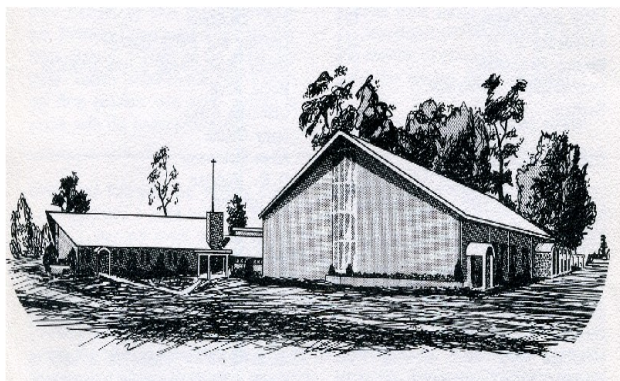


MEMORIAL PARKWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST



**50TH HOMECOMING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2006**

Acknowledgments

This booklet was made possible because of the excellent record keeping of *Neal Milam*. The elders and staff hope that you enjoy this gift and encourage you to pause and thank God for any blessings you have received through your contact with this congregation of His people.

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Blevins-Mastin-Thomas Mansion

A Brief History

Memorial Parkway church of Christ has experienced 50 years of service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Since its establishment in 1956, Memorial Parkway has been dedicated to the spread of the gospel of Christ and the edification of its saints. It is good for us to reflect on our past and press on to our future.

The congregation has come a long way since the time it first met as the Northside church of Christ in the auditorium of the Madison County Bible School in October of 1956 with W.E. (Chick) Albright preaching the inaugural sermon. In 1957, the church bought its present property and began meeting for worship in the Thomas House the following year. The name was changed to Memorial Parkway church of Christ. The first elders and deacons were selected in 1957. An auditorium and education wing were constructed in 1959 with N. B. Hardeman holding a meeting to open the new structure. The current auditorium was built in 1964 along with additional classroom space, and the previous worship facility was transformed into a fellowship hall.

The real story of Memorial Parkway cannot be told by bricks and mortar. It is the story of countless lives touched and changed by the gospel of Christ. The church reached its height in attendance in the early seventies. Some things that contributed to this were: active visitation program, personal work classes, Bible classes, Vacation Bible School, bus ministry and service groups.

As Memorial Parkway continues through the twenty-first century, our prayer is that we increase *“in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.”*

Located in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 13 township 3, range 1 west, the Blevins-Mastin residence stood as a reminder of the old plantation South. Specifically, the architectural details were of the Federal Era, revealed especially by a two-story box-like appearance. On each end of the house were two chimneys, constructed of brick that were perhaps made by slaves. The interior of the home retained much of its plain and delicate trim, predominant in many Madison County manor houses prior to 1835. The attic exhibited a display, untouched by modern carpentry, of early 19th century wooden beam construction. The home was, indeed, well-preserved.

The land upon which the structure was built was first purchased by John M. Leake from the Federal Government on August 24, 1809. In 1827, John Blevins probably built the mansion on the property and received title to it the following year from Leake for the sum of \$6,000.00. This transaction included not only the entire southwest quarter of section 13, but also the southeast quarter of section 14, and the north half of the northeast quarter of section 23, for a total of 400 acres.

In the latter 1820's, Blevins became indebted to John Leake in the amount of \$4,500.00. Subsequently, Blevins deeded his plantation in trust to Byrd Brandon with the stipulation that if the debt could not be satisfied, the plantation would be sold at public auction. Unfortunately, Leake died in 1830, but the debt was eventually paid in the early 1830's, according to Leake's executor, R.B. Eldridge.

Notwithstanding the fact that Blevins, with Brandon's help, had paid his indebtedness to John Leake, the plantation was sold to Francis Turner Mastin II on September 4, 1833, for the identical price Blevins had paid for it five years earlier. This action was perhaps taken because Blevins was fearful of another economic calamity, adversely affecting his ability to hold clear title to his mansion and adjoining tracts.

The new owner of the Blevins place, Captain Francis T. Mastin II, was a wealthy planter, born in Virginia about 1782. In 1806, he married Arbela Hoge in Virginia and the couple had 5 children: William J., Mary, Francis (Frank) T. III, James H., and Gustavus. In 1815 while on the way to Tennessee, Mastin's wife died at Fincastle, Virginia. Wishing not to place any unnecessary burden upon his children, Mastin left them at his father-in-law's home in Mount Pleasant, Tennessee, before coming to Huntsville.

A veteran of the Creek Indian War, Mastin was already well acquainted with the Huntsville and Alabama region. About 1823, he married a second time to Ann Elizabeth Caroline Levert. Only one son was born to this union, Dr. Claudius H. Mastin, who eventually became medical director on the staff of General Beauregard, C.S.A., for the Army of the Mississippi during the Civil War.

Shortly after Francis T. Mastin II married Ann Levert, he moved into a home on Williams Avenue, believed built by a close relative. By this time, Mastin's children were reunited with him in Huntsville and lived in his household until they married.

Captain Mastin undoubtedly used the old Blevins place as a farm and probably stayed there from time to time. He referred to it in his will as part of his land holdings west of the basis meridian line.

In 1865, Mastin, who was then in his 80's, died as the result of a fall from the rear upstairs window of his Williams Avenue home. Thereafter, the Blevins place became the property of Captain Mastin's son Frank. Upon his death in 1873, his wife Eliza Jane and the children became the owners of the homestead.

In 1886, Eliza Jane Mastin's children released their interest in the Blevins home to her. On November 8, 1897, she passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Caroline O'Fallon, in St. Louis, Missouri. In her will, the Blevins-Mastin mansion was given to her daughter, Eliza P. Mastin. In turn, she sold it to William J. Mastin in 1905.

William J. Mastin died in 1914, whereby the home became the property of his son, Dr. Theophilus L. Mastin, a local physician.

Three years later, Dr. Mastin mortgaged the house but was not able to satisfy the mortgage and so the house was auctioned on September 30, 1922. The R.W. Rison Banking Company placed the highest bid and consequently owned it until 1941 when the company was liquidated. In the liquidation proceedings, the home was sold to Dr. James E. Whitaker that same year.

After World War II, Dr. Whitaker conveyed the property to Kenneth and Carl Thomas, the latter of which bought Kenneth's half interest in 1950. In 1957, Carl Thomas sold the home with five and one half acres to the Northside church of Christ, later known as the Memorial Parkway church of Christ.

The Memorial Parkway church of Christ, the trustees of which were Robert Reeves, Reed Hendrixon, Gentry Crowley, John Rowden, and L.B. Lindsey, utilized the antebellum mansion as a temporary house of worship. Upon completion of a new church building around 1964, the old Blevins-Mastin house became the residence of the minister and his wife, JC and Aleta Davidson. After the Davidsons moved to a new residence on Force Drive, the Thomas House was utilized in the church's childcare program.

For a period of time, the home was unoccupied and began to deteriorate. The decision was made not to undertake the exorbitant cost of renovation required to make the structure livable again. Plans were made to move the house to Constitution Village in downtown Huntsville, but this became cost prohibitive for the city when it was discovered that the building could not be transported in one piece due to its immense weight.

At that point, Dick Smith, a deacon of the church, was authorized to look for a family who would like to move the house and restore it for use as their private residence. Several parties expressed interest in the home, but it was decided that David and Ellen Horsley would become the new owners of the antebellum mansion. On Tuesday, July 30, 1996, the moving company left with the last of four sections into which the house had been divided for transporting.

The pieces were moved to a 40-acre farm in Chelsea, Alabama, 25 miles southeast of Birmingham. There the pieces have been reassembled and the house has now been restored.

Charter Members

W. E. (Chick) and Julia Albright
 Walt and Martha Austin
 Mrs. Mary Bailey
Ken and Helen Barker
 Herschel (Bud) and Dorothy Belew, Linda
 Russell and Daisy Mae Bennett
Phil and Mary Bradford, Mike and Ricky
 Mrs. Harriett Bradford
 Dan and **Rudye Cabe**, Walt and Shannon
 Elbert and Dixie Campbell
 Gentry and Mamie Crowley, Melvin
 Mrs. Frances Darnell
 Harry and **Mary Darnell**, David
 Gary and Ronnie Ealy
 Mrs. Eunice Evans, Dewey and **Kenneth**
 Ed and Ophelia Fulton
Reed and Connie Hendrixson, Linda, Carol and Donna
 Mrs. Kate Hill
 Frank and Mabel Holzheimer
 J. D. and Ruby Luna
 Lonie and Lucille Lindsey, Betty
 Elmer and Alease Luna
 Mrs. Pauline Naugher
 Mrs. C. J. Owens
 Mrs. Mary Polk
Bob and Margaret Reeves, Tommy, Frances and Diane
Mrs. Barbara Riddick
 John and Zelma Rowden, Johnny, Suzie and Marilyn
 Tom and Margaret Shepherd, Tommy
Jim and Irma Steelman
 Fred and Martha Vruels

Bold: *still a member at Memorial Parkway*

Elders Who Have Served

<i>Name</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
W.E. (Chick) Albright	Sep 1957	Feb 1959
Gentry Crowley	Sep 1957	July 1981
Bob Reeves	Sep 1957	Nov 1987
John Womack	Apr 1958	May 1967
L. B. Lindsey	Apr 1958	Oct 1975
Clarence Olive	Jan 1959	Aug 1986
Jack Harrell	Apr 1960	July 1960
J.D. Luna	Apr 1960	Feb 1979
Dan Cabe	Jan 1965	Jan 1973
Neal Milam	Jan 1965	Present
Bob Cobb	Dec 1968	June 1983
Lewis Loftis	Jan 1974	Mar 1992
Bennie Pinckley	Jan 1974	Oct 1993
Van Ingram	Nov 1979	Jan 1986
Bobby Corder	May 1982	Mar 1997
Ross Rives	May 1982	May 1987
Max Horst	Dec 1987	Aug 2004
Gary Chunn	Sep 1993	July 2002
Bruce Lewis	Sep 1993	June 1998
Bill Lewter	Sep 1996	Present
Cecil Parker	Sep 1996	Oct 2004
Gary Holzheimer	Sep 1998	Present
Curtis Hill	Jul 2002	Present

Elders With Longest Tenure

Neal Milam.....41 years	Max Horst.....17 years
Bob Reeves.....30 years	Bob Cobb.....16 years
Clarence Olive.....27 years	Bobby Corder.....15 years
Gentry Crowley.....24 years	Bill Lewter.....10 years
Bennie Pinckley.....20 years	John Womack.....9 years
J.D. Luna.....19 years	Gary Chunn.....9 years
Lewis Loftis.....18 years	Dan Cabe.....8 years
L.B. Lindsey.....17 years	Gary Holzheimer.....8 years

Ministers Who Have Served

Preachers

Bill Rogers	Jun 1957	Apr 1960
Tom Brown	Jul 1960	Apr 1963
JC Davidson	Jun 1963	Aug 1971
Ross Dye	Dec 1971	Sep 1972
J.B. Whitaker (interim)	Nov 1972	Dec 1972
JC Davidson	Jan 1973	May 1986
Tim Orbison	Jun 1986	July 1995
Aubrey Johnson	Sep 1995	Aug 1999
Ronnie Hayes	Jan 2000	May 2002
Dennis Jones (interim)	Jun 2002	Apr 2003
Jason Moon	Jun 2003	Present

Associate Ministers

Arlen Kerce	Mar 1967	May 1968
Dan Cabe	Sep 1968	Feb 1973
Tim Walker	May 1973	Jan 1980
Charles White	Dec 1978	Jun 1981
Mark Henry	July 1981	Feb 1985
Neal Milam	July 1981	Sep 1995
Naaman Goode	Mar 1982	Aug 1985
Jim Ashworth	Nov 1985	Dec 1995
JC Davidson	June 1986	Nov 1990
Lonnie Jones	Mar 1986	Feb 2001
John Denney	Aug 1991	Present
Kerry Richardson	May 1998	Jan 2001
Paul Spurlin	July 2001	May 2004
Reed Swindle	May 2004	Present

Summer Interns

Walt Cabe.....	1967, 68	Dewayne McCarver.....	1993
Gary Ealy.....	1969, 70	Andy Ashworth.....	1993
Terry Jones.....	1971	David Boyett.....	1994
Geoffrey Horst.....	1983	Matt Venable.....	1994
Tony Allen.....	1990, 91	Brad Bartels.....	2001
John Jenkins.....	1993	Joey Carroll.....	2004,05

Deacons Who Have Served

Dan Cabe.....	1957-65	Ed Smith.....	1962-77
Reed Hendrixon.....	1957-91	Gary Chunn.....	1965-90
J.D. Luna.	1957-60	Bobby Corder.....	1965-82
John Rowden.	1957-84	Joe Parker.....	1965-83, 94-96
Tommy Shepherd.	1957-59	Vernon Scott.....	1965
Walter Austin.	1958-73	Sidney Counselman.....	1968-91
Herschel Belew.	1958-85	Ken Evans.....	1968-91
Jim Brooks.....	1958-59	Raymond Ferrell.....	1968-81
Harry Darnell.....	1958-87	Leo Johnson.....	1968-78
Kenneth Barker.	1959-84	Gerald Price.....	1968-78
Frank Holzheimer.....	1959-89	Jim Beverly.....	1974-Present
Noel Parker.....	1959-61	Bill Corder.....	1974-96
Bennie Pinckley.....	1959-74	Wayne Groves.....	1974
Jim Steelman.	1959-87	Tom Henry.....	1974-80
Eugene Tate.....	1959-60	Max Horst.....	1974-87
Raymond Isbell.....	1960	Dick Smith.....	1974-96
Dan Lagrone.....	1960-64	Paul Smith.....	1974-94
Lester Massey.....	1960-63	Will Alexander	1980-93
Cleve Humphrey	1962-73	Mike Allen.....	1980-99
Lewis Loftis.....	1962-74	Bill Lewter.....	1980-96
Neal Milam.....	1962-65	Cecil Parker.....	1980-96
Ross Rives.....	1962-82	Dave Fouss.....	1984-85
Buster Roberts.	1962-84	Ron Garner.....	1984-85

Deacons Who Have Served (cont.)

Tom Irwin.....	1984-89	Tom Williams.....	1997-98
Curtis Hill.....	1984-02	Don Champion	2000-Present
Max Kelley.....	1984-91	Tom Dean.....	2000-02
Jim McLaughlin.....	1984-90	Derek Horst	2000-Present
Bobby Milam.....	1984	Charles Kelly.....	2000-05
Bennett West.....	1984-88	Jerry Kilpatrick.....	2000-04
Phil Acuff.....	1988-91	Mark Rowe.....	2000-03
Tim Bell.....	1988-Present	Eddie Woodard.....	2000
Ray Brown.....	1988-99	Billy Brothers.....	2003-Present
Paul Fowler.....	1988-92	Glenn Carmack.....	2003-Present
Paul King.....	1988-Present	Mike Crawford.....	2003-Present
Jerry Murphree.....	1988-2000	Jim Ferguson.....	2003-Present
Sam Hemphill	1988-93	Randal Jennings....	2003-Present
Bill Bass.....	1994-99	Greg Mathis.....	2003-Present
Steve Corder	1994-95	Andy Phillips.....	2003-04
Gary Holzheimer	1994-98	Barry Todd.....	2003-Present
Greg Parker	1994-Present	George Wachter.....	2003-04
Harold Pirtle ..	1994-96, 2000-06	Bob Williams.....	2003-Present
Steve Watson.....	1994-96	Frank Williams.....	2003
Eric Corder.....	1997-Present	Gary Chandler.....	2006-Present
Naaman Goode	1997-Present	Dan Lawrence.....	2006-Present
Allen Hughes	1997-98	Bob Phillips.....	2006-Present
Bob Layne.....	1997-Present	Jon Rosenblum.....	2006-Present
Steve Parker	1997-Present	Rick Rosenblum...	2006-Present
Ray Pendergrass	1997-99	Michael Sims.....	2006-Present
Darryl Wells.....	1997-Present		

Support Staff

Full-Time Secretaries

Pat Clark.....	1960-62
Dot Johnson.....	1962
Chris Bradford.....	1963
Fern Wood.....	1963-65
Arlene Scott.....	1965-66
Patsy Cobb.....	1966-78
Glenda Hall.....	1978-2000
Jan Kelly.....	1996-2005

Part-Time Secretaries

Janet Bobo.....	1967
Diane Reeves.....	1967
Carolyn Beverly.....	1969, 1970, 1972-76
Lynda Johnson.....	1970, 1972
Glenda Hall.....	1970-71, 1976-78, 2000-Present
Dot Massey.....	1972
Donna Ridenour.....	1970
Patsy Cobb.....	1979
Christina Corder.....	1979, 1980, 1989-Present
Kitty Denny.....	1980-88
Colene Horst.....	1988-96, 2006-Present
Ann Hopkins.....	2000-02
Judy Deck.....	2006-Present

Maintenance Workers

Reed Hendrixon.....	1958-59
Bob Newby.....	1959-76
Paul King.....	1976-78
Van Johnson.....	1978-80
Buddy Tanner.....	1981-87
Ruth King.....	1988-92
Commercial Contract (Tim & Martha Row).....	1993-Present

Budget

Year	Weekly	Yearly
1958	\$475	\$24,700
1959	625	32,500
1960	890	46,280
1960	900	46,800
1961	1,010	52,520
1962	1,120	58,240
1963	1,600	83,200
1964	1,700	88,400
1965	2,625	136,500
1966	2,750	143,000
1967	2,600	135,000
1968	3,000	156,000
1969	3,000	156,000
1970	3,100	161,200
1971	3,200	166,400
1972	3,500	182,000
1973	3,300	171,600
1974	3,300	171,600
1975	3,500	182,000
1976	4,200	218,400
1977	4,500	234,000
1978	4,750	247,000
1979	5,500	286,000
1980	6,200	322,400
1981	6,000	312,000

Year	Weekly	Yearly
1982	6,100	317,200
1983	6,500	338,000
1984	6,300	327,600
1985	6,406	333,112
1986	6,500	338,000
1987	6,836	355,472
1988	7,200	374,400
1989	8,000	416,000
1990	8,660	450,320
1991	8,700	452,400
1992	8,900	462,800
1993	9,450	491,400
1994	10,100	525,200
1995	10,300	535,600
1996	10,500	546,000
1997	11,200	582,400
1998	11,250	585,000
1999	11,100	577,200
2000	11,600	603,200
2001	12,400	644,800
2002	12,400	644,800
2003	11,000	592,000
2004	13,000	676,000
2005	13,000	676,000
2006	13,000	689,000

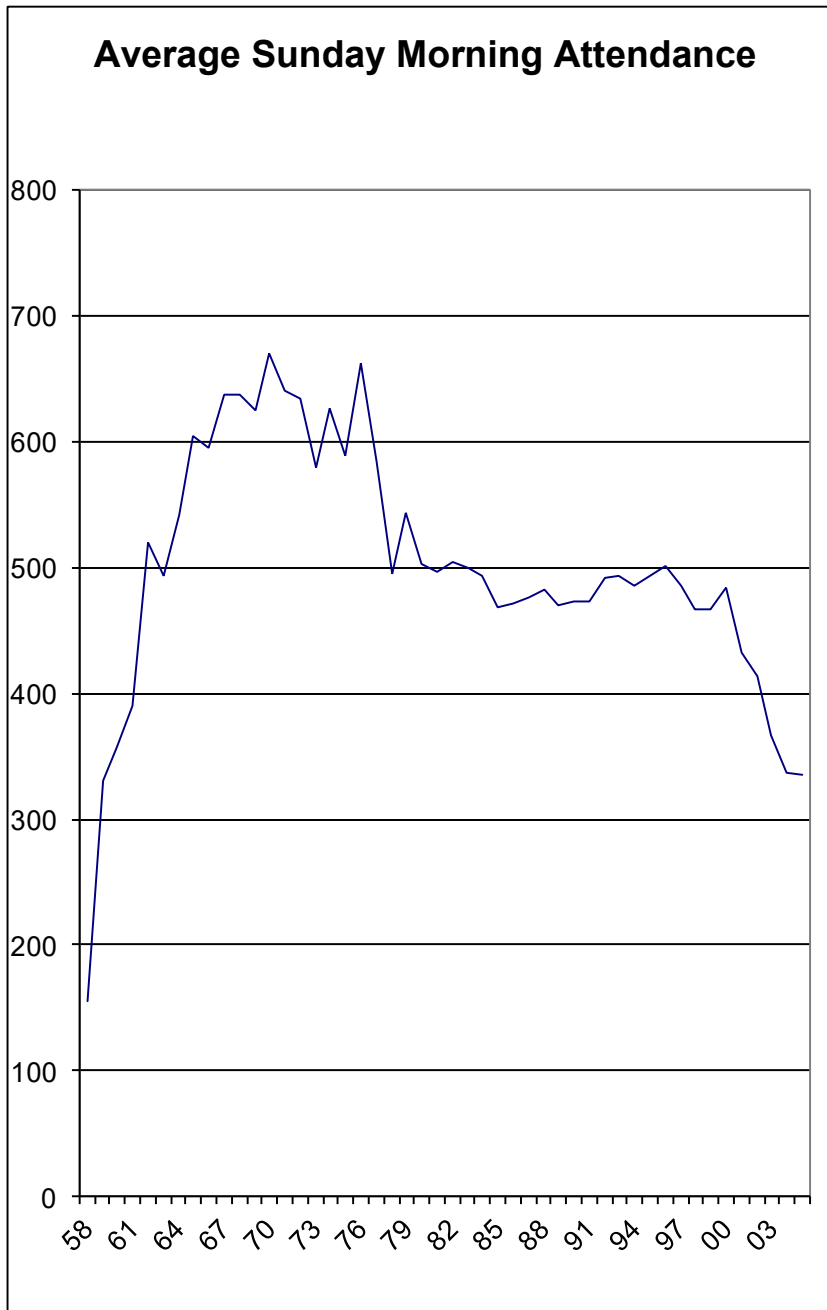
*“On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside,
storing up as he may prosper . . .”
—1 Corinthians 16:2*

Gospel Meetings

1957.....Gilbert Shaffer	1976.....G. K. Wallace
1957.....Bill Rogers	1976.....Dale Smith
1958.....Otis Gatewood	1976.....Guy N. Woods
1959.....Clarence Dailey	1977.....V. P. Black
1959.....N. B. Hardeman	1977.....Tom Holland
1960.....Homer Reeves	1978.....Guy N. Woods
1960.....H. A. Dixon	1979.....Mack Wayne Craig
1961.....W. A. Black	1979.....Jack Wilhelm
1962.....B. C. Goodpasture	1980.....Paul Kidwell
1964.....Russell Artist	1980.....Flavil Nichols
1965.....A. C. Pullias	1981.....Wayne Kilpatrick
1966.....Ira North	1981.....Flavil Yeakley
1966.....B. C. Goodpasture	1981.....Hugh Fulford
1967.....C. E. McGaughey	1982.....Curtis Dowdy
1968.....Truman Spring	1982.....Guy N. Woods
1968.....Harvey Scott	1983.....Martel Pace
1969.....Willard Collins	1984.....Gary Bradley
1970.....Curtis Ramey	1984.....Tom Holland
1971.....C. E. McGaughey	1985.....Wayne Kilpatrick
1972.....Homer Reeves	1985.....Robert Taylor
1972.....Paul Faulkner	1988.....Marlin Connelly
1973.....Hank Tankersley	1992.....Tom Holland
1974.....Milton Irvin	2000.....Ronnie Hayes
1974.....Virgil Trout	2002.....Michael Shepherd
1975.....V. P. Black	2003.....Wayne Jackson
1975.....Woodrow Davidson	2005.....Wayne Jackson
1976.....Van Ingram	

Note: In recent years, Parkway has been blessed with the opportunity to hear a greater number of noted brotherhood preachers by emphasizing special events throughout the year rather than a single protracted meeting. The names of those who have been here in our Summer Series and similar events are too numerous to list here.

Through the Years



1956-1960

First worship services at Madison County Bible School, Oct. 1956
 Purchased property on North Memorial Parkway, Sept. 1957
 Began two morning services, Oct. 29, 1958
 Acquired land extending northern boundary to York Rd., April 1959
 N.B. Hardeman held first meeting in new auditorium, Nov. 29, 1959

1961-1965

Education wing and new auditorium completed, June 1964
 B.C. Goodpasture spoke at dedication of new building, Sept. 27, 1964
 Old auditorium divided into a chapel and a fellowship Hall, 1965
 Davidsons moved into remodeled Thomas House, July 1965

1966-1970

First Annual Training for Service Program, 1966
 Record attendance (803), Jan. 10, 1968 (tied in 1970 and 1980)
 Record VBS attendance (821), June 5, 1969
 Nineteen baptisms during gospel meeting (W. Collins), June 1969
 Special prayer services held for Jim Beverly (kidney transplant & recovery; One of the first in AL and the longest survivor), 1970

1971-1975

Baptisms totaled 59 for the year in 1971
 Kenwood House purchased for childcare, 1971
 Bus ministry began, 1973
 First Youth Directory completed, March 24, 1973

1976-1980

Ministry for deaf began, June 28, 1976
 Participated in *Clean Up TV Campaign*, 1980
 First evening VBS, June 1980
 Record Bible School attendance (686), Oct. 4, 1980

1981-1985

Parkway celebrated 25 years as a congregation, Oct. 18, 1981
First Golden Age Banquet, Oct. 24, 1981
Moved classes to after devotional on Wednesdays, Apr. 21, 1982
Began monthly singing at Parkview Village, June 17, 1982
Newsline began, June 1982
First Teacher Appreciation Dinner, Sept. 9, 1982
Ray and Pat Brown moved into Thomas House as foster parents, 1982
Sam and Marlene Hemphill began Resource Room, 1983
Mothers Day Out program began under Kitty Denny, Feb. 1985
Super Seniors Class began under leadership of Jim Ashworth, Nov. 6, 1985

1986-1990

First Annual Ladies Breakfast, 1986
Library moved to present location, 1986
SWAT (Skits With A Truth) started by Lonnie Jones, 1986
First Summer Series, June 3, 1987
Mothers Day Out grew to 3 days a week, Sept. 1987
Susie Henry and Beth Dickson painted nursery scenes, 1987
Fellowship Hall expanded, July 1989
Tuesday School started by Lonnie Jones, June 1990
JC Davidson celebrated 50 years as a preacher, Aug. 12, 1990
JC Davidson succumbed to cancer, Nov. 25, 1990

1991-1995

Mothers Day Out moved to 4 days a week, September 1991
Began delivering audio tapes to shut-ins, October 6, 1991
“We Care” program began, May 17, 1992
Began program to greet visitors, August 16, 1992
Implementation of Nursery - 3rd Grade curricula developed in-house, Sept. 1993
Began conducting worship services at Veterans’ Home, October 22, 1995

1996-2000

Record attendance (730) for year on Family Day, March 3, 1996
New landscaping installed, 1996
First Annual Southeast Bible Bowl, February 22, 1997
Grief and Loss support group began on October 14, 1997
“We Care” work camp with 30 youths who worked in 11 homes, May-June 1999

1996-2000 (cont.)

Ladies Night Out began on June 28, 1999
Began sending *Newsline* via e-mail, September 1999
New projection system for sermons and announcements, January 9, 2000

2001-2006

Started quarterly congregational meals, March 7, 2001
Began computerization of library, March 2001
Trunk or Treat began, October 2001
Messenger and *Herald* made viewable online, March 16, 2003
Joyland (Mothers Day Out) final closing program, May 1, 2003
34-passenger bus purchased, June 2003
Messenger and *Herald* combined into one publication, February 13, 2005
Friends and Neighbors luncheon held January 28, 2006
50th Homecoming held, September 10, 2006

Do You Remember 1956?

Events

- Dwight Eisenhower re-elected President, defeating Adlai Stevenson
- Congress approved Highway Act which allowed construction of interstate system
- Fidel Castro began revolution in Cuba
- first transatlantic telephone cable went into operation
- Dr. Albert Sabin developed oral polio vaccine
- in the World Series, New York Yankees defeated Brooklyn, 4-3
- movies: *The Ten Commandments*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Seventh Seal*
- songs: *Don't Be Cruel*, *Blue Suede Shoes*, *Hound Dog*
- TV shows: *Danny Thomas Show*, *Ed Sullivan Show*, *This Is Your Life*
- books: *Profiles in Courage*, John F. Kennedy; *The Last Hurrah*, Edwin O'Connor

1956 Events (cont.)

- Grace Kelly married Monaco's Prince Rainier III
- *Dear Abby* column first appeared in newspapers
- Dow Jones Industrial average closes above 500 for the first time (500.24)
- *As The World Turns* and *The Edge of Night* first aired on CBS
- videotape is first demonstrated
- testing of the hydrogen bomb on Bikini Atoll in Pacific Ocean
- "In God We Trust" adopted as the national motto
- Elvis Presley appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show* for the first time
- Play-Doh was introduced to the world
- *The Wizard of Oz* on television for the first time with audience of 45 million

1956 Prices

House: \$22,000

Average income: \$4,454

Ford car: \$1748--\$3151

Milk: \$0.97/gallon

Gas: \$0.23/gallon

Bread: \$0.18/loaf

Postage stamp: \$0.03

Chuck pot roast: \$0.33/pound

Spareribs: \$0.39/pound

Cabbage: \$0.04/pound

Eggs: \$0.45/dozen

Coffee: \$0.69/pound

Carnation instant chocolate drink: \$0.33/10 ounce