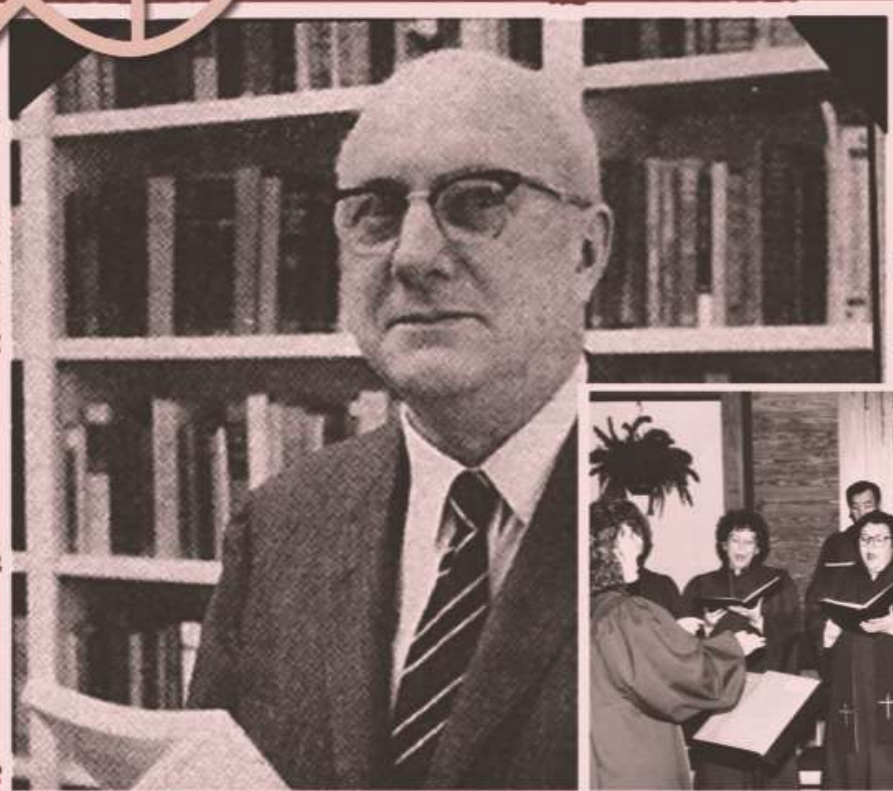




# BINKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH



*A Story of Courage*

# *A Story of Courage*

## *Binkley's First Sixty Years*

*Where We Have Been and  
Where We Are Now*

**Our Leadership  
Where We Worship  
How We Worship and Learn  
How We Serve  
Our Affiliations  
Appreciations  
Our Timeline**

# **Binkley Baptist Church**

**September 23, 2018**

# Where We Worship

## **1958 First Home**

Gerrard Hall on UNC Campus

**Namesake:** Reverend Olin T. Binkley  
Progressive Minister  
Educator

## **1963 Ground Breaking for Growing Church**

Bulldozer Dug First Scoop by Founding Member, Sam Wilburn

## **1965 First Permanent Sanctuary - 1712 Willow Drive**

Current Fellowship Hall

## **1984 Moving Day to our Current Home**

Addition of Sun Room and Breezeway Enclosed

## **1998 Building and Expanding our Latest Home (1998-2007)**

## **2007 Renovations and Additions Completed**

Improved Storage  
New Offices  
Narthex  
Choir Rooms  
Chapel

## **Our Outside Home**

Playgrounds  
Peace Patio  
Memorial Gardens  
Specialty Gardens  
Rose Garden

# Our Leadership

## **The Robert Seymour Years** 1959-1988

(Associates) William Currin  
Dale Sessoms  
Thomas Clifton  
Carol Ripley  
Bruce Page  
Edward Huggins  
Julie Strobe  
William Hoyle  
Pearl Seymour (Organist)

## **The Linda Jordan Years** 1990-1994

(Associates) William Hoyle  
Dale Osborne  
Gretchen Jordan  
Martha Tate (Organist)

## **The James Pike Years** 1996-2007

(Associates) Dale Osborne  
Gretchen Jordan  
Robin Brooks  
Beth Honeycutt  
Martha Tate (Organist)

## **The Peter Carmen Years** 2009-2014

(Associates) Dale Osborne  
Stephanie Ford  
Bo Lloyd (Organist)

## **The Marcus McFaul Years** 2018-Current

(Associates) Dale Osborne  
Stephanie Ford  
Daniel Cherrix (Minister of Music and Organist)  
Josh Dumbleton (Interim Minister of Music and Organist)

# How We Worship & Learn

**INCLUSIVE: ALL ARE WELCOME**

## **Liturgy**

Sermons  
Communions  
Celebrations of Life  
Liturgical Colors

## **Theology and Ethics**

Seymour Symposia  
Social Issues  
Kerygma: Intensive Bible Study

## **Meditation**

The Chapel          Labyrinths

## **Youth and Children's Programs**

Children's Worship  
Youth Ministry  
Kindergartens/Pre-Schools

**ART**      Fine Art      Banners      Bulletins      Dance

**MUSIC**          Choirs          Musicians  
                    Children's Programs      Choral Scholars      Vesper Programs

## **Extravagant Hospitality**

Wednesday Suppers  
Men's Mornings  
Spiritual Retreats for ALL  
Joint Services with other Congregations  
Creating Communities

## **Sunday Schools for ALL Generations**

## **Creating New Learning Environments**

# How We Serve

## **Inter-Faith Council: Fighting Poverty in the Community**

Founding Church  
Community Kitchen  
Home Start  
Men's Community House  
Providing Leadership

## **Meals on Wheels**

Always Housed at Binkley

## **Habitat for Humanity**

Founding Church  
Continuing Support

## **Yard Sale**

1971 Christmas Bazaars begin  
1979 First Big Yard Sale (\$8K) starts  
1983 Growing Sale (\$11K)  
1984 Bi-Annual Event begins  
1997 Partner with Barbee's Chapel (\$45K)  
2019 Continues

## **Providing a HOME: The Building as a Ministry**

Kindergartens/Pre-schools  
Substance Abuse Groups  
Election Site  
Community Chorus and Dancing Groups  
Peer Learning  
And other worshiping communities

## **Racial Reconciliation Ministry**

Barbee's Chapel Harvest Word Church Partnership

## **Earth Ministries**

## **Health Ministries**

## Our Affiliations

### **American Baptist Churches USA**

Over 5,000 Congregations  
Over 1,000,000 Members

### **American Baptist Churches of the South (ABCOTS)**

Binkley a Founding Member (1970)

### **Alliance of Baptist**

Most inclusive Baptist Fellowship  
Binkley a Founding Member (1986)

### **NC Council of Churches**

Member since 1958  
Promoting fellowship and service among Christian denominations

### **Baptist Friends**

Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists  
Partner, Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America



# Binkley Baptist Church: A Story of Courage

## Historical Timeline

### 1957-1968

1957	Binkley Church is formed as an extension project of Yates Baptist Association
1957	Three acres of land purchased for \$7000, then traded to University Mall developers for the present five acres. Some of the funds were from Baptist State Convention and approved by Yates Baptist Association.
1957	First group meeting at Dr. Fred Ellis's home to study church organization
1958	Church was formally organized at Hill Hall (UNC) on September 21, 1958, with 56 charter members.
1958	Church named for Rev. Olin T. Binkley. He was a former minister at Chapel Hill Baptist Church, now University Baptist Church, and then a professor of Ethics and Theology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was the Seminary's second president.
1958	First worship service at Gerrard Hall on UNC campus (September 21, 1958, continued for six years)
1958	George Grigsby, a UNC Freshman from Holly Springs, NC, joined Binkley, becoming its first African American member
1958	Binkley petitioned the NC Council of Churches for membership and was accepted
1959	Robert E. Seymour unanimously called as Senior Minister starting April 1, 1959
1959	Pearl Seymour became church organist replacing June Basile, who was a charter member.
1959	James Gibbs hired for the Music Ministry
1960	Bert Adams hired for the Music Ministry
1962	New church building (Fellowship Hall, educational rooms and initial offices) construction (1962-1964)
1962	James Hall hired for the Music Ministry
1962	Establishment of Student Minister Internship Program. Jim Forbes, an African American, who would later serve as Senior Minister at Riverside Church in New York City, was the first intern.
1963	Interfaith Council (IFC) partnership began with relationship with Church Women United. Leadership roles have continued since that time.
1963	Dr. Fred Ellis, Binkley member and member of the Chapel Hill/Carrboro School Board, cast the deciding vote to fully integrate the school system based on geography and not race



1963	Ground-breaking ceremony for the Sanctuary (current Fellowship Hall) and Education Wing was held on October 13. Sam Wilburn borrowed a bulldozer from University Mall Construction and dug the first scoop of earth.
1964	Moved into new building (education wing and current Fellowship Hall)
1964	Electronic organ purchased for sanctuary by Pearl Seymour's mother
1964	Originally aligned with Southern Baptist Convention, Binkley became dually aligned by joining the American Baptist Convention
1965	Binkley Kindergarten Program established as an outreach mission due to the lack of kindergarten public education
1966	Rev. William C. Currin called as first Associate Minister for Education and began youth ministry program
1966	Binkley denied membership into Yates Baptist Association due to Binkley's open-door policy of admitting members who were not baptized by immersion
1967	First woman elected chair of the Diaconate, Elizabeth Ellis
1967	The early Constitution had provided for transfer of membership from churches in the Evangelical (Protestant) tradition without requiring immersion. It was revised to eliminate mention of Evangelical (Protestant) traditions and welcomed members of all Christian churches.
1967	Judy Hughes hired for the Music Ministry
1967	Maundy Thursday Suppers began and have continued
1967	Howard Lee unanimously elected to the Diaconate. He was the first African American deacon in a predominantly white southern church. He would become the first African American Mayor in Chapel Hill (1969).
1967	Christmas Eve Services began and have continued
1967	Tarheel Charles Scott, the first African American UNC Basketball player, attended worship with Dean Smith.
1968	Carrboro's Carr Court Community project, first major Binkley outreach endeavor
1968	Joined American Baptist Churches USA
1968	Rebecca Carnes hired for Music Ministry (1968-1981)

# 1969-1978

1970	Rev. Dale Sessoms called as Associate Minister
1970	Ridgefield Housing Project Childcare Program began with preschoolers in Binkley's Education Wing (1970-1976)
1970	Founding member of American Baptist Churches of the South (ABCOTS)
1971	Annual Christmas Bazaars started and held until August Yard Sales began
1971	Pursuant to a request by Monique LoRe, a Binkley member, program space was provided for Orange County Association of Retarded Children to assist special-needs children in the community (1971-1976)
1971	Binkley began financial support of an outreach mission in Thailand where members Barbara and Gove Elder served as missionaries until 1986. This financial and missionary support continues today.
1973	Policy adopted to accept into the Binkley membership any person who had previously been baptized regardless of baptism method.
1973	Rev. Thomas Clifton called as Associate Minister
1975	A committee was appointed to examine the issue of gender non-specific language in worship.
1975	Outdoor Baptistry built by Sam Wilburn, whose daughter was the first to be baptized in the new Baptistry. Prior to that time, baptistries at other churches were used.
1975	Refugee resettlement started with focus on Vietnamese immigrants
1976	Bi-City Day Care Center opened at Binkley providing space for the expanding Ridgefield Day Care Project.
1976	Community-sponsored Meals on Wheels program started. Binkley provided office space and distribution area. The first delivery was 10/6/76.
1976	Tall wooden cross erected at the church entrance. Cross was in honor of Rev. Robert Seymour's mother. It was removed in 2016 due to rotting wood.
1976	Women's retreats started
1977	Binkley Kindergarten program converted to a pre-school when State-mandated public kindergartens began (1977-2017)
1977	Leanne Langley hired to the Children's Music Ministry and later to the full choir. (1982-83)
1978	Moravian Love Feast began as a youth project and has continued
1978	Deaf ministry began and services signed for many years. Only Doxology currently signed at worship services.
1978	Rev. Carol Ripley, first woman Associate Minister, called
1978	Rev. Bruce Page called as Associate Minister

# 1979-1988

1980	Church Covenant revised by Robert Bratcher recognizing gender non-specific language was adopted.
1980	African American members Mabel and Bill Strowd were elected deacons at the same time. Due to the rule that a married couple could not serve as deacons at the same time, the decision as to which one would serve was determined by the flip of a coin. Bill won the toss.
1981	Renee Meriwether, Minister of Music, hired part-time. Prior to that time, volunteers and paid individuals served as choir directors.
1981	Decision made to build new sanctuary. (Construction was from 1981-1984)
1981	Rev. Edward Huggins called as Associate Minister. He was instrumental in the formation of Habitat for Humanity in Orange County.
1982	Habitat for Humanity church sponsorship feasibility study started
1983	Rev. Julia Strobe called as Associate Minister
1983	Church passes use of inclusive language in worship
1983	Sue Klausmeyer hired for Music Ministry (1983-84)
1984	Steven Shearon hired for Music Ministry (1984-85)
1984	The annual Christmas Bazaar, which had grown into an expansive Yard Sale, became a biennial event. Those efforts supported a significant number of ministries.
1984	Former outside Baptistry location was replaced by a sunroom. Baptistry was relocated to the new sanctuary area.
1984	New sanctuary dedicated October 4, 1984
1984	Transition Sunday. Congregation began worship in original Fellowship Hall and marched down to new sanctuary thus connecting new to old. New sanctuary seated 500.
1984	Habitat for Humanity of Orange County was established. Sam Wilburn, founding Binkley member, was first President.
1985	Merrell Flair Memorial Rose Garden established and continues
1985	The Maxine and Edwin Keep Memorial Courtyard Garden was created. A portion of the Garden is now referred to as the St. Francis Courtyard.
1985	Sue Klausmeyer returned as Choir Director after studying abroad (1985-88)
1986	Edna Hedgpeth Memorial Playground dedicated
1987	Alliance of Baptists formed with Binkley as early member. Membership continues.

1987	Purchased Pearl Francis Seymour pipe organ currently in sanctuary
1987	First Crop Walk included 35 Binkley walkers and continues today
1987	Binkley joined other churches to sponsor a USSR Bridges for Peace citizen exchange. Efforts continued, including a peace vigil at the church in 1991.
1987	Columbarium placement approved in the corner of the Keep Courtyard and Memorial plaques placed in the Narthex. The original decision was changed to create a Memorial Garden in the courtyard with plaques on the brick wall near the garden. (2010)
1988	Rev. Bob Seymour retires from Binkley
1988	Seymour Symposium initiated at Bob Seymour's retirement
1988	Rev. William Hoyle called as Associate Minister

## 1989-1998

1989	Schulmerich Hand Bells donated in memory of Jenny Carver
1989	Martha Tate became organist (1989-2007)
1989	Ann Hunter Eidson hired for Music Ministry (1989-2000)
1989	The Health Ministries Program began and continues
1990	Rev. Linda Jordan called as Senior Minister (1990-1994)
1990	Gretchan Jordan called as Associate Minister of Christian Education
1991	Binkley became a Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America partner congregation.
1991	Binkley explored the spirituality and theology of human sexuality in educational forums
1992	The decision allowing John Blevins, an openly gay Duke Divinity School student, to be licensed to the Gospel Ministry led to Binkley becoming a Welcoming and Affirming congregation.
1992	Baptist State Convention and Southern Baptist Convention disassociated themselves from Binkley because of the John Blevins licensure issue
1992	Rev. Dale Osborne called as Associate Minister
1993	Primetimers group organized to create fellowship for seniors
1993	Partnered with Chapel Hill Friends Meeting and Zen Buddhist Center in the resettling of 14 Burmese refugees. Primary responsibility for the group ended in 1995, but some relationships have continued.

1994	Policy adopted by diaconate and church council stating Holy Union Services could be conducted for church members, regardless of sexual orientation
1995	The Chalice Hymnal was adopted with awareness of the need for inclusive language in worship
1995	Homeowners moved into first Binkley Habitat House
1996	Partnership with Barbee's Chapel Baptist Church in an effort to be active in racial reconciliation. First joint worship service was at Barbee's on March 3, 1996.
1996	Rev. James Pike called as Senior Minister (1996-2007)
1997	Yard sale partnered with Barbee's Chapel Baptist Church to become a joint venture resulting in record profits
1998	Fire Department condemned the Fellowship Hall roof leading to the renovation of the current space. (1998-2007)
1998	Binkley joined the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists
1998	Fine Arts Committee created and continues. The first exhibit was Japanese Folk Artist Sadao Watanalie, whose works represented Biblical events adapted to Japanese terms. Art was also created by members and friends of Binkley for an exhibit that is held every two years.

## 1999-2008

1999	Grand Piano given for sanctuary in memory of Sib Dorton
1999	Members of a Kansas congregation picketed with anti-gay signs during church service (May 16, 1999)
1999	Labyrinth concept introduced to church and other community churches joined in celebrating
1999	Margaret's Closet offering shared medical equipment opened
2000	Christine Shaulis hired for Music Ministry (2000-02)
2001	Boy Scouts of America did not renew charter for Troop 820 which had been at Binkley for 39 years due to the Welcoming and Affirming Covenant
2002	Leandra Strobe hired for Music Ministry (2002-14)
2003	First year the crosses were hung in the sanctuary by the Fine Arts Committee. Binkley holds a copyright for the crosses and accompanying historical notes.
2003	Formation of Earth Ministries Committee and new church covenant toward "Greening"
2005	Formed Resettlement Committee to have an active role in helping refugees resettle in the Triangle area (2005-current)
2005	First Binkley Open Golf Tournament, which has continued

2006	Different approach to worship for children - encourage children to experience in their own way
2006	Dale Osborne organized and led a mission reconstruction trip to New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Binkley youth and adults participated.
2007	Dedication of new office space, choir room, storage area, expanded Narthex, and chapel in honor of Pearl and Robert Seymour (Const. 2006-2007)
2008	Bo Lloyd hired as organist (2008-2014)
2008	Binkley is a founding member of Faith Connections on Mental Illness

## 2009-2018

2009	Senior Minister Peter Carmen called (2009-2014)
2010	Peace and Justice Action formed into a functioning group
2011	Rev. Stephanie Ford called as Minister of Christian Formation
2011	All Hallow's Eve Party began for children
2012	Original wooden cross near Fellowship Hall entrance was removed due to wood rot.
2012	Recommitment service to affirm the right of individuals to enter covenant relationships.
2013	Moral Monday participation began and continues
2014	Daniel Cherrix, Music Minister and Organist, hired
2015	Children's Choir Workshop started
2015	Wednesday evening dinner programs extended to semester length
2015	Binkley continued its commitment to safe and affordable childcare, particularly for low-income and minority children in the Chapel Hill area, by providing housing for KidSCOPE Children's Learning Center in the Education Wing.
2015	Saturday morning Men of Binkley educational group formed
2016	Fall Festival started as Community Gathering Day and continues
2016	The Grounds Committee designed and created the Celtic Cross Garden. A dove sculpture, designed by local metal artist Michael Roig, was installed in the Garden.
2016	A Peace Pole and surrounding Peace Plaza were designed and created by the Grounds Committee in honor Carl Henley's son, Andrew Henley.
2016	Earth Ministries instrumental in having solar panels installed on Fellowship Hall roof

2016	Choral Scholars program started
2016	A Vespers Service for All Souls began in conjunction with the IFC. It is a remembrance of our community's homeless who have died in the past year.
2016	Community Youth Choirs Benefit for varied local charities
2017	Purchased Grand Piano for Fellowship Hall
2017	Annual Children's Weekend began which included musical and picnic
2017	Binkley Preschool became a 501(C)3; no longer a church program but housed in the church
2018	Recycling program expanded
2018	Rev. Marcus McFaul called as Senior Minister
2018	One unit of a Habitat Beloved Community for senior citizens, Crescent Magnolia, is named in honor of Robert Seymour. This is a Binkley 60th Anniversary service project.
2018	Binkley's 60th Anniversary celebration will be held September 23, 2018



The **60th Anniversary Committee** would like to thank Binkley Members who shared their time, memory, and energy in gathering this timeline of dates and events. Research of old pictures, histories, newspaper clippings, bulletins, and personal records provided these details. We hope they provide a glance into Binkley's Courageous History. Many dates were conflicting and, hopefully, we made the best possible choices. Binkley staff, especially Stephenie Sanders, assisted us by supporting a variety of publication needs. A special thanks to two non-members who provided technical support and many hours of corrections and editing, Karyl Walls and William Yearby. Ms. Walls was a member of Binkley before returning to her Methodist roots, and Mr. Yearby is a local graphic artist who has shared his talents with us. Thank you to ALL!

## **Binkley Baptist Church's 60th Anniversary Committee**

Co-Chairs	<b>Keith Williams</b> <b>Marlene Dickison</b>
Reception/dinner	Charles Carver Lillian Lee Ann Brock Anne Winfield Emily Brewer
Decade Recognition	Melinda Wilde Jim Wilde
Timeline	Becky Robinson Lyn Lamont Ruth Ann Ross Marlene Dickison
Banner	Margie Billinger Joy Wood Caryl Fulcher Merrie Shelp Karen Reinfurt Lyn Lamont
Anniversary Project	Linda Textoris
History Play	Lyman Ferrell
Angel Display	Myra Knight Linnea Smith