

Preface to the Fourth Edition

The primary author of this edition was David Hendon who thanks Sharlande Sledge for extremely helpful notes she composed about the events of this period of church history. Information was also provided by Mike Raymond, Steve Gardner, and Vernon Davis.

2009-2019

The ending of one era of our church's story and the beginning of another was marked by weekend long celebration in worship. On Saturday, October 10, 2019, the church met for a Service of Remembrance and Gratitude. In addition to current ministers, former Pastors Richard Groves and Roger Paynter as well former Music Director Richard Aslanian served as worship leaders. The congregation shared names of members who had passed away, sang a hymn of community, and partook in celebration of the sacred meal. The next day, Sunday, worship began with a Mediation of Preparation written by former pastor Rhea Gray. The church shared the Lake Shore story in song with beloved tunes "When God was Is a Child," "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirt," "This is the Church that Love Built," "With My Whole Heart," and "Here I Am Lord. The choir sang a Fiftieth Anniversary anthem composed by Aaron Garcia. The congregation sang a Hymn of Meditation written by Deborah Harris especially for the occasion. Pastor Dorisanne Cooper delivered the sermon entitled "Dear Lake Shore."

The new period saw the continued excellent leadership of Dorisanne Cooper and Sharlande Sledge. Pastor Cooper was able to enjoy the benefit of a sabbatical during the summer of 2010. During her absence Mike Sciretti served in the temporary position of summer sabbatical minister. Sciretti had served previously as youth minister but had resigned to concentrate on finishing his Master of Divinity program at Truett Seminary. Charles Conkin, a 2008 Truett graduate who was ordained in 2009 by Lake Shore, served as youth minister after Sciretti. Mike Sciretti was called to be minister of spiritual formation at Freemason Street Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia, in January 2010. So, a grateful church bade farewell to him and wife Rachel who had been serving as part time minister to children. Jaime McGlothlin, a Truett graduate, was hired the next year as the new minister to children. During this period Daniel Ferris continued his enthusiastic leadership of the church's music program. Youth Minister Charles Conkin was called to be the associate pastor of Central Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky in 2013, and the church hired Zach Helton, a third-year student at Truett, to replace him. Other significant events in the area of ministry included the ordination in 2010 of Virginia Courtney, Meredith Holladay, Zach Helton, Claire Helton, Ginny Brewer Boydston, Andy Stubblefield, and Jaime McGlothlin. The efficient functioning of the office was the work of Tammy Woods, Amada Alumbaugh, and then Krysta Pittman. Gordon Lawrence and Homer Garcia took care of the buildings and grounds.

A new way to organize the mission efforts that are so important to the church began in 2010. This was based on the idea of a Missions Table which features mission groups. The latter is defined as three or more people who want to be part of a group and who craft a covenant describing their commitment." Six of these emerged and got a seat at the table: food pantry, meals on wheels, self-sufficiency, children's center board, Mountainview garden, and global

missions. A significant event in the church's mission effort is the annual soup supper. Attendees in return for a contribution receive a handcrafted bowl. Barbara Frances originally made and donated the bowls and later Glenda Ramsower and Paul McCoy of the Baylor art department. Recent recipients of the donations include the Christian Ministries to Gaza, Mission Waco's Ministries in Haiti, Japan Earthquake Relief, World Hunger Relief, Inc. (Nicaragua and Haiti), the village water project in Nsam, Cameroon, and Baptist in Lebanon (for Syrian refugee food relief).

The church undertook several significant improvements of the building and grounds. There was a new windows project to reduce heating and cooling costs. Even more significant was the decision in 2017 to replace all lights with LED bulbs and to install solar panels. This project was funded by special pledges from members and did not affect the annual budget. In 2013 specified donations funded the replacement of the sound system in the sanctuary. In 2015 the church got new carpets and entryway flooring and all the upstairs was repainted. The old "whoosh" chairs in the sanctuary were replaced with new ones. The church donated the old chairs with the most going to Amazing Grace Baptist Church in Atlanta, the church of former members Robert and Christiana Owusu. There was also work on the Prayer Labyrinth that had been built behind the church. This earned a commendation from the city of Waco. The Labyrinth and the adjacent Jack and Kay Hansma Peace Garden were rededicated on March 20, 2014.

The church lost one of its most active and faithful members with the passing of Catherine Davenport on February 27, 2013. Catherine and her husband Burl were charter members, and Catherine was a member for fifty-three years. She became financial secretary in 1985 and administrative secretary in 1994, a position she held until 2003. After her retirement she continued to serve as coordinator for Meals on Wheels, Care Group leader, deacon, food pantry volunteer, mission trip participant, Bereshith class member, missions table member, Shalom covenant group member, and coordinator for the missions tree in the Christmas season. The missions tree bears ornaments that specify gifts for various social ministries. Lake Shore has long appreciated the fellowship of food, and Catherine's contribution in this regard was highly valued. She made sure that the meals for Wednesday night suppers were outstanding. She was also the editor of a church cookbook. For forty-four years she hosted an annual ice cream supper in her immaculately groomed backyard.

Lake Shore saw a huge change when Dorisanne Cooper was called to Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina, on April 7, 2014. The church celebrated her ten years of service with a supper in honor of her, husband David, and son Adam. She preached her last sermon on April 23. For almost four weeks various guest preachers filled in, and then on August 17 Dr. Burt Burleson began service as the interim preacher. Dr. Burleson served as pastor of DaySpring Baptist Church in Waco before becoming University Chaplain and Dean for Spiritual Life at Baylor in 2007. Burleson provided creative and often humorous sermons and was well received by the congregation. He liked to remind the church that it had a history of making pioneering innovations and that it should continue to live up to that tradition.

On May 31, 2015, Reverend Kyndall Rothaus preached a sermon in view of a call and then was offered the position of Pastor which she accepted. She was officially installed on November 1, 2015, as the ninth pastor of Lake Shore Baptist Church. Pastor Rothaus, an Oklahoma native,

was a graduate of Truitt Seminary who had pastored Covenant Baptist Church in San Antonio previously. She was the author of *Preacher Breath: Sermons and Essays* published by Smith and Helwys in 2015. Rothaus brought with her a tremendous talent as a poet and storyteller as well as a preacher. She has a passion for social justice and championed women's rights, gay rights, and immigrant rights. She offered fresh new perspectives on scripture from a feminist perspective and in 2017 helped found a remarkable conference for women in ministry called "Nevertheless She Preached."

One of the major events of her tenure was the adoption of a "welcoming and affirming" stance. The issue the role of gays and lesbians in the church had been discussed by the Deacons prior to arrival of Pastor Rothaus, but her leadership greatly accelerated the discussion in the church. There followed a year and a half of careful consideration of the issues that culminated in seminar entitled "Compassionate Conversations." Included were consideration of the role of the church in previous civil rights efforts, a sociological perspective, Biblical issues, and the personal experience of members of the church. The statement in favor of "welcoming and affirming" was considered in a business meeting of November 30, 2016, and was passed by a vote of 118 to 22 (total 140). The statement read as follows:

Lake Shore Baptist Church is a welcoming and affirming community of Christians attempting to discover, articulate, and embody the meaning of the gospel in the world today. We affirm each individual as a child of God and as created in God's image. Our welcome holds no bounds, we welcome all persons into membership and full participation in the life and ministry of our congregation.

Though the phrase "welcoming and affirming" is associated with LGBTQ persons, our statement did not single them out because we wanted to leave the statement open so that could be applied to other excluded groups.

The church's decision had consequences. On February 22, 2017, the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) declared that Lake Shore and two other churches (Wilshire Baptist of Dallas and First Baptist of Austin) were "outside of harmonious cooperation." This directly affected Truett students who were Lake Shore members. They were no longer eligible for BGCT scholarships. The church urged members to contribute to a fund created by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship that makes up for the lost scholarships. The church also created a small fund of its own for this purpose. Finally, the church was dismissed from the Waco Baptist Association in the fall of 2017.

Carrying on in its tradition of prophetic witness on social issues, the church acted on the growing problem of refugees. On October 29, 2016, the church collected clothing, toys, and toiletries for the Refugees and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) in San Antonio. On February 10, 2017, the church held a fund-raising dance with music by the band After Midnight which included church member Steve Gardner. Members also donated items for a silent auction. This event raised over \$6,000 for the International Rescue Committee to (IRC) to

be used for assistance to refugees from the civil war, repression and terrorism in Syria. Baylor graduate Michelle Villareal of the Dallas office of IRC spoke. Another such event with After Midnight was held August 23, 2019, devoted to the Central American refugees in Texas. The event raised slightly over \$9,000 for Semillas of San Antonio and American Gateways of Central Texas. Semillas (Seeds) offers safety, rest, and healing from the trauma that refugees experience. American Gateways offers legal services at no or low costs to immigrants, refugees, survivors of persecution, and human trafficking. Anali Gatlin Looper, director of the local affiliate of American Gateways was the speaker at the dance. Several church members participated in a “Families Belong Together Rally” on June 30, 2018, in Heritage Square, and Pastor Rothaus gave a powerful address. The following Wednesday night the church conducted a letter writing session urging elected representatives to stop the separation of children from their parents at the Texas-Mexico border. The Palm Sunday Soup Supper for 2019 (April 14) heard from John Garland, pastor of San Antonio Mennonite Church in San Antonio told moving stories of refugees he has worked with. The money raised that night went to La Casa de Maria y Marta in San Antonio.

The church experienced a wonderful and generous gift from the estate of former member Deborah Harris. Deborah, a beloved member of Lake Shore and gifted lyricist, poet, and singer, died on November 28, 2016, but the church only learned of the gift on January 14, 2019, after the settlement of her mesothelioma case. The bequest was \$848, 173.61. The generosity of the gift was possible because of Deborah’s brother, Ron Harris, and sister, Ruth Ann Borrowman, who wanted to honor Deborah and her intended gifts to ministries that she loved. In addition to Lake Shore these include Caritas, Talitha Koum and Seeds. The Deacons formed a ten-person *ad hoc* committee headed by Finance Chair Mike Raymond to recommend how to use the Harris Gift. The committee solicited ideas from a wide range of church members and representatives of standing committees. The committee was guided by the idea of doing what Deborah would have wanted. They decided that she had a keen appreciation of fellowship and the ability of the church to bring people together. She celebrated beauty in music, writing, and the world around us. Finally, because of her own experience, she was sensitive to those living in financial need. The recommendations were approved by the deacons and then by the church in business meeting on June 4, 2019, with only slight modifications. The expenditures, which included short term and long term elements, fell into three categories. “A Welcoming Place Project” included a kitchen upgrade, improving areas of the church that serve our children and youth., and development of a master plan for the Labyrinth, the Hansma Peace Garden, and the surrounding area behind the church. A second area, the arts, included funding a complete assessment of the church organ and creation of an annual arts event at the church in Deborah’s name. A third area, missions, included support for the Shalom Children’s Center in Ghana, the creation of a benevolence fund, a compensation pool for Lake Shore Baptist Children’s Center, Children’s Center scholarships in Deborah’s name, and Truett Seminary scholarships in Deborah’s name.

While the church continued its mission minded efforts, it also undertook some more practical steps to modernize our practices. Steve Gardner created a new Website and an online member directory. It also became possible to donate online. During a return visit former pastor Brett Younger cautioned the church to think of new ways of guaranteeing steady income in an age of changing ideas about giving and service. Accordingly, the church set up an account with the Waco Foundation so that members can arrange for leaving money for an endowment when they

pass away. The church also made a commitment over a period of years to improve the salaries of non-pastoral staff so they would have a “living wage.”

The latter part of this period saw significant change in church staffing. Janya Martin resigned as organist on May 4, 2016. During the following period Claire Helton filled in at the organ, and Daniel sometimes played the piano. Sheena Gibbons, a Baylor graduate who had studied organ with the well know Joyce Jones, began as the new organist on November 1, 2017. Daniel Ferris resigned as Music Director on December 8, 2016. The church held a farewell reception for Daniel, Rachel, and daughter Ariel on January 6, 2017 Daniel was replaced briefly by Curtis Streetman, a member of the Music School faculty at Baylor. He in turn was replaced by Ross Tapley. The church voted to hire Ross on February 28, 2018, and he began serving the Sunday after Easter. Ross did much to enrich Lake Shore’s music program, but after a little over a year of service he received a call to be Minister of Music at First Baptist Church of Austin. The church regretted the loss but understood that this was an important career move for him. On November 11, 2018, the church said farewell to Zach and Claire Helton who had faithfully served as part-time Minister of Youth and Minister to Children respectively. As with Ross, the church regretted the loss but also celebrated their professional advancement. They achieved a long standing dream of sharing a joint senior pastorate at Northminster Baptist Church, a fellow Cooperative Baptist congregation located in West Monroe, Louisiana. In the wake of their departure, the Children’s and Youth Education Committees recommended that the part time positions for Youth and Children be combined. The Personnel Committee and the Deacons agreed and a job description for the new position, and the church in business meeting approved unanimously. Because of this transition, a longer interim for this position ensued. Steve and Jenna Swanson stepped into the gap and did a marvelous job—Steve for Youth and Jenna for Children. They also began electronic newsletters to keep the church informed of activities, a very helpful innovation that has built stronger intergenerational communication. Finally, On June 26, 2019, the church in business meeting voted unanimously to hire Megan Grant to fill the new position of Minister to Children, Youth, and Families. Megan came to us from St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church in Keller Texas, where she was part-time youth minister. She is a candidate for the Minister of Divinity at Brite School of Theology at Texas Christian University.

After four years of excellent preaching, Kyndall Rothaus resigned as pastor on May 29, 2019. She began a new private practice as a spiritual director. She also said she wanted to devote more time to writing and to be being a mother. The church celebrated her ministry with a reception on June 30. Over the summer various members and guest minister provided sermons, but the church decided not to move immediate to search for a new pastor. Instead, an Interim Search Committee led by Vernon Davis contacted The Center for Congregation Health in Winston-Salem, North Carolina to consider the possibility of an “intentional interim minister.” On August 28 the church in business meeting approved this idea.

The last ten years have been eventful ones in the history of our church. An intentional interim will take more time that would be required just to hire a new full-time pastor, but the church felt it would be good to take the opportunity to reflect on who we are and what are goals for the future are. Lake Shore’s commitments have been clear in many ways. Our commitment to women is ministry was illustrated when Baptist Women in Ministry presented Sharlande Sledge

with the 2018 Distinguished Mentor Award. Our commitment to an international vision was shown by our support for Brittany and Stacey Ramirez as Cooperative Baptist interns (missionaries) in Chengdu, China and by our support for projects in Ghana, Cameroon, and Gaza. Our commitment to social justice was shown in our work on behalf of refugees, LGBTQ people, and our cooperation with Carver Park Baptist and the food pantry. We also have demonstrated our concern for God's creation by recycling and installing solar panels. We have worked to nourish our children and youth and to care for our elderly and those of us who are ill. We remain committed to Christian education and excellence in preaching . Yet, there remains much to be done. Changing times will continue to raise new questions and require us to search for new insights into what God will have us do.