each circle had a leader. Each circle was to reach out and touch every active and inactive member on an ongoing basis. It was a way of keeping in touch so that no one would "fall through the cracks." The second area of ministry was to the ill and hospitalized and the shut-ins. A healthcare team was established with 12 medical professionals on the team who were assigned to all the hospitals in Austin. The third area of ministry, a personal and family crisis and bereavement team, had nine people on the team led by Dr. Burchette and Barbara Holloway.

The Circle of Touch launched its first Touch Fellowship on Feb. 14, 1982, to mark the formal beginning. Anne Godsey made a Touch banner to hang over the baptistry. Ray preached a sermon on the meaning of the Touch logo and the ministry that it represented. Each year, for several years, there continued to be a

formal emphasis on the Touch ministry through sermon, music and fellowship.

Looking back 20 years, much has changed and a world of ministry has taken place.

Touch has had some loving, gracious, caring leaders and caregivers. Touch has necessarily had to adapt to the changing needs within our community and the changing times. In the beginning, there were fewer women in the workforce. Time and attention was given by large numbers of those willing to help. Then, for a brief time, Lou Sparks became a paid staff member to coordinate the Touch ministry. In the last several years, the deacons have taken on a greater role. Recently, the Open Door ministry has begun to answer needs of the shut-ins. Overall, there has been flexibility and adaptability. A note of delight is that in 2000, Jo Lindberg made a beautiful Touch banner that hangs between Sapp Hall and the church atrium.

To try to mention all of the Touch leaders by name would be to leave out some important ones, as there have been many excellent dedicated people through the 20 years. Having said that, shining light on the recent touch leaders is important. They are the epitome of what Touch is all about. They are living, breathing icons of the Touch logo living out the essence of ministry. They are Dottie Denton and Joyce Skinner. They will be embarrassed when they read this, because they are humble and have quietly gone about doing ministry and unknowingly have encouraged all of us to do Touch ministry.

As church members, every time we reach out to touch Christ and another person, we are doing Touch ministry. Touch ministry is as broad and deep and loving as we allow the Holy Spirit to lead it to be. Each one of us is uniquely called to follow Him in ministry.

The next 20 years should be very exciting for Highland Park as we pray and ask the Lord: How are we to enlarge our Circle of Touch? How are we to be a channel of Grace? Where are the areas within our church family, within the Austin community and within the world that are in need of healing? How are we to be more gracious in hospitality? How do spiritual growth, wisdom and understanding take place at this point in our journey?

Highland Park is a beacon of spiritual care. In accord with Jesus Christ, let us commit ourselves to be a channel of grace, healing, hospitality and growth.

Service of Infant Dedication

By John Miller

In the historical records of Highland Park Baptist Church we can find the first mention of our tradition of infant dedication. Pastor John Lee Smith's weekly newsletter of July 10, 1956, announced that a service for dedication of infants would be held the following Sunday evening, July 15, and that interested parents

should contact the church office. The infant dedication service, in which the parents covenant with God and the church family to raise the child in a Christian home and way, and the congregation covenants with the parents to support and help them as they rear their child, is observed in many Christian denominations other than Baptist.

Three long-time members, Carolyn Miller, Kathleen Perry Miller and Joyce Skinner, recently compared memories of those early days. They told of the *first* infant dedication service. It was conducted *after* a Sunday evening church service unlike our current Sunday morning dedication. It seems that a deacon didn't feel that it was Baptist doctrine so it should not be included as a part of formal church services, though John Lee had stated that it did not take the place of a child's later acceptance of Jesus and subsequent baptism.

This first infant dedication service was held in the sanctuary on the evening of July 15, conducted by Dr. Blake Smith, pastor of University Baptist Church and father of John Lee. The oh-so-young parents and their children were: Peggy and John Lee Smith with Mike and Meredyth; Joyce and Herbert Skinner with Steve; Carolyn and John Miller with Robert; Kathleen and Edgar Perry with Kim; and Jackie and Fred Jones with Charrise and Jim Fred.

Dr. Smith read the charge to the families and they answered in the affirmative. He read the charge to the congregation and they responded in the affirmative. Certificates were then presented to the families commemorating the event. The hymn of dedication, #510, "Gentle Jesus," was sung by the audience, which included many family members and friends. Dr. Smith closed the infant dedication service with a benediction. Thus concluded the first such service, to be repeated many, many times through the years.

The Struggles of Building a New Church

By Rev. John Lee Smith

Peggy and I were recently going through some old correspondence that we had saved from the Middle Ages. One of the letters called to mind some early experiences in Austin at Highland Park Baptist Church.

I wrote the letter to Peggy on Nov. 6, 1954, when she had taken Mike, at the ripe old age of five months, to show him off to her parents, her brother, various aunts and uncles and cousins. The letter in part is below:

"I spent the morning working on plans to make the big leap of faith. As you will recall, Marney is in Korea on a preaching mission with the U.S. Air Force. It is clear to me now that the First Church, its ministers and deacons have second-guessed their decision to back us financially in the construction of the

proposed new building. We haven't raised enough money, recruited enough new members and progressed politically to reassure them, particularly Marney, that we are to be taken seriously.

"Recently, I have found Marney and his staff to be evasive and noncommittal. Of course, it bothers me. So the question is: What to do now? Clearly, our church members need me more as a leader of a movement to become institutionally established than as a pastor or preacher. I know that and I accept it. But the question now is, what shall I do?

"Well, as starters I called Joe Carrington, Vic's Dad, and set up an appointment. We met. He was sympathetic. He, too, wondered about the firmness of his church's support of our group. I told him that I was prepared to go to the mat with Marney to force him to fish or cut bait. I also told him I didn't want to do it for a variety of reasons, but felt it was my only option. He said he understood and would support me. He said it was a big gamble and that I might lose. But he urged me to hold off any action until Marney returned from the Far East. He is scheduled to return home in two or three days. So it may well happen that by time you get home from S.C., I will be without a job. I hope not."

All this brings back a lot of painful and agonizing memories. Carlyle Marney not only was our sponsoring church's pastor, he was also my friend. I did not want to betray him and go behind his back. But I was caught on the horns of a dilemma. I didn't want to be summarily dismissed without putting up a fight, and I had become convinced that the First Church and its ministers would prefer it, were we to drop into a big hole in the ground. We were too small, too unpromising, too poor to risk a quarter million dollars on. But I also knew that there were some mighty good and trusting people at Highland Park who were counting on me to get the job done. So I threw my hat into the ring.

There is only one way to put it. When Marney got home and heard about my meeting with Joe Carrington and discovered what I was up to, he was mad. He was mad at me and told me so in no uncertain terms. However, he was also caught up short: He didn't expect it. So he begrudgingly but quietly admitted my courage. So bless his heart. He understood my feelings and forgave my presumption. Six or seven months later we started construction. Highland Park Baptist Church would soon be a *fait accompli*.

In 1958 Marney left Austin and became pastor of the Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. Myers Park Church was where I met Peggy in 1952 and where I served as an interim assistant minister for a year.

In 1962 we asked Marney to become godfather to our new son, Blake. In 1978 while revisiting venues we shared on our honeymoon 25 years earlier, we called home from Alamosa, Colorado. All I recall about that conversation was Meredyth saying, "Elizabeth Marney called. Yesterday Marney had a massive heart attack. He never regained consciousness. He is gone."

The River Ministry

By Fred Worley

The river ministry of Highland Park Baptist Church grew out of the church's long history of trips to Tohatchie on the Navajo Reservation in northern New Mexico. Fred and Barbara Worley went on several of these trips, and that experience led them to search for a mission that might match their gifts. Joe Phelps, a former neighbor of the Worleys and the pastor at Church of the Savior, a mission church of Highland Park, had been working with Dr. Ruben Juarez in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico, across from Eagle Pass. Joe directed Fred and Barbara to Chuck and Nancy Kinzler, the leaders in his church's Mexico mission. Fred and Barbara made their first trip with a Church of the Savior group in January 1994 to dig a water line from the street to the kitchen of a mission church in Colonia Periodista. This was followed by HPBC trips to Periodista to build a playscape in the church yard, joint trips with Highland Park and Church of the Savior to install flooring, build cabinets, and other light construction projects.

In 1996, Mary Bell and Nancy Kinzler, both nurses at Highland Park, saw a need to provide prenatal care for the colonias we were serving. Women in these neighborhoods seldom see doctors during their pregnancies or childbirths, so they started a prenatal medical clinic. This clinic was held monthly in Colonia CROC at Dr. Juarez' church, Iglesia Bautista Gilgal, and expanded to family care. The clinic continued for five years. While nurses provide family medical service to sixty or seventy children and women, other church members conduct Bible-based arts and crafts with the waiting families.

Other construction work continues at the Casa Hogars (house home) that are children's homes and orphanages. Chuck Kinzler and his crews have rebuilt kitchens, laundries and cabinets at two different locations. Now that they've finished the interior trim, flooring and cabinets at the Casa Hogar Bethesda, a home for eight handicapped children, their next project is to finish an abandoned residence at a third location for the pastor serving that flock. Once that house is ready, they will start construction on a Clinica Terapia (Therapy Clinic) for these children. Fred Worley is completing the architectural drawings for the clinic and continues working on drawings for River Ministry-related projects in McAllen, Morelos, Piedras Negras and Eagle Pass. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and fluent Spanish of Barbara Worley.

In all, more than 70 Highland Park church members have made mission trips to Mexico, along with nurses, Bible school volunteers and construction workers from other churches during Highland Park's seven-year participation in River Ministry. More help will be needed as the Bethesda Clinica Terapia breaks ground in the spring of 2002.

Boy Scout Troop 410: The First Year

By John Miller

What every church needs is an outstanding Boy Scout Troop. Highland Park Baptist Church is fortunate to be the sponsor of such a troop. On July 2, 1956, the men of the church gathered to discuss sponsoring a troop. There were 15 present for the organizational meeting. After discussing the church's responsibilities and liabilities, the benefits of the scouting program and boys of scouting age in the church who might participate, it was agreed to formally petition the Deacon Board for sponsorship.

On July 5, 1956, J. Fred Jones' letter to the Board named the proposed Institutional Representative, the committee and the scout leaders as follows:

Institutional Representative: Bill Saunders (also Deacon Chair)

Scoutmaster: J. Fred Jones

Assistant Scoutmasters: Herbert Skinner and John Miller

Committee: Courtland Craig,* Chair (Prentice and Randall*)

R. Spencer* (Charlie*)

T. Bean (Randy)

T. Ferguson (Randy and Ricky)

V.L. Montgomery* (Vernon)

Herbert Skinner* (Steve)

Fred Jones* (Jim Fred)

Joe McMordie* (Roy)

Vic Carrington* (Vic)

John Miller* (Mike and Robert)

Bill Saunders* (Billy Frank*)

Lon Fitzgerald (Dennis)

Avery Smith* (Wayne)

Johnson Gault* (Johnson)

Sons' names were not included in Jones' letter; * denotes charter member; other charter members were H. W. Curington and scouts Henry Curington, Bobbie Giddings, Edward Page and Harry Pruett.

The July 8 Deacon Minutes state that the Board recommended approval of the Troop Committee to the church and to the Nominating Committee, which was subsequently approved. Only a few of the organizing committee had sons of scouting age so church families with sons 11 and above were contacted. In doing the paper work for the troop charter, several troop numbers were available. Joe McMordie, a *very* active committee member urged the selection of 410. "It is a number that will stand out in everyone's mind," he said.

In John Lee Smith's February 4, 1957, newsletter he wrote, "A covered dish supper sponsored by the Boy Scout Committee will be held next Monday. There will be presentation of scout charters for both the Boy Scout Troop and the Explorer Post, accompanied by a Court of Honor . . . to give tangible evidence of our wholehearted support of the scouting program and its leadership."

That first year was a year of organizing and learning for the boys and the adults. The boys selected their leaders, divided into two patrols, choose patrol names, selected a troop neckerchief, learned the Scout Oath, worked on advancement and merit badges and began to function as a scout troop.

A month or two after start-up, Scoutmaster Fred Jones resigned his troop position because of work commitments. John Miller reluctantly moved up to Scoutmaster. (He had not had any scouting experience or training and his boys were only ages 3 years and 6 months.)

Monday night meetings were held in the basement, which was an unfinished area -- a huge, dark, cavernous room. The scouts met around a ping-pong table under a couple of bare light bulbs hung from the ceiling on extension cords. In November, at the monthly church business meeting, permission was granted to the Scout Committee to erect partitions, as needed, for use of the scouts. The *lighted* scout room was a vast improvement and gave the scouts more of a sense of "troop esteem."

Like many young couples of the day, the troop was starting with nothing but a dream and was as poor as a "church mouse" (like the church itself); so fundraising was a necessity for 410. There were numerous fundraising projects including painting curb numbers, washing cars and selling various items door-to-door. Those early scouts had a heavy dose of financial and entrepreneurial training. The first purchases were a United States flag and a Troop 410 flag.

Joe McMordie learned from the scout office that the camping equipment used by the local contingent to the National Scout Jamboree was to be sold at bargain prices. Arrangements were worked out with the scout office for an installment purchase to be paid from fundraising activities. Joe also learned of surplus military equipment that was available to scout troops for free. He and John went out to Bergstrom Air Force Base and loaded the back of Joe's station wagon with everything from mess kits, kitchen utensils and pots and pans to a canvas welder's screen -- which became a latrine privacy screen.

There was emphasis on putting the "out" in scouting, the idea being one outdoor activity each month, usually the second weekend of the month. The May '57 outing was to a ranch near the intersection of Hwy 620 and RR 2222. That turned out to be Mother's Day weekend: not a good selection and perhaps an omen for the outing. Herbert Skinner's company lent a bobtail truck for the weekend. Gear and boys were loaded Friday afternoon. They headed out 2222 with Miller driving a truck with at least 17 forward gears and no reverse. On the "big hill," on the old two-lane road, Miller stalled trying to down shift. With boys hollering and cars backing up behind the truck, he finally managed to get the truck moving, in some low gear.

At the ranch, the owner showed them a good campsite. It was large enough to allow the truck to circle since there was no reverse gear. The ranch was a beautiful place with a flowing spring surrounded by lush foliage, some with red stems topped by three feathery leaves. Yep, poison ivy! Everyone got a bad case of poison ivy rash from that outing.

Joe McMordie became Scoutmaster in June. He and others on the committee took the troop to its first-ever summer camp at Camp Tom Wooten, five miles out RR2222, at the junction with today's Loop 360. It was a great week for Troop 410 with campfires, crafts, swimming, canoeing and lots of advancements.

In John Lee's Sept. 25, 1957, newsletter, he wrote, "On September 30, Troop 410 will have completed the first year of its existence at HPBC. Proud of work by scouts and its leaders . . . we extend our congratulations and thanks. Tomorrow night will be Scout Charter review. Joe McMordie, the new Scoutmaster, requests attendance by Scout Committee and all other interested."

Joe McMordie continued as Scoutmaster for 6 years and was the guiding force behind Troop 410's successes, leading it to a position of preeminence in the Capitol Area Council as well as recognition for its sponsoring institution, Highland Park Baptist Church.

What I Like About Highland Park Baptist Church

By the Mission Friends kids

Wesley Russell, 5: Going to music and going to Mission Friends.

Trent Wilson, 5: My big brother, my friends, my mom and grandma.

Catherine Walters, 5½: We get to learn a lot of stuff about Jesus. We get to know about other people we don't know and how to help them.

Andrew Glazener, 5: That there's two playgrounds and that there's enough room for parents' and kids' classrooms.

Abby Osgood, 5: They give us food and we get to play.

Tessa Wilson, 3: Music.

Carter Reed, 5½: It's where I go to school and play outside.

Jonah Smith, 4: Snack and playground.

Laurel Hughes, 3: I like my friends.

Colton Larson, 3: I get to learn with my teacher.

Claire Larson, 5: I like to play with my friends and see my teachers.

Mission Friends, ages 3 to 5, meets Wednesday nights from 6:45 p.m. till 7:15 p.m. during the school year. In 2001-2002, the Mission Friends kids—led by Lynda Brown and Alana Mallard—studied about missionaries in Japan, Indonesia and the United States. Mission Friends appreciates the support of WMU.

Finding the Perfect Spot for Our Church

By Kathleen Perry Miller

The Highland Park and Highland Park West neighborhoods were developed on the northwest edge of Austin for single homes on wooded lots in the early 1950s. By 1951, developer Edgar H. Perry Sr. was seeing his vision of a complete residential neighborhood unfold—lots marked, streets and street signs chosen, sales began.

I first met Mr. Perry when Edgar, his grandson, and I were married in 1951. I'll never forget his description of this business venture. His friends said to him, "Edgar, are you crazy? No one will ever move out that far."

Mr. Perry knew Austin would grow in that direction. To complete the development, he approached the Board of Trustees of the Austin Public Free Schools and arranged a large tract of land on Fairview to become an elementary school. The land behind it—all the way to Parkcrest, which later became Balcones Drive—would be used as a city and neighborhood park and a one-story shopping center facing Hancock from Parkcrest to Fairview.

The only other neighborhood element missing was a church. When Mr. Perry got ready to sell the shopping center area, he realized that it was all he had left in his Highland Park West subdivision. His decision was to give part of the shopping center to a church. In a conversation with U.O. Andrews, he said, "I'll give this property to the church in honor of my wife, Lutie. I'm a Baptist—my letter is at Rockdale—I thought it was already worn out by now. My grandson is a Baptist too, so I'll call Dr. Carlyle Marney at First Baptist Church to donate the land."

In December 1951, Mr. Perry donated the northwest part of the shopping center site to First Baptist Church for a mission. First Church retained Rev. Thomas Pennington by the Mission Committee to head up a northwest community survey and take necessary steps to form a new church.

Jim Sapp, education director of First Church, planned the survey by the members of Dr. White's Bible Class on April 6, 1952. On April 18, Dr. Marney moderated a meeting of interested Baptist neighbors, and the group planned the first worship service for Sunday, April 27, in the Organized Armory, now Camp Mabry.

A sign large enough to be viewed from both Hancock Drive and Parkcrest was placed on the property to advertise the church, the future home of Highland Park Baptist Church.

Mr. Perry supervised and checked his development often. He studied the shopping center site he had offered to First Church, then looked around and found a 3-acre wide and deep tract about one block from the shopping center. He immediately began work to get an option to buy this property, knowing it was a much better piece of property for a church.

This site was past his property, and he would have to negotiate to get it.

Mr. Perry asked First Church if they preferred the new site. They approved, for it was such a perfect site—the building could be set back from the street with plenty of parking and area for growth. I cannot personally visualize the church being built on the first site. Take a look at where Russell's Bakery sits the next time you are in the area.

First Baptist Church and their committees, Highland Park building committee and the deacons moved forward together with the plans and specifications for the building, which were officially approved July, 1954. Financial support was obtained in March 1955. All decisions and planning had the approval of First Baptist Church.

Feb. 20, 1955: Groundbreaking at 5200 Parkcrest for start of construction

August 1955: Building committee petitioned the City of Austin to include the church property in the city limits

March 1956, Easter Sunday: First church service in the new building

April 30, 1961: Highland Park Baptist Church transferred from mission to an autonomous, independent church

Jan. 22, 1963: First Baptist Church transferred warranty deed of "certain lot or parcel" of land, which is the main property, and Highland Park Baptist Church assumed the payment of the balance of promissory note of \$135,000, dated Feb. 13, 1956.

From the beginning and during the years the church was a mission, First Baptist put into Highland Park Baptist Church about \$300,000. We should always be grateful for their support and guidance.

The following donations of land enlarged the west side parking lot by 50 feet and near curb by 10 feet: Harry A. and Dorothy Sandberg on April 23, 1962; George L. and Rozene Smith on April 23, 1962; the estate of Nannie L. and Edgar H. Perry Sr. on Nov. 5, 1962; E.B. and Peggy Baker on Oct. 29, 1964; Jess and Adele Felts on Aug. 9, 1965.

Tohatchi Memories

By LaNell Coltharp

My head and heart are full of joyful memories of Highland Park Baptist Church: the making of lifelong friends, the baptism of my sons, family marriages and spiritual growth through pastors, teachers and irreverent theological discussions.

One of my fondest memories was initiated by Betty Smith, who felt an overwhelming call to do mission work among Native Americans. With the help of Ray Burchette, she found a Navajo Indian mission in Tohatchi, New Mexico, that could use our help.

Thus began a very fulfilling and rewarding love affair for me.

In the summer of 1981, we organized our meals, work groups, Vacation Bible School materials, building materials—and away we went. We were loaded

with dozens of cookies from Ima Gullett and other church members plus a horse trailer filled with barbeque grills, lumber, bedrolls, ice cream freezers and VBS supplies. We ranged from age four to 64—all with an abundance of enthusiasm.

Over the next 14 years, different sizes of groups made that trek to northwest New Mexico 13 times, always welcomed by the Navajo friends we made that first year. It was a rigorous trip and we worked hard; but all of that was overshadowed by the lasting friendships and love we gave and received from so many Navajo families.

God richly blessed me and taught me much about other ways to worship and praise His holy name. I can still hear those Navajo words and beats as we sang those hymns and “Jesus Loves Me” in Navajo. We shared music, Bible verses, meals, basketball games, vehicles stuck in deep mud, Navajo tacos, homemade ice cream (a real treat for them) and evening services under a funeral tent and God’s majestic night sky.

But most of all, we shared love for the Heavenly Father who created all of us and for each other. I treasure those memories.

Thanks be to God and to the Highland Park family for their gifts of money, time and talents in order that I could gain such a rich blessing and share with my Navajo friends.

Becoming Family at Highland Park Baptist Church

By Susan Magee

Two events stand out in my life at Highland Park Baptist Church: the baptism of my son, Robert, and “our” marriage to Jim Magee.

In 1969, my husband, Don Sims, our children Carol and Robert and I moved to Austin with IBM. We found a church home at Highland Park. Robert was 6½ when our family joined and the only one not a church member. But he thought he was because everyone greeted him and welcomed him.

Flash forward to age 16. Robert gave his heart to Christ in a very meaningful experience during church camp led by Joe Phelps. For those young years, Robert felt like a church member, going to Sunday school, camp and skiing at Breckenridge every Christmas break. What a wonderful fellowship the youth of our church had through the '70s—much as it is today.

Joe baptized Robert one beautiful Sunday morning. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Ray Burchette married Jim and me in our chapel. It was a very hot Saturday morning in August 1975. Such a special memory for us and our families: Carol stood up with me, and Robert gave me away and then asked, “Where are we going on our honeymoon?”

So, you see, Robert always felt loved and a part of his church family as well as home family. And, no he did not go to Mexico with us.

Vacation Bible School: In the 1960s and the 1990s

By Janie Patterson

During the 1960s, if you taught Sunday school, you would often teach your class during Vacation Bible School so you would know your pupils very well. I usually taught third grade. Vacation Bible School workers would plan the week's program for each class. All activities would be held in that grade's classroom. The focus of the week was on Jesus and his helpers or God's beautiful world.

Bible school workers for each grade would decide on music, how the Bible story would be told and activities for each period of the day. Sometimes for our class I would get slide shows from the public library on Jesus' parables.

We would also choose the craft activities. One year we studied Jesus' disciples, and we made puppets of the different disciples. Small cereal boxes were painted white and glued to little white cloth robes with space for fingers. The children put on faces and beards on the box heads and decorated the robes. For nature studies, we would go outside and made blue print pictures with a collection of leaves. We also would press flowers between wax paper.

And for refreshments, we would always have cookies and Kool-Aid.

After I retired in 1992, I signed on to be a worker in Vacation Bible School. But oh, how it had changed. The hours were the same: 9 a.m. to noon. The emphasis was still on Jesus and God's wonderful world. But now we had a theme such as Bible lands, country, hot air balloon, safari, treasure island, castles, to name a few. The children were led from one activity to another. One or two people were in charge of the Bible story for all classes. Others were in charge of craft activities, outside playtime or music. Shepherds would lead the children to each activity.

I worked in the snack department. No cookies and Kool-Aid for these children. Our snacks had to fit into the theme. And the children had to make them in the 20-minute time period—a challenge to choose food activities for 3-year-olds to fifth graders.

For the food snack for Holy Lands, grapes were popular, especially if they were green. It was hard to find something made with barley that the children would eat. I usually made gingerbread cookies to decorate. They loved to spread icing and add colored sugar. I made camels for Bible Lands and horses, cows and pigs for our country theme along with hot biscuits to go with the butter that the children made by shaking up milk in a jar. We made island cupcakes, castles from graham crackers and pretzel puzzles. We usually served water because the children were thirsty when they came in from play, and also it was easy to clean up if it was spilled.

Some of the food activities presented in the Bible school materials worked very well. And some were not geared for such large groups or short preparation times. After the snack department workers decided on the foods, a list was sent to parents to bring needed items.

In the 1960s, we had 10 to 15 or 20 students. In the 1990s, more than 100 children would come to the snack activities. You got to know a lot of children in these 1990 Bible schools, and it was a joy to watch them grow and mature and then come back as helpers to guide the little ones from one activity to the next.

A Safe Place to Learn About God

By Koleta Carlile

The first time I saw the descriptive phrase advertising our church as "a safe place to learn about God," I thought it a little strange. After all, we had never had troops attacking, found bombs or other destructive weapons within our sanctuary. We had never been told we were in danger if we worshiped our God.

However, the more I repeated the words, "a safe place," the clearer the meaning became. I started to dwell on man's inhumanity to man in the name of religion. We, in the twentieth century, have been just as guilty of destructive behavior to our fellow man as the Crusaders were in ancient history.

All of us can remember the class bully in school and the fear we felt. With shame, we can probably also remember the one who didn't quite fit in and our part in the communal treatment. We can remember our disobedience to parents and teachers and maybe our lack of respect for the elderly.

When we grew up and became part of the faith community, how many of these childhood behaviors did we bring with us? How often did we wear our masks to church in order to be accepted? Did the mask of prejudice seem right in church because we could always find a verse of scripture to qualify our beliefs?

Did the mask of racial injustice give us the right to stand on our church steps and deny a black person entry? What about the diseased? Surely God wouldn't expect us to touch them. So we used the mask of judgment to believe that somehow these pitiful people were feeling the wrath of God because of their behavior. Sadly, I think that all of us have been a part of some of these thoughts and we have hidden behind our masks because we have been ashamed.

While we were searching for a church home after moving to Austin in 1986, a friend told us to visit Highland Park. She told of being pregnant and alone after her husband left and how the people of Highland Park had taken her in and helped her recover her self-esteem. She talked about the love that was shown to her and the judgment that was not. After visiting several churches, we decided to see for ourselves this different kind of Baptist church.

Now, 15 years later, we can say without reservation that this is a loving congregation. We have felt the presence of a compassionate group of people who walked with us on a long journey when our son, Kelly, died. We were part of an AIDS care team supported by Highland Park, one of the first Baptist care teams in Austin. We were allowed to heal with the balm of inclusiveness when so many of our friends were feeling excluded.

Because of a wonderful happening called Man-I-Fest, our sons can feel a sense of belonging to this church family. Our grandchildren have been welcomed into participation at VBS and children's camp.

We have learned that is impossible to love and judge at the same time. We have learned that we have valuable gifts. We have learned that we are pilgrims on a journey, and there is still much to discover. Most of all, we have learned that Highland Park is a safe place to learn about God.

Thanks be to God for this wonderful gift of safe place.

Second Stanza Action

By Deborah Denney Douglas

Although I can't be certain, it's likely that on that November Sunday morning in 1962 when my mother and father and I walked down the aisle to join Highland Park Baptist Church, it was during the second stanza of the closing hymn of invitation.

To me, a child of ten, it seemed that Baptists always made their move to the front of the church during the second stanza. If you wanted to make a public profession of faith that Jesus Christ was your Lord and Savior and seek baptism, you didn't hear Him earnestly, tenderly calling until the second stanza. (Well, maybe you heard, but you didn't walk.) The same was true if you wanted to repent of your sins or give testimony or just rededicate your life to Christ. That's right. Second stanza. That's when all the action took place. Or, so it seemed to me.

The second stanza rule was only one of many, many spoken and unspoken ways of doing things that I saw as a child, growing up in the Baptist church. These practices ranged from things as trivial as where my mother parked her car on Sunday morning to observances as sacred as Communion and Holy Baptism. All of it was important, though, from the trivial to the sacred, because of its predictability. Or, more accurately, its reliability.

Highland Park Baptist Church was a reliable anchor for me during my childhood and young adult years. When other parts of my life were confusing, particularly during my 1960s teenage years, I always knew what to expect of church. Mom was always going to park on the west side of the church near the mesquite tree, there was always going to be a closing hymn of invitation, and folks were always going to break for the front during the second stanza.

The First Youth Revival

By Kathleen Perry Miller

Highland Park Baptist Church had been using Highland Park Elementary School since September 1952 for our Sunday school and worship services. The church membership felt we needed to reach more families, so at the July 16, 1953, business meeting, we decided to look into a Youth Revival and to pursue the possibilities. We had no budget for a revival then, so the members involved would handle expenses. Since Edgar and I suggested it, we would be chairmen.

I had a very dear friend from high school in Beaumont, Texas, who was the biggest influence to all the teenagers in our Baptist church. I got in touch with him, finding out that he had four years of experience directing music for youth revivals. So Wayne Philpott, "well known evangelistic singer from Waco," and his friend Rev. Ross Coggins, "dynamic pastor from Denton," did the preaching. They both stayed at our home during the revival.

The youth members, our committee and other volunteers hand-delivered fliers to every residence in our community inviting all youths to attend the Highland Park Baptist Church outdoor revival at Highland Park Elementary School at 4900 Fairview. The revival was held in 1953 from Aug. 12 through Sunday, Aug. 16, with services each evening at 8 p.m. and youth fellowship at 9:15 p.m.

The evening services were well attended by a lot of our members, and after the service we had a fellowship of fun: Philpott's dramatic skits and comic dialogues involving everyone, music and singing, refreshments. The huge ice cream banana splits and many desserts done by the membership were the most fun. The fellowships were held on my terrace and in member homes. Meeting new neighbors was great, and the attendance grew double almost every night. The most impressive feelings were the closeness of the youth in sharing, the closing circle singing and inspired prayers.

As I recall, there were about 30 attending by Saturday night. The first revival of Highland Park as a youth revival was considered a huge success—especially by the youth.

There were two "reconsecrations," and many families joined our church as a result of their youth wanting to be part of Highland Park Baptist Church.

Womanfest: Oct. 19–21, 2001

By Marilyn Sutch

The Balcones Springs Executive Retreat and Conference Center provides a spectacular view of a part of the Hill Country that is both delightful to the eye and soothing to the soul. Since Womanfest's beginning in 1987, this was the fifth

time in a row that it had been held at this center as a spiritual retreat for the women of Highland Park Baptist Church.

The settings of the building and the surrounding fields, along with the beautiful weather, were a welcome greeting to those weary of the fast pace of daily living. I arrived at the center with a feeling of letting go and a sense of peace to the inner being. An expectation of what was to come by a person unfamiliar with this retreat was met with the slight wariness of a skeptic who wanted spiritual renewal but did not know if it could be achieved.

The leaders thoroughly and creatively planned the retreat, and activities built on activities, challenging us from the beginning to re-examine and renew our faith, to become conscious of what we believe and why we believe it. What is our faith, and what does it challenge us to do? Where and how are the elements of faith, hope and love connected? These were powerful questions we confronted during this short time.

The labyrinth was a personal journey of prayer and meditation, of confronting oneself and one's faith at 11 stations set up to facilitate our journey. For many, this was a time of overwhelming spiritual renewal and love.

"Building on Wisdom" and "Challenging Today" were the themes for the retreat. Hymns, prayers, sessions, songs, games, silent auctions, "wearing spiritual glasses" to two movies, the karaoke, nature walks, outdoor sports and good food combined to make this retreat very special, satisfying all expectations and providing a true priesthood of the believers.

The leaders were Emily Yeager and Pam Benson Owens with Rev. Cheryl Hill, Mary Wilson and Pam Benson Owens as facilitators and a cast of many who provided an incredible journey.

Conversations about WMU at Highland Park

With Janie Patterson, Joyce Skinner, Rachel Flake and Bettie Porter

Janie Patterson: The Golden Moment in the church bulletin said that on Nov. 15, 1954, the first Women's Missionary Union meeting was held at this church and was organized by Elsie Foscue and Beulah Smith.

A welcome folder with Brother Oliver's picture on it that I saved from 1959 when I joined Highland Park says the "WMU meets weekly."

Joyce Skinner: For a while, we tried to do circles, where there was a meeting every week.

Janie: G.A.'s started in the 1960s and Ernestine Rutland was in charge. G.A.'s was different then, because the girls had several steps to achieve, and each step had different Bible verses to learn. For instance, the verses for Maiden were Isaiah 53:6 and Luke 19:10.

Rachel Flake: The steps were Maiden, Lady in Waiting, Princess, Queen, Queen with a Scepter and Queen Regent.

Janie: I was a reviewer for the G.A.'s, and I listened to the girls' Bible verses. I saved a program from a G.A. Coronation Service on May 13, 1964. Maiden was Diane Dillard, Teresa Denney, Jacqueline Dyer and Gayle Manning; Lady in Waiting was Kathy Brown, Peggy McGee, Debbie Satterwhite and Becky Satterwhite; Princess was Celia Bishop; and Queen was Lesley Beresford. And David Porter was the announcer.

Rachel: The Christmas Angel Tree for the Salvation Army started as a WMU project about 1997 and is now a G.A.'s project. It has taught them a lot about missions. Donna Reisenbigler and Fran Hatten are the G.A. leaders now.

Janie: In the 1970s our name changed to Baptist Women, and in the 1990s it changed to Women on Mission.

A folder from 1976 listed some things we did, such as Week of Prayer, layettes for Brackenridge Hospital and diapers, and a 1982-1983 folder listed the prayer calendar, Week of Prayer and mission study.

We used to have a yearly luncheon with Agudas Achem—we'd alternate hosting with them, and our Christmas tea for foreign students started in the early 1960s.

Joyce: The International Wives Coffee was a wonderful thing. All the wives would come here and see others from their own country and visit with them. All the wives just loved it.

Bettie Porter: During the 1990s, many of the international wives went to work, so fewer wives came to the coffee. Norma Jean Anderson taught a group of Japanese ladies, and she would always bring a group to the coffee.

Joyce: We've done the Christmas Stockings for the Baptist Community Center since year one, probably beginning in the late 1960s. We've done as many as 80 in one year. We do 50 now.

Every May and November we have a food drive for the Baptist Community Center and the Texas Baptist Children's Home in Round Rock.

Bettie: When we stack the cans of food that our church donates, every tenth can goes in a basket for the children's home.

And the WMU does so many other things. At one time we sent Bibles to the Seafarer's Union. We support the River Ministry in Mexico and the Baptist Community Center on East 2nd Street. This year we began supporting the Austin Children's Shelter. Janie always has wonderful programs for our meetings, and last fall she invited a speaker from the Austin Children's Shelter. During the talk we learned that the shelter had a poinsettia sale as a fundraiser. So now our church buys our Christmas poinsettias from the shelter.

Janie: We had a Mission Tour in 1982 led by Joe Phelps and went to several places, including St. James Church, the Austin Baptist Center and the Soup Kitchen. It was a real inspiration because I got to actually see some of the work that we supported.

2002 officers of WMU are: Bettie Porter, president; Joyce Skinner, treasurer; Donna Reisenbigler, secretary; Janie Patterson, program chairperson; and Rachel Flake, mission program chair. WMU meets in the church parlor the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.; no meetings are scheduled in June or July.

Highland Park's First Ordination to Ministry

By Barbara Holloway

On Jan. 30, 1983, I was ordained to the ministry. I am looking at my Certificate of Ordination. It is hard to believe it has been almost 20 years ago. My ordination council consisted of Dr. Ray Burchette, Elsie Foscue, Dr. Tom King (Chair), Virginia Musick, Rev. Joe Phelps and Betty Smith. Many of you who are newer to the church may read this account and not know any of these people except for Virginia Musick. She is the only remaining member of my council at Highland Park.

The day of my ordination is forever etched in my spirit. Dr. Ray Burchette, our minister, preached my ordination sermon. I have listened to the tape several times through the years. I am overwhelmed with that same sense of God's presence and great outpouring of love. When I listen, I take off my shoes; I am on Holy Ground. Shirley Tucker, with her beautiful, clear voice sang "Lord Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace." Tom gave the charge for ministry. Virginia and Joe said prayers. Milton presented me with the Bible, my ordination certificate and a holy kiss.

God called me to serve Him. You believed and affirmed that call. That has made all the difference. Ray read this poem at the beginning of his sermon:

The Road Not Taken

By Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted
wear;
Though as for the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to
way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

The forked road, the yellow leaves, the wood: all symbols. The forked road for me meant leaving one call to answer another. From the time I was small, I felt the call of God in my life. My desire was to be a missionary nurse. When I was in junior high, I read an article in the Amarillo paper about a nurse named Barbara Johnson. That happened to be my maiden name as well. She was leaving for the mission field in Africa. I cut out that article, put it in my Bible and prayed for her daily. When I finished high school, I went to nursing school. When I

finished nursing school, I became an intensive care nurse. When I married Milton, I went into the mission field—at home to raise two beautiful daughters, Teresa and Lorinda. When they went to school, I went back to school and back into nursing. I asked God, do I stay in nursing? Do I follow a deep yearning to become a chaplain? That was the fork in the road.

The yellow leaves represented turning forty years old and taking the road less traveled. I became a chaplain at Seton Medical Center in May of 1982 and was ordained the following January. It was a new beginning for me. It was a new beginning for Highland Park as my church family and for Seton.

Highland Park had ordained deacons; I was one of them. But Highland Park had never ordained a person called to the office of clergy. Going into the yellow wood represented a maturing faith for me and for you. You took a huge leap of faith with your first ordination. It was a scandal in Southern Baptist tradition to ordain a woman! There were none in Austin. There were five ordained women in Austin that I was aware of. Two were Episcopalian, one was Presbyterian, one was Methodist and then there was me. The *Austin American Statesman* did a feature story on us. A short time after that, the Home Mission Board took a huge leap of faith and asked me to preach in the chapel at the home office in Nashville. Those were years of faith and fear and trembling for all of us. It would not have happened if God had not called, and the people had not said "amen." Faith makes the difference, journeying into the woods in the dark, scary places.

Seton took a leap of faith as well. There were only priests and sisters when I arrived in the chaplain's office. In fact, none of the Daughters of Charity hospitals in the entire southwest region had a protestant chaplain. I "stood out" without a habit or collar in more ways than dress! I laugh when I think back upon those early days. When the department interviewed me, they asked about my faith background. I said, "Well, I am Southern Baptist. I went to a Methodist school of nursing. I got a degree in religion and philosophy from St. Edward's University and went to the Presbyterian Seminary. I did a year of clinical pastoral education at Austin State Hospital." I was not sure if they would hire me or tell me to go back to ASH and find myself!

I honestly think the Chaplain's Department was in a state of shock when they hired me. But then I was too. One of the Catholic priests asked me what I could do. I said, "I can do everything you can do, except I cannot offer the sacraments to Catholics." I can listen to the patient's stories of fear, pain, heartache, longing for wholeness. I can listen to confessions and offer God's words forgiveness. I can pray with patients, hold hands with them in faith, anoint them for healing and give communion to them. I can search with patients who are looking for meaning and purpose in life—which hopefully brings them to encounter God. I can celebrate with parents when a new baby is brought screaming into the world, bless the baby at the naming ceremony and give thanks to God. I can baptize a baby about to die. I can grieve with the dying and remind them of God's presence. I can remind patients, families and staff that giving birth is a holy, unrepeatable moment, that dying is a holy, unrepeatable

moment. God is also present in uncertainty, fear and doubt. God is present in sorting through ethical dilemmas and determining what is best in a bad situation. God is present in determining treatment decisions and forks in the road. God is present when policies are written which address the whole person, body, mind and spirit. God is present at funerals. (I learned, after my ordination, that God was very present when I nervously officiated at my first wedding. The nurse later became the Director of the Heart Transplant Program. Some of you know her.)

It is very important that the voice of God be present in the medical environment. I understood that when I was an intensive care nurse. I was young. I did not know how to minister to the patients and families spiritually. That was when breathing machines were new and dialysis machines were housed in ringer washing machine tubs. I ask the hospital chaplain at our Methodist Hospital in Lubbock to be my role model. I wanted to be with him as he talked with patients and prayed with them. I wanted to learn. That was in the 1960s and 1970s. I told God I was willing to help Him if He would help me. He did. That was the beginning of my yearning to become a chaplain.

Dr. Tom King, chair of my ordination committee, gave three charges to my ministry: Love God first and foremost, and love and serve others as myself. He then mentioned Soren Kierkegaard, who had a flash of wisdom. He said that in our day the task seems to be one of mediocrity. Everyone is interested in how things can be made easier. Kierkegaard said he believed that he had been called to make things harder. And so he did. In an age in which convenience and expedience are the norm, he challenged Christians to make things harder, more difficult, not easier. He said to strive for excellence by facing into the hard places in life and allowing God's presence to minister there. It is a work that goes against the natural inclination. It is the way of Christ. The last challenge Tom gave was to retain a humble perspective on life, "Now we see through a glass dimly. My knowledge now is partial, in eternity it will be whole."

God has called me to walk in places where the nursing angels fear to tread. I have challenged the medical community over and over, sometimes feeling like the lonely voice in the wilderness. Ray in his sermon encouraged me. He said, "When your spirit is low, when you say to yourself, 'What am I doing here?,' when there are misunderstandings, even opposition and no visible appreciation, the conviction of God's call will keep you hanging in." He reminded me that ministry is always to people. Ministry is always to the total person, body, mind and spirit. Those were the reasons I felt called to be a chaplain. The medical community frequently forgets that God is God and medicine is not.

All of our modern medicine and machinery are instruments. It takes a great deal of wisdom to know when those instruments are a benefit and when they become a burden to the patient and family. I take prayer very seriously and encourage patients and families to do the same. To take an honest look at one's illness, one's expectations of medicine and doctors, one's expectations and limitations of self and family, and one's faith and values in life go against the

natural inclination. It is the hard work that Kierkegaard addresses. Most of us really do want a Santa with a bag of tricks who will treat us and make us get well quick. Such naiveté can lead us beyond our limits as human beings. It can also lead the medical community into playing like God. I trust that when we are honest before God, those threads of truth in ourselves and in the medical community will be evoked. The benefits of what medicine can legitimately offer will then outweigh the burdens to the patient, the family and society. I trust that those threads of truth are tied with faith.

In my ministry, I have served on the Medical Ethics Committees at Seton and Brackenridge for several years. I have served on the Patient Right's Committee as a founding member since 1989. Our legal council and I wrote the first Patient Bill of Rights. Today, I am serving on our Regional Ethics Council where several Daughters' of Charity hospital systems are represented. We learn to apply The Religious and Ethical Directives and teach them in our own systems through the Ethics Committees. The opportunities to serve are numerous. Four years ago, I helped to establish our Palliative Care Program at Seton. It has been a long and tedious journey of bringing cases too numerous to count before the Ethics Committees for consultation and review mostly regarding difficult end of life issues. We now have a more hopeful way of serving our patients and families when the burdens are great and the benefits are few. It remains hard work getting the doctors, patients and families on the same discussion page regarding treatment decisions that not only affect the quantity of life but more importantly the quality of life.

For the last 10 years, I have worked with the Episcopal Seminary and the Clinical Pastoral Educational Program. I have been the clinical supervisor at Seton for seminary students who do a summer internship to learn about ministry to the sick. It has been a great joy to do this. It pulls together everything I may know about ministry to the body, mind and spirit and hopefully sows some seeds of spiritual formation in future ministers. It is a humbling experience and one I would never have dreamed of doing when I first began my ministry.

Looking back over 20 years of ministry, I can say the road has been tough and tender on my bare feet. I took off my shoes when I was ordained. I knew it was Holy Ground. I have been into the yellow wood where I knew not. It has been fearfully tread with uncertainty many times. It has been deeply rewarding and almost unbelievable. Journeying with the patients and families and journeying with the medical community is sometimes like being a foreign missionary in the lives of people—but just down the road from the church I love.

You, Highland Park, have spiritually feed me, believed in me, and supported me, and lifted me up so that I could run and not be weary and walk and not faint most of the time. There just aren't enough words to spell out how gracious you are. I love being at home here with you. My prayer is that we shall always consider together the more difficult journey with the Lord and decide to take it. There are so many complex spiritual concerns facing the Church at large today. It calls for us to be strong in Spirit, not faint-hearted or mediocre in our ministry at Highland Park. Each of us is called to ministry wherever we are,

whatever we are doing whether at home, at church or at work. I see ministry at work in my own family. Milton faces the tremendously difficult task of helping others to understand economics—that our faith, our values, our hopes and dreams and our work get expressed in action and monetary terms. Teresa's ministry gets expressed every day as she teaches the third grade. I'm amazed to watch her with little students. She is helping them believe in themselves with her compassionate love and tender care. Damon expresses his faith in action—medical emergency action—as he directs and teaches others how to save lives. Lorinda believes in justice and truth and is willing to go to court to try to prove it. She works for a law firm that does all of Seton's legal work. Seton keeps her very busy, but probably not out of trouble!

Highland Park, you have been our family church for 26 years. Ray, you are a spiritual giant in the eyes of our family. You were there for us as a young family. You saw us into our middle years. You encouraged our children all the way through Baylor and into their professions. You dared to risk leading the way for my ordination when it was not the popular thing to do.

Highland Park, you have been God's beacon of spiritual care and growth. It is very exciting to be celebrating 50 years with you. You have a firm foundation. You have spiritually raised many individuals and families and you have raised several ministers.

To God be the Glory!

Growing Up at Highland Park Baptist Church

By Cindy Montgomery Killingsworth

It's hard to believe that it's been 50 years since a small group of people started meeting in Highland Park Elementary school to study God's word. It is easier to realize the time span when I look in the mirror and realize that was about when I started the first grade. There are many sweet, sweet memories that flash through my brain when I think of growing up in and with Highland Park Baptist Church. It's hard to list just a few and it's beginning to be hard to separate specific events. Time does have a way of altering the facts in our memories; but I will try to share a few glimpses of pictures that are left there.

I remember walking into the halls of my elementary school on a Sunday morning with my mom and dad, Minnie and Vernon "Slats" Montgomery and my brother Vernon "V.L." My Sunday school classroom was a long table in the hallway. I remember sitting in folding chairs in the school cafeteria (where I would be eating lunch for the next five school days), singing songs led by a sweet man with a commanding voice—Tommy Anderson. Memories flood on about the many children's choir rehearsals where you learned music and voice techniques and memorized all the words to seemingly every song in the hymnal. At seven years of age I had no idea this talented man and his lovely wife would play and sing at my wedding. There is also the memory of a special, very young

man that everyone called John Lee. I guess I was instructed to say Reverend or Pastor Smith but he was such a warm, energetic young man that even we children felt comfortable around him. I remember sermons that outlasted my ability to sit still and had words that were much longer than I could spell; but I never grew tired of being in his presence.

The time came for our church to build its very own building. There were trips to the site to see what they did this week. I learned every nook and cranny of that building. There were great hiding places and the most beautiful and biggest sanctuary that I had ever seen. I have vivid memories of watching my father drive one of his highway equipment machines and putting in the new parking lot and our family, along with others, planting grass and shrubs.

I had several meetings with Pastor Smith concerning my ability to understand what salvation meant and church doctrine. These would take place at his home with Peggy and the kids all around. They were a wonderful family, and, even at my young age, I grew to love them deeply. My parents' love and respect for this young pastor never changed. These meetings led to my being the second person to be baptized in our new building. I don't remember who all was baptized that day but I do remember that Becky Carrington went ahead of me, because we were in alphabetical order, and I remember embarrassing my older brother by making too much noise and splashing too much water while exiting the baptism.

Of course, there are those unforgettable friends, like Sally Spencer, Herbie Skinner and Linda Boothe, whom you cried with, laughed with and got in lots of trouble with. I remember the time Sally, her brother Charlie and I got in big-time trouble for finding our way on to the roof, running helter-skelter, making racket and scaring the ladies holding a meeting down below our noisy feet.

I have a very lasting and painful memory of one of the many youth trips that I accompanied my parents and older, teenage, brother on. I had just turned nine years old and my parents and John Lee and Peggy sponsored a youth trip to San Marcos. Not long into the trip, things started to get rough for our whole family. My mother burned her fingers cooking for the crew. My brother fell out of a boat getting out at the dock and managed to get a very large concrete scrape that ran down his chest and stomach. Then during one infamous baseball game, John Lee managed to knock a hole through the window of our car (it was parked on the opposite side of the building from where the game was being played) and separate my father's ribs, with his elbow, while aggressively running past first base. The topper of this painful and costly trip was when one of the teenage girls, showing another girl how not to swing the bat like a sissy, forcefully clobbered me in the face with her mighty swinging bat. We went home, after an emergency trip to the hospital, with breaks, scrapes, burns and contusions. But we were present on the next youth excursion.

I remember church services, choir practices, Bible drills, training union, youth retreats and Sunday school. I remember Mom in the church kitchen and in the choir loft. I remember Daddy staying late for deacon's meetings and sitting next to me in church.

One of my most wonderful memories has to do with Paul Manning and Billie Scott and the wonderful plays and productions they allowed me to participate in. We had deep, meaningful, spiritual, theatrical plays and "just for fun" talent (I use the word talent with much imagination) shows. There are mental pictures of my mother playing "Minnie Pearl" and my "to be" husband singing and playing the guitar. I can see my dad (along with Sally's, Herbie's and Linda's dads) wearing bib, bonnet and baby bottle while being embarrassed and serenaded by his daughter's version of "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby." It was fun. No one booed. How kind our church family was to us.

Our small church body was more like a family than any church I have known. It was a wonderful place to grow up in. Our life revolved around the events and the people. John Lee left to go where God was leading him, other pastors and choir leaders followed, but a loving family of believers stayed on and worked and shared and grew and loved together. Ray Burchette married my husband, Roger Killingsworth, and me in that most beautiful sanctuary. Then we moved away as the Vietnam War called my Navy man into active duty. Writing this makes me reflect and causes me to stop once again and thank God for what he did 50 years ago that led to a loving church and family home where a little girl could grow up.

55 Plus

By John Miller

The Senior Adult committee, an obscure, inactive, name-only committee, got a jump-start in early 1998. Koleta Carlile, in talking with Bob Ballance, expressed concern about the needs of the senior adults of the church, about one-third of the membership. Bob concurred and encouraged her to go forward with gathering information and ideas for developing a program. "Be sure and submit a budget request. Without being in the budget, you're not recognized," was his closing comment.

Koleta, through several phone calls, learned that Tallowood Baptist in Houston had *the* premier seniors program. In conversations with Jack and Joyce Woods, the groundwork was laid for a trip to Tallowood. Nell Payne, Nan Hall, Bob Carlile and John Miller were recruited into the trip. In early February, the group visited Tallowood, where they met with Patsy Zailer and members of their Senior Council. Their information and suggestions proved invaluable in establishing Highland Park's program. Subsequently, Koleta, Jack and Joyce, Nan and Nell attended a seniors' seminar sponsored by the Baptist General Convention where they gathered additional material for Highland Park's program.

On April 6, 1998, a kick-off party was held with the Austin Banjo Band providing the entertainment. They were great! Bob Ballance spoke about the needs and opportunities for our seniors. Jack Woods distributed a survey form on interests and activities. The top categories were: travel – 23 percent; social – 14 percent; spiritual enrichment – 10 percent; sharing care – 10 percent. With the positive responses, it was a go!

A charter bus trip went to Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park. In short order, jointly with the Senior Singles, a covered dish luncheon was held with an entertaining talk, "The Joy of Reminiscing" by Ann Rodriquez. In the fall of 1998, a budget request was submitted and the following were recommended for nomination to the Senior Adult Committee: Koleta Carlile and John Miller, co-chairs, Bob Carlile, Nan Hall, Joyce and Jack Woods and Nell Payne. Now 55+ is recognized!

The 1998–1999 activities included: a charter bus trip to Lost Maples State Park for fall foliage; a Christmas holiday visit to the Governor's mansion with a stop at the Republic of Texas Museum and a holiday buffet luncheon at the Renaissance Hotel; a Saturday breakfast at the church and Greg Gregory's slide show of his bike tour through Austria; and another charter bus trip, this time to the Bush Presidential Library at College Station.

How do you top a kick-off year like '98-'99? Hard to do, but 1999-2000 started with a Back To School Party masterminded by Jack Woods. Activities included a grade school photo contest, a spelling bee, kid costumes, hopscotch and other childhood fun. December was a bus trip to Bethlehem—in Burnet, Texas. January was a trip to Miracle Farms, a rural environment for troubled kids near Brenham. February was a potluck luncheon following Sunday worship to get to know Steve and Cynthia Lucas, with entertainment by our Men's Quartet. April was a bus tour to enjoy Fayette County's painted churches.

A new endeavor was introduced in early 1999, an educational program under joint sponsorship of 55+ and the Family Life committee. Called "A Family History Study," it consisted of four Wednesday evening sessions on genealogical information, techniques and research, and doing family/oral history.

The year 2000-2001 brought a new dimension to 55+: the Reverend Jill Spruce, Associate Minister of Spiritual Formation. Among Jill's many responsibilities was staff liaison to 55+. In addition to the travel and fellowship, we began to look at other needs of our senior members. A November sandwich supper had the Austin Banjo Band entertaining with their toe-tapping tunes. Jill led a discussion concerning our desires for future events and on the focus of the group. March was the first over-nighter bus tour for two very busy, fun filled days in Galveston. A Saturday evening in June found 55+ gathering for an evening of music and dessert. The Fishers of Men, a six-voice men ensemble, including our own Bob Carlile, sang a variety of numbers with an emphasis on Southern Gospel.

In 2001, Jill initiated the Open Door Ministry, a ministry designed to reach out to friends and members of our congregation who are unable to come to worship services because of a temporary or permanent decline in their physical

health. The 55+ group enthusiastically embraced the program with its support. Currently, 19 from the 55+ age group help with the Open Door Ministry.

2001-2002 has been and will be a full and active year, led by chair LaNell Coltharp. A Sunday evening sandwich supper with entertainment by the Men's Quartet was the September kickoff event. A December return visit to Bethlehem in Burnet, Texas, followed by the Vanishing Texas River Cruise to Lake Buchanan in February were the "on the road again" events. A new feature begun in October was a "brown bag lunch" program. Following lunch Lela Jane Tintzman, photographer extraordinaire, presented a beautiful slide show, Images of Texas, showing the many facets of Texas flowers, wildlife and scenery. An encore presentation was held in March with slides of her travels in China, a fascinating look at another culture and beautiful scenery. In June, 55+ travels to the Bob Bullock Museum of Texas History, currently featuring a special Davy Crockett exhibit.

The mission statement of 55+ is to organize and facilitate activities for and minister to the age 55+ members of Highland Park Baptist church.

The objective of 55+ is to promote fellowship, education and service, both within and outside the congregation and coordinate with other church organizations and committees to minister to senior adults.

The Church Parlor

By Joyce Skinner

The first meeting of the Parlor Committee was held on Sep. 26, 1979. Those present were chairman Rowland Persons, Elsie Foscue, Ben Teague, Jim Sapp, Richard Tucker, Charlotte Pyle, Joyce Skinner and Rev. Ray Burchette.

At the chairman's request, Elsie Foscue briefly outlined the history of the parlor by saying the church's blueprints had set out the location of the parlor to be adjacent to the foyer. Though sparsely furnished, it had been used as a parlor for a short time. Due to the present need, it had been partitioned into two Sunday school rooms and had so functioned until the present time. Joyce Skinner indicated that her Sunday school class had expressed an interest in having a parlor and possibly contributing some to its furnishings.

During general floor discussion, it was suggested that it might be desirable to establish a committee for the approval of any donated furnishings in order to assure continuity of design and style.

The committee envisioned upon completion that the events and functions that the parlor would be used for included Sunday school class, Sunday school class social events, deacon's meetings, staff meetings, weddings and receptions, reception of church visitors each Sunday, bride's room, WMU meetings, family room, funerals, special events, showers and teas.

It was the consensus of the committee that the most suitable and economical location of the parlor was the one set out in the church design.

It was recommended that the physical features of the parlor should be determined by a sub-committee to be selected later in the year. It was also suggested that the church trustees should be represented on the sub-committee.

The committee suggested that Chuck Croslin, chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, be contacted to secure a preliminary cost estimate from Mike Patterson, who was currently working on the parsonage.

It was suggested by Richard Tucker that it might be considered that the church stand for the remodeling cost, which might be handled by the members on a voluntary basis, and that the furnishings come from designated funds from the church membership.

The church budget did not include adequate funds for the parlor but might be included in the 1980 budget.

Jim Sapp noted that three classes would be affected by the proposed parlor: the four- and five-year-old classes and the Couples Class. The Couples Class would move Oct. 7 to the remodeled parsonage, and the preschool can be moved. Present needs could be met. Jim Sapp pointed out that in the future additional space may be needed for young adults and children who are presently meeting in the basement.

Betty Teague stated that the effect on the preschool classes would be minimal as it only involved moving from one classroom to another. Therefore, little cost would be involved.

The committee noted that the building cost would be minimal, as it would only entail removal of one partition and some cabinetry, part of which was portable.

Rowland Persons and his wife Martha removed the partition, and the ceiling was repaired and painted. J.C. Evans, along with one of his sons-in-law, Jerry Winn, did some cabinetry work, and a sink was installed so coffee could be served.

The first gift to the parlor was a large sideboard given by Elizabeth and Floyd Rogers in memory of their parents. We bought lights, which we still have in our parlor upstairs. Rugs were chosen and all of the decorating was done by Ruth Teague, a decorator, chose the rugs and did the decorating. She selected fabric and donated the table and chairs. Several ladies, including several from the Elsie Foscue Sunday school class, did the needlepoint work for the chair seats.

The large table at the side of the present parlor is a beautiful antique, given in honor of Elsie Foscue. Friends of Joe Teague's family donated a large Salinas print to the church in Joe's memory. Gloria Schwertner donated one of the sofas. The early furniture included a blue chair that was given to me on my birthday, and the Parlor Committee purchased the other blue chair and a couple of end tables and a coffee table. Gloria Schwertner donated two of the lamps on the end tables, and the Parlor Committee purchased the big lamp that sits on the writing table by the wall.

A lot of people back in those days, back before the building was remodeled, gave money to the parlor fund in honor of or in memory of certain people. This was one of the most loved places of Elsie Foscue. She just thought it was wonderful.

When the church was remodeled in the 1990s, we were hoping to keep the parlor in its original spot; but I was one of the first ones to agree that the parlor would serve the church better if it were upstairs. The little coffee room nearby really served a good purpose.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege for me over the years to work with the Parlor Committee.

Like Family . . .

By Alana Mallard

I really enjoy seeing the Art and LaNell Coltharp in church.

It reminds me of that Sunday morning in 1990 when I walked to the front of the sanctuary and told John Stanley that I'd like to move my letter to Highland Park Baptist Church. The Coltharps came forward to stand with me as the church members greeted me and welcomed me to Highland Park.

I'm sure Art and LaNell have stood with dozens of new members in their role as host family, but I'm not sure they know how much like family it makes a new member feel.

Highland Park Baptist School

By Tim Larson

One of the great successes, blessings and, indeed, missions of Highland Park Baptist Church is its school.

Started in 1965, Highland Park Baptist School teaches little ones from 2½ up through the first grade, reaching children in their most formative years with the same love, acceptance and grace of Jesus Christ that remains the focus of the church to this day. Recognizing that children are the future, the church and the school's dedicated staff have provided thousands of children with a secure and loving learning environment where their tremendous value before God and country could be confirmed and cherished, and their God-given talents discovered and developed.

If a tree may be judged by its fruit, then this school and its ministry clearly show that God has been with the members of Highland Park Baptist Church.

On Being a 17-Year Member of Highland Park Baptist Church

By Carter Kimble

Dan De Leon came to me with a list of topics that were ideas for what to write about for this publication. The funny thing is, when he handed me the list, I started to circle all of the possible topics that I could write about, and, aside from Womanfest, everything was circled.

I was drawn back at that moment and thought about how this church has served as my home and how thankful I am for this home. The way it makes those that are present within its walls feel safe and secure, almost immortal. A place where you bring your cares and concerns and know that when you think that you have fallen, there are innumerable hands reaching down to pick you up.

I, personally, can't show my appreciation for this church and the home that it has provided for me by using just my simple vocabulary, so I offer this:

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. —Romans 1:8

The memories I have are ones that shall never fade, whether it be leading 12 kindergartners through the halls for VBS, sleepless nights of ridiculous videos and never ending card games, Sunday school teachers like Nancy Larson, two-stepping under the stars at Garner State Park, years of looking up to my brother in the youth group and then finally being there, Christ like figures like Jim Sapp, Roy Kimble, and Peg Ritchie, going to a Baptist camp and all week looking forward to the dance on the last night, the countless number of needy children I get the privilege of ministering to or maybe just something simple, like coming to church on Sunday morning and having the feeling of a family reunion.

In the words of our dear friend Dorothy, and all of her Wizard of Oz crew, there really is no place like home.

Four Generations at Highland Park Baptist Church

By Judy Wilson

Even though Judy and Herb Wilson weren't members at Highland Park Baptist Church on June 6, 1959, they chose the church to be married in because they felt it was such a beautiful church. Since Dr. Carlyle Marney, Judy's pastor at First Baptist, had already moved to North Carolina, they asked Dr. Blake Smith, Herb's lifetime pastor at University Baptist, to officiate in their service. The reception was held in Fellowship Hall, as it was then called.

Then, in January 1970, Herb's folks, Scotty and Herb Wilson, new members at Highland Park, told us we must come and hear this outstanding

preacher, Ray Burchette! We visited one time, Ray came to visit us in our home, and we joined in January 1970. We've been hooked ever since!

We soon became active members of the original Couples Class and the adult choir. In 1976-1977 we even co-directed the 4- and 5- year-olds Little Children's Choir.

Presently, Judy is co-director with Lisa Reed and Brenda Nelson of the Music Makers Choir for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds. The little musicians are Claire and Colton Larson, Abby, Ben and Cade Osgood, Jonah Smith, Trent and Tessa Wilson, Carter Reed, Andrew Glazener, Wesley Russell, Sutton Cameron, Avery Bell, Catherine Walters, Derek Dillard, Claire and Caroline Dilday, Kyndal Brower and Laurel Hughes.

Our daughter, Dee Dee, and son, Mike, have grown up in Highland Park, were baptized and, even like us, were married in the church. Now, Dee Dee and Gregg are active members bringing up their three children, Travis, Trent, and Tessa in our church; and Mike and Emma are doing the same with their baby girl, Kira.

Herb and Judy feel particularly blessed to call Highland Park Baptist Church their church family. Herb, Gregg, and Dee Dee are active deacons, and Herb, many years ago, was the youngest person at that time to be chosen as Chairman of the Board of Deacons at Highland Park Baptist Church! The Wilson family's history and heritage go way back in Highland Park's history!

50th Anniversary Committees

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Steering Committee

Barbara Lightsey and Herb Wilson, Co-Chairpersons

Lorene Denney, Cindy Harrington, Beth Patterson, David Shankle, Fred Worley

Steve Lucas, ex officio

Banners

Mark Bewley, Martha Burns, Bob Carlile, Rachel Flake, Carolyn Miller, Donna

Reisenbigler, Mary Ellen Sullivan, Debra Sylvester, Maureen Turner

Bookmarks

Martha Burns, Frances Brookins, Barbara Cave, LaNell Coltharp, Margaret Hill, Marjorie

Hogland, Mary Lou Jones, Joan Smith, Margaret Stafford

Children's Carnival

Wes Glazener, Mark Walsh, Dee Dee Wilson, and Members of the HPBC Youth Group

Exhibits – Sapp Hall

Koleta Carlile, Michal Hubbard, Michael McAleer, Sarah Phillips, Oletha Sapp, Jim

Wilkinson

History Video

Kathleen Miller

Hospitality

Mary Bell, Cindy Brower, Martha Burns, Martha Fields, Louis Lightsey, Mary Ann

Prince, Mary Ellen Sullivan

Housing

Nita Carney, Carolyn Coleman, Lynn and Jon Fogarty, Laura Johnson, Nancy Lamb,

Joyce Skinner, Maureen and David Turner

Invitations

Marie Boothe, Dottie Denton, Cindy Hughes, Joyce Skinner

Logo

Mark Bewley, Rachel Flake, Louann O'Bannion

Memory Book

Maryann Fisher, Alana Mallard, Kathleen Miller

Name Tags

Marie Boothe, Nancy Hilgers, Sarah Macias

Proclamations

Winston Cave, Art Coltharp, Paul Hilgers

Program, Saturday, April 20

Dan De Leon, Eloise Ellis, Larry Lake, Jim Schwertner, Jon Smith, Bill Sullivan

Time Capsule

Holly Hungerford, Oletha Sapp, Mandy Tyler

Transportation

Rodney Macias, Jim Nuckols, Rusty Pence

Tickets

Frances Derden, Susan and Jim Magee, Carolyn and John Miller, Toni Kay Osgood, Joan and Gene Smith, Joyce Woods

Worship, Sunday, April 21

Michael Bishop, Dottie Denton, Barbara Holloway, Carter Kimble, Jennifer Smith, John Stanley

Special thanks to individual members, Sunday school classes and friends of Highland Park Baptist Church who so generously donated to the 50th Anniversary Designated Fund and to the following:

Aaron's Floral Couture
Dell Jewish Community Campus
Design Electric
Henna Chevrolet
Java Jazz
Pok-e-Jo's Catering
Randall's
Sir Speedy
Wilshire Park Baptist Church, Dallas
Highland Park Baptist Church Office Staff:
Diane Baker, Brenda Hammond, Odette Pantoja