

*Highland Presbyterian Church*  
*Tyler, Texas*  
*The First 50 Years*



J. ADAMS

*A*

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*March, 2006*

## THE FIRST 50 YEARS

The history of Highland Presbyterian Church can be traced back to the early 1950's when members of First Presbyterian Church, Tyler, recognized the need to begin a colony church in what was then South Tyler.

In 1955, Dr. J. Sherrard Rice, then pastor of First Presbyterian Church, was instrumental in providing leadership and in bringing the Rev. C. Monroe (Mony) King to Tyler for the specific purpose of organizing a colony church. A native of Tennessee and graduate of Columbia Seminary in South Carolina, Mr. King was pastor in Texarkana, Texas when he accepted the call to Tyler as Assistant Pastor of First Presbyterian.

Some 100 prospective members met Jan. 19, 1956, in the Chapel of First Presbyterian with Mr. King presiding. A Planning Committee of Ten was formed and divided into six sub-committees. Thereafter,



the group began worshipping together at the beautiful, colonial-style Taylor Home. Generously provided by the late D. K. Caldwell, the Taylor Home housed the congregation for 11 months.

It still stands

on Chilton Street, across from Gary Elementary School.

The organization and naming of the new church occurred on the evening of March 18, 1956, when 152 people met at First Presbyterian and, in accordance with Presbyterian procedure, presented themselves to a Special Commission from Paris Presbytery and officially petitioned for organization. The Rev. Henry Benchoff moved that the group be approved as charter members and be constituted as Highland Presbyterian Church.

That same evening the new congregation elected 15 officers by

acclamation: Elders: Ed L. Conaway, Forrest Green, J. Brown Maples, Masters H. Moore, Harold Tyler, Ralph Yancy; Deacons: A. W. Coulter, Marshall Foltz, J. Sheldon Hacker, Don Hill, Robert Layton, Jr., Joe Leguenec, Peter Mason, T. H. Robinson, Charles Steen. Mr. King was then elected pastor, also by acclamation.

It was soon discovered there were too many people to fit comfortably in the area designated for worship services in the Taylor Home. "Junior Church" was begun for children, with the senior high youth leading those services and an Elder delivering a short sermon. "Junior Church" met upstairs in the Taylor Home while the adults worshiped downstairs. Sunday evening services were also held, as well as Wednesday services, choir practice for adults and children and visitation nights. Highland was a "full program" church from the beginning.

Many gifts and loans came from First Presbyterian, including a gift of \$50,000 and the loan of a pulpit, two altar chairs, a communion table and a communion service. Mr. A. E. Dennis and Mr. William Curtis gave the church deeds to two lots south and adjacent to the church property in Green Acres subdivision. A year later two more lots were donated by Mr. Dennis and Mr. Curtis.

Early in April, 1956, plans for a new building were approved, and construction was begun in July by J. O. Hill and Sons. The cream brick, Scottish Rural building was designed by Bruce and Russell, Architects. At a ground-breaking ceremony, Mr. King turned the first spade of dirt.

Women of the Church quickly organized, with Helen Maples elected Moderator. Robert Seal was President of the Men of the Church, and Sara Cole Maples was President of the Senior High Youth Group. By late August, a monthly newspaper, the Highland Fling, was produced by the Senior High group; Eddie Datz was Editor.

In December, 1956, the permanent church building at the corner of Dennis Drive and Paluxy was almost ready for occupancy; the first service held in the nearly-complete sanctuary was a Christmas Cantata with 39 voices in the choir. Constructed at a cost of \$130,000 plus \$25,000 for the 3.274-acre lot, the building was formally dedicated January 27, 1957. On Jan. 20, 1957, the cornerstone was placed in the northeast corner of the sanctuary. Placed inside the cornerstone capsule were a Revised Standard Version of the Bible, a list of charter members, a list of present members and pictures of the building during construction.

The building, with some renovations made later, continues to serve the congregation as a center of worship, fellowship and service activities.

Don Mathews, a charter member, crafted a brass cross for the communion table, and it remains in use 50 years later. Also still used are two walnut flower brackets presented in memory of J. O. Hill by his family.

Late in 1957, Paris Presbytery united with Dallas Presbytery to become Northeast Texas Presbytery. The new Northeast Texas Presbytery held its first meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Tyler, in January, 1958. Representing Highland at that meeting were Mr. King and Elders J. Brown Maples and Tom Simmons.

In October, 1958, Highland held a 6-day series of Evangelistic Services with the Rev. Sam Junkin of Mt. Pleasant preaching. A prayer vigil was held at the church on the day before the services began; members signed for a period of time to come to the church and pray for the revival.

In May, 1958, the third annual Family Retreat at Camp Gilmont was planned and sponsored by the Men of the Church. Approximately 70 attended the two-day event and enjoyed square dancing, swimming, whiffleball, horseshoes, singing and devotional time by the lake. Similar family outings were held each summer for several years to follow.

Marjorie Lessentine began to organize and catalog the books already donated to the library. The Highland Fling became the Highland Herald in November 1958, and is still called by that name.

The ground floor of the education building was first air conditioned in July, 1959. Vacation Bible School that year had an average daily attendance of 105 children and 27 teachers. Special Fall Services were held in October with Dr. Sherrard Rice bringing the messages. A six-burner gas stove was bought for the kitchen.

In February, 1960, members purchased a communion set, and the one on loan from First Presbyterian was returned. Also, additional pews were bought for the back of the sanctuary.

The first live Christmas tableau took place on the front lawn in December, 1960. There were five performances, and the weather was reportedly "extremely cold."

In March, 1961, Highland celebrated its Fifth Anniversary with a "bring-a-basket" lunch.

Evangelistic Services were held in late November, 1961. Dr. Larry Love of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association preached, and Ed Lyman was song leader. Homes were open for informal discussion after the services.

Also in 1961, Highland hosted a Community Thanksgiving service, one of five held throughout the city and sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance. The Rev. Walter Johnson of Our Savior's Lutheran Church preached.

Construction began on a Scout Hut in May, 1962.

Evangelistic Services in December, 1962, were sponsored by the three Presbyterian churches in Tyler (First, Highland, Fifth Street). Dr. Love and Mr. Lyman returned for this revival.

In May, 1963, the congregation began using a nominating committee to suggest names for election of officers; until then a "ballot" of all male communicant members was used. Female communicant members were "tellers" for those elections.

An anonymous donor provided air conditioning equipment for the second floor of the education building in 1963. It was operational in June, 1964.

Mr. King resigned as pastor in August, 1964, to accept a call to Church of the Covenant in Houston, Texas. Guest ministers for the next 12 months included the Revs. Martin H. Thomas, J. Montague Cook, Robert A. Dickey, Richard W. Ohly, Thomas C. Cook, Dr. Kenneth McKinley, as well as professors and students from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

"Homecoming at Highland" was held in June, 1964; members and former members enjoyed a picnic lunch after Worship, hymn singing and an afternoon sermon by the Rev. Henry Benchoff who had preached when Highland was organized in 1956.

In December, 1964, chimes for the organ were purchased and dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of Harold and Julia Hanson, both of whom had been choir directors.

Special services were held March 14-18, 1965, with the Rev. Jack Bennett as guest preacher.

In July, 1965, the congregation called the Rev. Fred L. Campbell of Ballinger, Texas. A graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Mr. Campbell assumed his duties here in August. A 4-bedroom, 2-bath manse was purchased at 3607 Cameron St. for \$21,250.

Highland again hosted a Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance. Sunday services during the month of October, 1966, were broadcast on radio station KZAK.

The *Highland Herald* was changed to a weekly format on Feb. 28, 1967. Dr. Charlie Shedd of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, Houston, led special services in October of that year.

In late 1968, charter member Corbie Steen was elected to a 3-year term as Deacon, the first female to be so elected. Harry Rieke, having resigned his place on Session due to ill health, was elected Elder Emeritus, the first and only person so honored thus far.

In May, 1969, only 12 1/2 years after completion of the building, the mortgage was paid in full and the note burned. Dr. Sherrard Rice was featured speaker at the mortgage burning ceremony. The congregation numbered 386 communicant members at the end of 1969, the highest in its 50-year history.

Highland hosted a meeting of Northeast Texas Presbytery in November, 1970. A year later that Presbytery became known as Presbytery of the Covenant.

Mr. Campbell resigned effective Jan. 31, 1972, and an interim minister, the Rev. Tom Loden, was hired. A graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Divinity, Mr. Loden previously served churches in Kentucky.

The Rev. Winston R. "Rick" Hull III, a graduate of Princeton Seminary, was called in October, 1972, and served three years.

The first female Elder was Marge Clark, elected in August, 1972, and installed in January, 1973.

For their first WOC Bazaar in 1973, ladies worked on projects May through October, some in daytime, others at night. The Bazaar brought in \$1800, used for youth outreach programs. Also in 1973, Alex Buchan built a closet for choir robes; the closet was painted and stained by Jim and Sandy Bailey and Ray Tierney. The WOC made Chrismsons beginning in 1974, and most are still in use at Christmas 50 years later.

The WOC began to participate in Meals on Wheels in 1973, picking up meals at Wyatt's Cafeteria every fourth Wednesday. Highland continues to furnish drivers, both men and women, 33 years later.

Pew cushions for the sanctuary were provided in memory of John L. Hagan by his family and friends. Also in late 1974, the Baptismal font still in use was built by Alex Buchan in memory of his wife,

Midge. For the top of the font, Don Mathews built a cross matching the one on the communion table. The Baptismal bowl had been given earlier by Will Mann Richardson in memory of Swanson Yarbrough, a member of Tyler's First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Buchan also directed that memorial funds given in memory of his wife be used to provide a mirror and shelf in the entry hall.

A Rodgers Scarborough 110 organ was purchased in 1975, and formally dedicated in a special service in April, 1976.

Mr. Hull resigned in December, 1975. Laymen and guest ministers conducted services until March, 1976, when Dr. William B. Rogers came as Interim Minister for eight months.

The Rev. Ronald M. Guinn was called in November, 1977. A graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Mr. Guinn came to Tyler from Beaumont, Texas.

The one-board plan of government was adopted, eliminating the office of Deacon, as of January, 1978. Deacons serving at that time were ordained as Elders and accepted terms on the Session.

In late 1976, the congregation had requested and been approved for financial aid from Presbytery of the Covenant. Almost a year later the church asked for and received that \$3000. By December, 1978, the church had experienced growth and was financially sound again. As a way of saying thank-you for Presbytery's assistance, the congregation sent an extra \$3000 for benevolences that year.

Also in December, 1978, Highland became incorporated, necessary to comply with the Book of Order of the soon-to-be-formed Grace Union Presbytery.

On January 4, 1979, Trinity Presbytery UPCUSA and Presbytery of the Covenant PCUS met to constitute Grace Union Presbytery. That same month Mrs. Sara Moseley, first woman Moderator of General Assembly, spoke at a Sunday evening service at Highland.

Robert Sallee became Treasurer in 1980 following the resignation of Al Glazebrook who had served ably for eight years.

The large wooden cross which hangs in the sanctuary was provided by Jim and Mary Dowdy in memory of their daughter, Alice Sue, who died in September, 1980.

In 1982, a new Baldwin piano was purchased for the sanctuary; it is now used in Fellowship Hall. The manse on Cameron Street, not used since 1976, was sold and the proceeds invested in a Certificate of Deposit.

In February, 1983, following the reunion of PCUS and UPCUSA, Grace Union Presbytery became Grace Presbytery. A banner made by Jacqueline Adams, Sandra LeFevre and Ruby Cummings was carried in the Procession of Banners at that meeting.

Space in the building was leased to the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Regional Center for a period of 12-18 months, beginning in September, 1985.

Highland began contributing to the new local charity, People Attempting to Help (PATH) in October, 1985, and continues to support that organization with food and funds every month.

In November, 1986, Mr. Guinn resigned to accept a call to be interim Minister at Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church, Sherman, Texas. The Rev. John Vandermeulen came to Highland as Interim Minister in January, 1987.

When the MHMR lease ended, major cosmetic improvements were made to Fellowship Hall and the Nursery rooms, all work done by members.

By October, 1987, a new minister had been called; the Rev. Jerry Whigham began work on December 1. Mr. Whigham was a graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School and came to Tyler from Webster Presbyterian Church, Webster, Texas.

Plans were made for a major renovation project which actually began early in 1989. A committee made up of Keith McCullough, Chuck Robinson, June Ragan, Terry Graham Jr., Martin Davis, Bruce Nelson and Gene Jeffers researched ways to make the building more accessible, and a contract was made with RPR Construction Co. Included in the improvements were expanded parking, covered back entrance, improvements to restrooms and an elevator to serve all three levels of the building. Financing included three-year pledges from members, a General Assembly loan and funds from the earlier sale of the manse.

The need for a weekday child care program in this area was studied, but the conclusion was reached that such a service was not recommended at this time.

A Talent Fair (AKA Highland Fling) featuring hobbies, collections and crafts of members was organized by Charline Wallis and drew wide participation in May, 1987.

New by-laws were adopted by the congregation in October, 1989.

Always admired by members, the landscaping was recognized in

December by the Tyler Chapter of Men's Garden Clubs of America. Presbyterian Women (formerly WOC) presented a Life Membership to Betty Robinson in May, 1990.

A very successful Vacation Bible School was held jointly with First Presbyterian Church in August, 1990. Classes were held at both churches.

To eliminate a problem of water seeping into two classrooms, repairs were necessary to the east wall of the education building. Also in 1991, choir robes and stoles were purchased with memorial funds given in memory of Dorothy Wilcox. The robes were first worn in October, 1991. The choir robes used before that time were given to Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, Decatur, Georgia.

The kitchen was refurbished in the summer of 1991: paint, wallpaper, flooring and curtains. All work was performed by members.

Four lots on Paluxy Circle were appraised and sold in April, 1992, with part of the proceeds used to repay in full the General Assembly loan for the building project undertaken in 1989.

In August, 1992, Alice Misegades resigned as Sunday School Secretary, having served in that capacity for 25 years. She was honored with special recognition and a reception.

Highland joined with three neighbor churches (Redeemer Lutheran, St. Francis Episcopal and Our Savior's Lutheran) for Vacation Bible School in 1992, and Lenten services were held with Redeemer Lutheran the following spring.

In 1993, the church was recognized for 20 consecutive years of volunteer work with Meals on Wheels.

Another service project at this time, was Sunset Gap Community Center in eastern Tennessee. After learning about Sunset Gap through Rev. Ray and Eleanor Garvey, who had been Volunteers in Mission at Sunset Gap, the church sent money for paint for the Community Center and supported the Thrift Shop with periodic donations of clothing and Campbell soup labels.

In 1994, the Session was approached by Acorns to Oaks Montessori School wishing to lease space for a pre-school day care service. A two-year lease was negotiated for weekday use of most of the rooms in the education building. This arrangement worked well for the school as well as for the church until the school moved to another location in 1997.

Mr. Whigham resigned in November, 1994, and returned to Webster, Texas. News of his death, only three months later, saddened the Highland congregation.

The Rev. John Zeigler, a Tylerite and a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, was called as Stated Supply in December, 1994.

Using proceeds from a very successful Garage Sale, supplemented with some memorial funds, Presbyterian Women refurbished the offices of the pastor and the secretary in 1995.

PW invited neighboring Presbyterian church women to a very well-attended Bible Study Day in April. Approximately 50 ladies met for a study of the Book of Ephesians led by Betty Fulgham of Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Dallas.

In September, 1995, \$1000 was contributed to Habitat for Humanity of Smith County for use in the Covenant Church house, under construction. Also in 1995, Highland became a participating church in the upkeep of Camp Gilmont, now operated by the Presbyterian Camps at Gilmont, Inc.

Early in 1996, Fellowship Hall and the downstairs hallway were painted as well as the elevator lobbies. Mrs. Elizabeth Buchan provided new sanctuary paraments and communion table cloth in memory of her husband, Alex. In June, new landscaping was completed, thanks to Betty Robinson, in memory of her husband, Ed.

On Feb. 10, 1996, the congregation voted unanimously to call the Rev. David C. Smith as its sixth minister. A graduate of Tulane University and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Mr. Smith came to Tyler from Versailles, Missouri. The congregation welcomed Rev. Smith and his wife, Barbara, on the Sunday Highland celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, March 17, 1996. Many former members and guests were in attendance on that day for worship, lunch and festivities.

Eleanor Garvey became Choir Director in July, 1996. With Mrs. Garvey's encouragement, plans were approved to purchase a 3-octave set of Malmark handbells. Through a Give-A-Bell Campaign, individuals and families were able to purchase a bell with a personal inscription in the handle. Volunteer ringers began practicing at First Presbyterian Church until the new bells arrived, and the 37 bells were dedicated in December, 1996. Later, another six bells were provided by Jerre Crites, in memory of her husband, Ralph. The church now has 3 ½ octaves of bells.

PW hosted another Bible Study Day for women from area churches, with Betty Fulgham returning to speak on “Faith.”

In 1997, daily Lenten devotionals were written by members and included in a booklet that covered the days from Ash Wednesday through Easter. This was such a success that the tradition has been continued every year (except one) since. In May, the first Spring Fling musical was presented. Also that year a new musical group was formed, a handbell quartet known as Belles Anonymous. Nine years later that group continues. Included are Becky Davis, Sara Cannon, Eleanor Garvey and Barbara Smith.

For 1998, Session challenged members to participate in The Year of the Bible, a reading program suggested by Ray Garvey. Forty people signed up and were recognized at the end of the year for their participation. Early in 1998, the “forever green” carpet in the sanctuary and upstairs hall was replaced with blue. Two front pews were removed to allow more space for bell tables, pageant performers and wedding participants. Pew cushions were replaced as well. Even the choir chairs were reupholstered by Bob Cooper. Many of the upstairs classrooms were painted, and a lovely mural was added to the Bell Room by Charline Perlewitz. Two octaves of handchimes were donated by Ray and Eleanor Garvey, and a third octave was later purchased with memorial funds. Cherub Chimers as well as adults have enjoyed playing the chimes.

Presbyterian Women, always an active group at Highland, hosted a Presbytery Workshop in April, 1999. And in May, PW Honorary Life Memberships were awarded to Sara Cannon and Velma Holland.

In a very moving service on October 31, Will Smith, son of Dave and Barbara Smith, was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The congregation was honored to have this service at Highland. Will accepted a call to Gilbert Presbyterian Church in Gilbert, WV.

In 2000, Rotation Workshop Sunday School began for children and youth, directed by Deb Tompkins. Choir Director Eleanor Garvey received a Certificate of Recognition from Federated Music Clubs of Texas, for 50 years as a church musician.

The sanctuary sound system was replaced, thanks to a special anonymous donation. In October, Highland hosted “How We Got the Bible,” a display of ancient Bibles and manuscripts plus a conference led by Rusty Maisel.

In 2001, “Women of the Bible,” a docudrama written and performed by Highland women, was presented during Worship. It was

performed a second time for a neighboring church.

It was becoming apparent that the 26-year-old organ needed replacing. A "Join in the Joy" campaign quickly gathered in generous pledges so that a magnificent Baldwin organ could be ordered. The new organ has numerous "voices" and "stops" and pedals and manuals. It was first played in Worship on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church. Organist Becky Davis described it as "amazing." Her mother, Eleanor Garvey, also played it that Sunday and said, "magnifico."

In August of 2001, a grant for tutoring and mentoring children was received, having been sought by Ray Garvey. Mentors from Highland tutored students at Andy Woods Elementary School, and the grant, called "Feed My Lambs," provided books, supplies, computers, software, a projector and screen.

Highland's first Advent Concert featured Organ Instructor Larry Marta at the new organ. A Christian flag for the sanctuary was given by an anonymous donor.

In January, 2002, an electronic piano for the sanctuary was given by Eleanor and Ray Garvey in memory of family members. Terry Graham and Carol Hairston provided a driveway cover in memory of their parents, Terry and Elizabeth Graham. Fellowship Hall was recarpeted in May, and in December the East Texas Handbell Ensemble performed in Highland's second Advent Concert. Also in December, choir members wore new royal blue robes, given by Sara and Bobby Cannon in memory of Brownie Maples.

Additional kitchen cabinets were installed in 2003. And new chairs were received for the Choir Room. Rev. Dave Smith announced his retirement effective October 31, and the congregation honored the Smiths with a luncheon and entertainment on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The Smiths plan to stay in Tyler which made the goodbyes less painful. That same month, Rev. Mony King, Highland's founding pastor, died in Longview. A celebration of his life was held at Highland.

Highland's first Book Fair was organized by Librarian Karin Coates and took place October 26<sup>th</sup>. The church's third Advent Concert in late November featured the Loblolly Quintet.

In February, 2004, a Youth Fund was established with Texas Presbyterian Foundation with funds received from Al and Harriette Glazebrook's estate. The Glazebrook bequest assures funding for youth activities for many years to come.

After Mr. Smith's retirement, visiting ministers filled the pulpit for

14 months. A Pastor Nominating Committee was elected in April of 2004, and began the process of finding a pastor. With Jerry Ragan as Chairman, the committee met all the requirements of Presbytery, conducted interviews and in October announced a pastor nominee, Scott R. Mackey, of Crowley. In November, the congregation affirmed its desire to call Mr. Mackey as the 7<sup>th</sup> pastor of Highland.

A second successful Book Fair was held; and for the fourth Advent Concert, HPC's own Belles Anonymous Quartet presented a variety of religious and secular music.

Having served 25 years as Church Treasurer, Robert Sallee announced his wish to retire, and the congregation expressed its appreciation at a lunch (with entertainment) in his honor.

In January, 2005, Rev. Mackey began his ministry in Tyler. He and his wife, Janet, and daughter, Reagan, were welcomed at a congregational dinner on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Mackey is a native of Longview and a graduate of Texas A & M University and Union Seminary. In March, several members attended Grace Presbytery's meeting in Waco, where the official "Call" was presented to Rev. Mackey. The Service of Installation was held April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Jerry Ragan became Treasurer, succeeding Mr. Sallee. Early in 2005, member Mike Burrow put Highland on the map (the cyberspace map) with a marvelous website that continues to grow and provide current information as well as glimpses of history. Martin Davis assists with photos and ideas, and the two men seem to add something new every week. Visit Highland at [www.highlandtyler.org](http://www.highlandtyler.org).

In July, Rev. Mackey led a group study of "Discovering Your Spiritual Type." An average of 18-20 people attended once a week to look at how we respond to different styles of worship.

A generous bequest from the estate of Charles Smith, father of Dave, has provided tables and much-needed sound equipment for Fellowship Hall. Another large gift came from an anonymous donor, and was used to help offset that year's deficit budget.

A new service project promoted by the current Session began in December. This is a monthly collection of personal care items for use by the women who live temporarily at the East Texas Crisis Center. The Crisis Center is a safe place for women escaping domestic violence.

The fifth annual Advent Concert featured the Highland Handbells, the Belles Anonymous Quartet and a viola solo by Andrea Rutan.

A very generous donation was received from Don and Maxine Hill through the East Texas Communities Foundation, "in honor and in memory of Helen and Brownie Maples," charter members of Highland. Another very welcome contribution came from charter member Jack Burson in memory of his wife, Evelyne.

In 50 years, Highland's membership has fluctuated and currently stands at just over 100. Included are young and not-so-young, the median age now being "older." The congregation is generous in its support of charitable work and denominational benevolences. Strong ties are maintained with Grace Presbytery and work of the denomination. Fellowship activities are well attended, most now being held in daytime hours.

Though small in number, Highland folks enjoy a variety of activities and projects that offer something for everyone. Many activities are multi-generational. An example is the Christmas pageant of 2005. Written by 10-year-old Katy Davis, the pageant players included about a dozen members whose ages ranged from 3 to 70ish.

Highland demonstrates the beauty of a small church "flavor" in the close relationships among its members; everyone knows everyone else, and there is genuine care and concern for each other. A prayer network is kept aware of special needs in order to support members and others through daily prayer.

An active part of the congregation is Presbyterian Women. Business meetings (with Brunch) are held monthly, and other activities include an annual Garage Sale, a special Breakfast for Men, Craft Day for Kids and other projects as needed. Proceeds from the Garage Sales have provided paint, furniture, drapes, music, nursery toys as well as scholarships and charitable donations. Claudia Anderson, Bible Study leader for both circles since 1996, now serves as a Presbytery Liaison/Enabler, visiting with and advising PW groups in the Sabine District.

Men of the congregation, although not as "organized" as the ladies, play an important role in all areas of church life, including the kitchen. No longer are there gender-specific tasks at Highland.

Highland continues to seek God's will and purpose and looks forward to growth, renewal, service and an ever-stronger commitment to sharing our faith.

## **Sources**

1956-1969 histories on file at Presbyterian Church (USA) Department of History (Montreat) written by Pat Alexander, Midge Buchan, Charlene Bigler, Betty Slover, Helen Maples

1956-1988 History written by Warren Spofford

The Church Register

Highland newsletters

Session Minutes

Diaconate Minutes

WOC/PW Minutes

Conversations with Corbie Steen, Don & Maxine Hill, Mony King, Mildred Short, Woody Coulter

Sincere thanks to Martin Davis, Clerk of Session, for supervising the printing of this booklet and for his patience in waiting for me to finish writing it. SC

## **Ministers**

C. Monroe King	Mar 1956 - Sept. 1964
Fred L. Campbell	Sept. 1965 - Feb. 1972
Winston R. Hull III	Oct. 1972 - Dec. 1975
Ronald M. Guinn	Jan. 1977 - Nov. 1986
Jerry Whigham	Dec. 1987 - Nov. 1994
David C. Smith	Mar. 1996 - Oct. 2003
Scott R. Mackey	Jan. 2005

## **Interim Ministers**

Tom Loden	Feb. 1972 - Sept. 1972
William B. Rogers	Mar. 1976 - Oct. 1976
John Vandermuelen	Jan. 1987 - Nov. 1987
John Zeigler	Dec. 1994 - Mar. 1996