

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HIGHLAND VIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

## 1944 to 1986

Highland View Church of Christ had its beginning in August 1944 when about 40 members from the Cedar Hill congregation (now New York Avenue Church of Christ) agreed to start a new congregation in the west end of town. This would relieve an overcrowded condition at Cedar Hill and provide a more convenient meeting place that could be reached by the bus system that operated in the new section of the city. The Cedar Hill congregation supported the new congregation financially and otherwise for a few months until it was well established. The first meeting place was in a classroom at Robertsville School, but the congregation moved after a few weeks to the new Highland View School where the church met for over 16 years. It was from this meeting place that the congregation got its name.

In June 1951, the congregation moved to the Oak Ridge High School. Shortly thereafter, a lot across from the school on Providence Road was purchased and plans for a new building were completed. The church moved into the present building in August 1955. The building was originally designed for expansion, and the planned wings were completed in July 1961. A comfortable four bedroom minister's home was completed in 1964. It is located just west of the church building and has been remodeled to meet state requirements for use as a children's home.

The congregation has been under the oversight of elders since late in 1944. The first elders that served were Mr. Murray, A. Bryan, Sr., Jess H. Mynatt and A. L. Mynatt. The new congregation grew rapidly as construction of the western half of the city was completed. There have been many changes in the membership because of work termination, job changes, etc. Many who had endured themselves to the congregation were compelled to leave, and two of the first elders, Brother Bryan and Brother Murray were among these. Because of the transient nature of the early membership and the conditions under which the congregation met, most of the records for the early years have been lost. The earliest church directory that has been found was published in 1948 and provides the following statistics:

## Origins of the Congregation

**Date of Founding:** August 1944

### Founding Preacher

The congregation was started by about 40 members from the Cedar Hill congregation (now New York Avenue congregation) who lived in the west end of town. The minister at Cedar Hill was S. F. Timmerman. The group received some financial support from the Cedar Hill congregation until the new congregation became self-supporting.

## Charter Members\*

Mr. & Mrs. A. Bryan  
Mr. C. E. Colley  
Mrs. Heyden Clark  
Mr. & Mrs. W. O. Gentry  
Miss Juanita Hendon  
Mr. Ray Kinslow  
Mr. & Mrs. Jess Love  
Miss Catherine Murray

Mr. & Mrs. Murray (Catherine's parents)  
Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Mynatt  
Mr. & Mrs. Jess H. Mynatt  
Miss Nola Norris  
Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Stewart  
Miss Betty Stewart  
Mr. & Mrs. Calvin VanHooser  
Miss Harriett Hawkins

\* No record of charter members has been found. Approximately 15 members of the original group are unknown at this time.

## First Elders and Deacons

### Elders:

- A. Bryan, Sr.
- Mr. Murray
- Jess Mynatt
- A. L. Mynatt

### Deacons:

- Ray Kinslow
- Mr. Bills
- Jess Love

There may have been others but we have been unable to verify this. Some first names are unknown.

## Details of the Congregation in 1948

### Elders:

- Jess H. Mynatt
- L. Mynatt
- Jess Love
- T. A. Hall
- Fred R. Bogle

### Deacons:

- R. M. Presnell
- T. D. Johnson
- W. T. Mason
- F. L. Collier

Evangelist:	Charles A. Holt
Song Director:	H. M. Hughes
Membership:	163
Sunday School Attendance:	210
Maximum Attendance:	400
Contribution:	\$200.00/week

## Location of Meeting Places

1. Robertsville School - August 1944 for a few weeks.
2. Highland View School - September 1944 until June 1951
3. Oak Ridge High School - June 1951 until August 1955
4. Moved to present church building on Providence Road in August 1955.

## Preachers Who Have Served

○ Calvin VanHooser	August 1944 to September 1946
○ Charles A. Holt	October 1946 to October 1949
○ Charles G. Lemons	January 1950 to May 1950
○ Bill Nicks	August 1950 to June 1955
○ Garland Elkins	October 1955 to December 1966
○ James M. Yates	February 1967 to June 1970
○ D. Hugh Counts	August 1970 to February 1973
○ John Payne	June 1973 to January 1976
○ Graham McKay	January 1976 to January 1981
○ Bill Nicks	1977 to August 1980
○ Robert Carrell	November 1980 to date of this document

## Roster of Highland View Church Elders and Deacons 1944-1986

### Elders

<u>NAME</u>	<u>APPOINTMENT DATE</u>
• A. Bryan, Sr.	1944
• Mr. Murray	1944
• A. L. Mynatt	1944
• Jess H. Mynatt	1944
• T. A. Hall	1946
• Jess Love	1946
• Fred Bogle	1947
• G. B. Ryan	1950
• A. L. Whaley	1961
• C. W. Tays	1966
• E. L. Bentley	1966
• J. H. Parks	1967
• Marvin Spann	1968
• Erb Mowery	1971
• Hoyt C. Huston	1976
• Don R. Henderson	1985
• Harold Standefer	1985

## Deacons

1. Ray Kinslow
2. Mr. Bills
3. Jess Love
4. Fred Bogle
5. W. O. Gentry
6. R. M. Presnell
7. T. D. Johnson
8. W. T. Mason
9. F. L. Collier
10. E. L. Bentley
11. H. A. Parker
12. H. D. Cofer
13. L. E. Hart
14. W. R. Johnson
15. J. H. Parks
16. A. L. Whaley
17. S. A. Gibbs
18. M. R. Keen
19. W. F. Leggitt
20. C. D. Maberry
21. E. H. Mowery
22. L. L. Pilgrim
23. C. W. Tays
24. R. A. Nance
25. E. M. Egner
26. Bruce Mynatt
27. Ken Bowers
28. Hoyt Huston
29. Ken Smith
30. Floyd Shook
31. Marvin Spann
32. Milo Ward
33. Norman Allmon
34. Reel Case
35. Bill Eads
36. Earl Robertson
37. Bill Baucum
38. Mike Butler
39. David Cunningham
40. Ray Smith
41. Frank Turpin
42. Roger Vanover
43. Dennis Connelly
44. L. M. Hart
45. Joe Lochamy
46. Jack McAmis
47. Johnny Moore
48. Coleman Wright

## Mission Activities

The congregation has always been interested in mission work, budgeting 30% or more for spreading the gospel away from home. The first concentrated effort was made in 1947 when a preacher (Brother W. Couchin) was supported to help a small struggling congregation in Sevierville, Tennessee. In 1951 the Highland View church conducted a tent meeting which resulted in the establishment of a new congregation now the Claxton Church of Christ (Anderson County, Tennessee). In 1953 a similar effort resulted in the establishment of the church in Karns (Knox County, Tennessee), now the home of East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions. Another mission effort was begun in Greenville, North Carolina in August 1961. Highland View supported Brother C. E. Mannon there for six years while a congregation was established and a church building and minister's home were built. These four congregations are self-supporting and exerting great influence in their respective communities today.

Several brethren from Highland View have traveled to surrounding communities to assist in spreading the Gospel. One such effort in 1964-65 was when Dave Bowman and Art Gibbs traveled to Jellico, Tennessee and that resulted in a new congregation being formed. In 1966, a full time minister was secured for Jellico and what appeared to be a promising mission work was expanded. A new church building was constructed with help from other congregations, and the church prospered for several years. (Among the ministers

were M. H. Tucker, whom the congregation later supported both in Hong Kong and at the East TN School of Preaching and Missions). The Jellico congregation decreased in number and stopped assembling in 1985.

The most recent and promising mission work assumed by Highland View is with the black people of Louisiana. A native of Louisiana, Brother Eddie Payne had been trained as a preacher at East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions with financial support from Highland View. Brother Payne returned to Port Allen, Louisiana in 1978 with support from Highland View, and started a mission effort directed primarily toward the black people in the West Baton Rouge parish. This congregation is growing and a new building has been built and mostly paid for. Other missions supported at present include:

- Scotland
- Hispanic (Miami, FL)
- Hong Kong
- Mascot
- Japan
- Powell Valley
- Cape Ann, Mass.
- Prison Ministry

Among other mission efforts that have been sponsored, the following should be mentioned: 1. Foreign missions in Hawaii, Europe, New Guinea, Africa and others, 2. The Herald of Truth and other radio and T. V. programs, 3. Student Centers of University campuses, 4. Training of preachers for mission work through East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions, 5. Bibles for China, 6. Bible Correspondence Courses, 7. Cassette Tape Program, and 8. Bible Studies in homes.

## **Benevolent Work**

Local Benevolent work has always been an active program at Highland View. A clothing program for those in need has been carried on by the ladies of the congregation for the past 15 years. An attic area in the church building was remodeled in 1973 to provide rooms for repair, dressing and storage. Large amounts of used clothing are donated by members of Highland View and other congregations as well as interested individuals in Oak Ridge and other places. This clothing is mended, sized and distributed to needy families. New clothing, purchased by the church and donated by manufacturers and stores, supplements the used clothing. Although exact records of the amount of clothing distributed have not been kept, the best information available indicates that from 6,000 to 10,000 pieces of clothing are distributed annually. A pantry stocked with food is maintained for distribution on an emergency basis. The youth and children of the congregation are active in this area of work. Household items are also collected and distributed frequently to meet special needs.

In addition to this local benevolent work, the congregation has supported homes for needy children with monthly contributions for many years. It has supported the East Tennessee Christian Services, Inc. since its beginning. One of the homes for needy children operated by this organization is located next door to the church building and belongs to Highland View. It is furnished to the organization rent-free. This benevolent work is supported additionally by regular and special contributions. The ladies of the congregation presently furnish the home with desserts on a weekly basis.

The benevolent program covers other areas such as meeting the needs of the elderly and shut-ins, flowers for the bereaved, and food for the sick and bereaved of the congregation. Cooperation with other congregations to relieve suffering is also practiced. Cooperation in the Food for Africa project is a good example of this good work.

## Highland View in 1986

The Highland View congregation of 1986 has a membership of 285, representing 166 families.

- Elders:
  - Hoyt Huston - 1976
  - Don Henderson - 1985
  - Harold Standefer – 1985
- Preacher: Bob Carrell

The present aim of elders is to involve every member of the congregation in the work of the church. In order to use everyone's talents, the elders have divided the work load into categories and assigned the following committees the responsibility of getting the work accomplished:

- Evangelism
- Education
- Worship
- Finance
- Fellowship
- Benevolence
- Buildings and Grounds
- Membership
- Promotion
- Missions
- Widows, Orphans, and Elderly
- Youth

The work of each committee must be approved by the elders and the carrying out of all plans is followed closely. The elders call upon the committees periodically for status and/or progress reports.

### **Worship Services**

Sunday Morning Bible School 10 AM

Morning Worship Service 11 AM

Evening Worship Service 6:30 PM

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7 PM

TV 26 Broadcast - Sunday 10 AM--"Herald of Truth"