



6 DECADES OF FAITH & GRACE

A BRIEF GLIMPSE INTO SHALLOWFORD'S HISTORY IN HONOR OF OUR UPCOMING 60TH ANNIVERSARY

'50s

THE BEGINNING OF SHALLOWFORD

Shallowford Presbyterian Church exists because of the prayers, interest and support of many persons. In June of 1958, 55 people attended a service in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Carmichael, who later submitted a petition to the appointed Commission in July of the same year. Less than 24-hours later, twenty-three families with 51 communicant members became Shallowford Presbyterian Church.

Sunday classes quickly formed and members attended weekly worship to hear Shallowford's first installed pastor, Rev. Kirk N. Nesbit, as they convened in the library at Oak Grove School. The congregation grew too large for the library and moved services to the cafeteria where Shallowford's first choir was formed.

Thanks to the generosity of the Carmichael family, Shallowford was gifted four acres of land, and an additional acre was purchased by the Atlanta Presbytery to build the church.

'60s

A PERIOD OF RAPID GROWTH

By 1961, Shallowford had approved a three-stage building program which included the construction of a chapel, education building, and sanctuary. Named after the Carmichaels, the chapel was completed in late summer of 1961. Sunday school classes met in every available space, including the kitchen. Worship services quickly outgrew the seating capacity of 200 leading to the addition of an 8:30 am (now 8:45 am) service.

In May of 1965, 350 people met in the Fellowship Hall to dedicate our new Christian Education Building, which completed stage two. And one year later, in 1966, church members started a kindergarten in the building as a service to the community.

'70s

ESTABLISHING STAFF

In 1971, leaders of the church called pastor, Dr. Thomas L. Are to Shallowford to lead the congregation in their efforts of continued outreach and faith.

A memorial dedication service held in May of 1976 marked the opening of the new sanctuary, completing the final phase of the three-stage building program.

Shallowford's Music Ministry was brought to order under the leadership of Bob Chambless who offered something for everyone - adult and youth choirs; ensembles; bell choirs; musical plays, tours and trips.

Meanwhile, Shallowford's Christian Education Program flourished under Martha Rosselot. Our youth fellowship grew through a variety of activities. The church installed its first Associate Pastor, Rev. David Fry and hired a Director of Member Development. In July 1979, the membership at Shallowford Presbyterian Church totaled 900.

'80s

MUSIC, MISSION & FUN

The search committee recruited Bob Simpson from Westminster Choir College to fill the Minister of Music position in the late-seventies. Soon after, Shallowford was in search of an organ for the sanctuary. On March 23, 1986 Shallowford held a dedication concert for the newly purchased electronic organ built by Allen Organ Company.

In 1986, Shallowford built its first Habitat house for a family from Laos. Since then, sixteen families have found a better life in new Habitat homes through the hard work and generosity of our members.

Mission work turned international in 1981 when Tom Are and three members made their first mission trip to explore 34 villages in Ghana. Six years later, Shallowford joined a Presbytery youth work group working to build the foundation of a health clinic in Dambai, Ghana.

Perhaps the most significant event during this decade was the merger of the two denominations, the Presbyterian Church in the United States, and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS '90s

In 1992, Rev. Tom Are announced his departure from Shallowford. We called Gray Norsworthy, as senior pastor in 1994.

We established the Shallowford Training & Counseling Center now known as the Shallowford Family Counseling Center in the late '80s which was led by Burney Overton, an ordained minister and licensed therapist. In 1998 Burney passed away, and William B. Carr, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care, led the Center until Rev. Robby Carroll was call to lead as Director.

During this decade, the percentage of the annual budget committed to mission nearly doubled, and the list of needs served by our church family continued to expand. When Bob Simpson retired, Bob Chambless returned as Director of Music Ministry. He produced a decade full of special music programs. The congregation grew and Vacation Bible School, Day Camp, children's Sunday School and adult ministries flourished.

A NEW MILLENNIUM

As a result of the 1998 Capital Campaign, construction began on a new atrium and the Great Hall.

'90s

'00s

Mission opportunities continued to grow both locally and overseas. During the 2000s Sunday worship thrived along with spirituality retreats, small prayer groups, Bible study, care minister trainings, men's prayer breakfast meetings and Shallowford Presbyterian Woman.

The youth gave their time to the Chapel Choir, local mission opportunities, Bible study, and fund raising events for the annual summer choir tour.

In 2008, Senior Pastor Gray Norsworthy announced his departure from Shallowford. This same year, the search committee recruited Emily Floyd and hired her as Director of Music Ministries following Bob's retirement.

FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

Rev. Robby Carroll, Jr. led the congregation as Head of Staff until March of 2011, when Rev. Christopher A. Henry was installed as senior pastor.

Shallowford began a capital campaign in 2012 under Rev. Henry's leadership to renovate the existing chapel and create a space for our youth. Shallowford's first print magazine publication, *Sacred Space*, was printed. As membership and staff continued to grow, the Session named Jay Turney chair of the 2014 Capital Campaign Task Force to renovate the sanctuary and kitchen and build staff offices and a nursery.

With a newly renovated sanctuary, we looked forward to Shallowford's first pipe organ. On October 30, 2016, we held a dedication concert to celebrate the installation of our new Casavant Pipe Organ.

In February of 2017, membership reached 1,000 members for the first-time since 1987! The following year Shallowford celebrated the retirement of Rev. Robby Carroll, Jr. as Parish Associate for Congregational Care and his 14 years of faithful service. This decade marked record attendance at our all church retreat and Vacation Bible School.

'10s