



**Flat Rock Baptist Church
Mount Airy, North Carolina**

PROLOGUE

There is a verse in the book of Joshua that seems appropriate now: “When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, what mean these stones? Then ye shall let your children know saying . . .” (Joshua 4:21-22)

The Hebrews came out of the wilderness and crossed the Jordan. Forty years of wandering in the wilderness and the bitter memory of slavery in Egypt came with them as they crossed over. On the other side was freedom, and a promise, and a land that could be theirs.

As soon as they had crossed, Joshua commanded that a strange ritual take place. Twelve men, one from each tribe, were asked to go back into the river and bring out a stone on which the priests had stood. With these stones they built a monument at Gilgal saying, “This shall be a sign among you, and when your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, what mean these stones, then ye shall answer them . . .”

It is through these days of celebration, beginning with our ritual of dedication, we seek to interpret the meaning of these stones. In a larger sense the dedication has already begun, and will continue far into the future. When marriage vows are spoken, when families gather to bid farewell to a loved one, and when the voice of God speaks to a heart in some service of worship — in all these holy experiences, these stones are hallowed by the grace of God.

Like Joshua of old, we pause at a crucial moment in the long march to celebrate a ritual that the deeper meaning might never be lost, and so to the glory of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and to humanity,

we dedicate this building.

We Dedicate This Building in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, to Humanity

WELCOME

To all former ministers and members of Flat Rock Baptist Church, and all guests we extend a very cordial welcome. We are happy you can share with us the joy of this service of dedication. Especially, as we dedicate this building, we welcome the participants in our service this afternoon.

BOYD HOPKINS
Pastor

SERVICES OF DEDICATION

APRIL 4-7, 1974

*"We Dedicate This Building in the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, to Humanity."*

- Thursday, April 4, 7:30 P.M.....Paul Riggs
"We Dedicate This Building in the Name of the Father. . . ."
- Friday, April 5, 7:30 P.M.....Larry Williams
"We Dedicate This Building in the Name . . . of the Son. . . ."
- Saturday, April 6, 7:30 P.M.....Oren Bradley
"We Dedicate This Building in the Name . . . of the Holy Spirit. . . ."
- Sunday, April 7, 11:00 A.M.....Joe Maye
"We Dedicate This Building . . . to Humanity."
- Sunday, April 7, 2:00 P.M.....Boyd Hopkins
"We Dedicate This Building."

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

12:30 Lunch in the Fellowship Hall

2:00 The Dedication Service

3:00-5:00 Open House

Participants in Our Services

Serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Kings Mountain, North Carolina, **PAUL RIGGS** represents former members of our church who have entered the ministry.

BOB CREWS is pastor of the Flat Rock Presbyterian Church in our community.

Directed by Joseph P. Gamble, the **TRINITY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE** has performed in **The Sound of Music**, **My Fair Lady**, **Oliver**, **Brigadoon**, **Fiddler on the Roof**, and most recently, **Music Man**. They have sung in several churches in the High Point area, accompanied by Miss Cheryl Snead.

LARRY WILLIAMS, who is representing the Baptist State Convention, is the Campus Minister at Meredith College, Raleigh. He formerly was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dobson.

R. J. HARTMAN is the pastor of the Flippin Memorial Baptist Church in the Flat Rock community.

NORTH SURRY CHAMBER SINGERS is a group from the North Surry High School. Many of our young people in the church attend North Surry. Under the direction and accompaniment of Sandy Beam, the group has competed on the state level and won high honors.

Representing the Surry Baptist Association is **OREN BRADLEY**, Superintendent of Missions for the Surry Baptist Association.

JOHN BATES is pastor of the Flat Rock Pentecostal Church in the Flat Rock community.

Celebrate Life, a cantata, was presented by the **ELKIN BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR** at our church last year. Co-ordinators for the choir are Mrs. Sarah Campbell and Mrs. Natalie Williams.

An instructor in psychology at Surry Community College, **JOE MAYE** represents former pastors of our church.

Presently singing with the Bethania Moravian Church Choir, **MISS PATTY SUE HART** studied music at Salem College with Joan Jacobowsky. While living and studying in Winston-Salem, Patty was a member and soloist of the First Presbyterian Church. Also, she has been a member of the choir at Knollwood Baptist Church. She served as our choir director for fifteen years.

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday, April 7, 1974

Afternoon at Two O'clock

"We Dedicate This Building"

The Prelude *Sharon Simmons, Organist*

Call to Worship

OPENING SENTENCES *Pastor*

"This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. Blessed be the Lord; may His glory fill the whole earth!"

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 54 — "God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand" *Warren*

INVOCATION *Alfred Hiatt, Sunday School Director*

Worship Is Praise

RECOGNITION OF BUILDING COMMITTEES

THE GLORIA PATRI *Greatorex*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Worship Is Meditation

SCRIPTURE READING IN UNISON — No. 59 *“Dedicating a Church”*

QUIET MEDITATION *Organist*

DEDICATORY PRAYER *Church Family in Unison*

Almighty God, unto Thee we give our thanks for Thy grace that put it into our hearts to build with Thy help this sanctuary. Make us aware that this church is a House of Prayer for all people, that men may be conscious that Thou art in this place. We give Thee thanks and pray that here we will see the duties and the responsibilities which this new structure lays upon us and to the opportunities which now open to us. As we dedicate this building in the name of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and to humanity, make us living temples, holy and acceptable unto Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Worship Is Giving

HYMN 20 — “O Worship the King” *Haydn*

OFFERTORY SENTENCE AND PRAYER *Pastor*

OFFERTORY *Organist and Pianist*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE — “Bless Thou the Gifts” *Schumann*

*Bless Thou the gifts our hands have brought;
Bless Thou the work our hearts have planned;
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Thy hand. Amen.*

Worship Is Proclamation

VOWS OF DEDICATION *Church Family in Unison*

This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad. (Psalm 126:3)

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. (Psalm 103:1, 2)

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; and let men say among the nations, the Lord reigns. (I Chronicles 16:31)

Let the people praise You, O God; let all the people praise You. (Psalm 67:3)

In joyful praise and humble gratitude we come now to dedicate this building.

To the glory of God our Father, from Whom every good and perfect gift comes, we joyfully and gratefully dedicate this building.

To the honor of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we joyfully and gratefully dedicate this building.

To the praise of the Holy Spirit, Who is our help and guide into all truth, we joyfully and gratefully dedicate this building.

To humanity, here and everywhere, who sense a need for tender loving care, we joyfully and gratefully dedicate this building.

In grateful remembrance of all those who have gone before us in the faith of our fathers, without whose love and sacrifice we could not have built, and with glad thoughts of those who shall come after us, we joyfully and gratefully dedicate this building.

To the worship of God in prayer and praise through music; to the study and teaching of the Bible, God's Holy Word; to the preaching of the Word; and to the observance of the church ordinances, we joyfully and gratefully dedicate this building.

For the spiritual enrichment of life as it unfolds through childhood; for the nurture and training of youth; for partnership with our home in the preparation of lives for abundant living; for the support of high ideals and noble character in our community, we joyfully and gratefully dedicate this building.

For the furtherance of the world-wide program of Jesus, for the encouragement of missionary endeavor at home and abroad, for Christian evangelism and education, for the promotion of social righteousness and the building of human brotherhood, we joyfully and gratefully dedicate this building.

Because this building, apart from those who use it, is but an empty pile of wood, stone, and mortar, to You, O God, we dedicate ourselves anew: to the tasks to which You call us, to the opportunities which You give us, to life in the Spirit, we offer You this building, our lives, and our possessions in joyful and grateful dedication.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, to Humanity, we joyfully and gratefully dedicate this building. Amen!

In grateful remembrance of all those who have gone before us in the faith of our fathers, without whose love and sacrifice we could not have built, and with glad thoughts of those who shall come after us, we joyfully and gratefully dedicate this building.

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In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, to Humanity, we joyfully and gratefully dedicate this building. Amen!

I KINGS 8:54-61

ANTHEM — “Rising from Foundation Strong” *Jack Campbell*

Rising from foundation strong soar sturdy walls, and eyes admire
The pitch of roof, the lofty height of heav'n pointed, crossed spire.
Lest Thou, good Lord, shall build the House,
We workmen vainly labour:
O Master Builder, be our Guest.
Now grant to us Thy favour.

The sounding pipes, the wooden pews,
Cold walls of stone and plaster
Shall hollow ring and empty stand
Unless Thou be our Master!
Come, Lord, be Thou a Holy Flame Whose warmth we may not merit,
But may we through Thy gracious love Thy Kingdom's life inherit.

Holy Architect, God divine, O bless this stone and mortar,
But truly deep within our hearts
Erect Thine Holy Altar.
For only then shall we be blest with all Thy Spirit's power.
And then, and then, our Fellowship shall be Thy Church's finest hour!

THE DEDICATION SERMON *Boyd Hopkins, Pastor*

HYMN OF DEDICATION *Tune: "Old 100th"*

**O God, Who is the yesteryear
Did'st move among Thy people here
And cause their trusting eyes to see
A vision . . . now reality.**

**We come before Thy presence now,
In gratitude we humbly bow
To thank Thee that Thy hand hath led
To faithful ones Thy paths to tread.**

**We stand today on holy ground
And feel their spirits here surround
This edifice of wood and stone . . .
A work that is not ours alone.**

**But all who shared with hand and heart
To build these walls have had their part.
Thy hand, amid us, wrought, unseen,
To bring fruition to our dream.**

**We dedicate these walls to Thee,
O let them now a gateway be
To learning of Thee and Thy ways.
Our Father God, we give Thee praise.**

BENEDICTION *David Hensley*

CHORAL AMEN *Traditional*

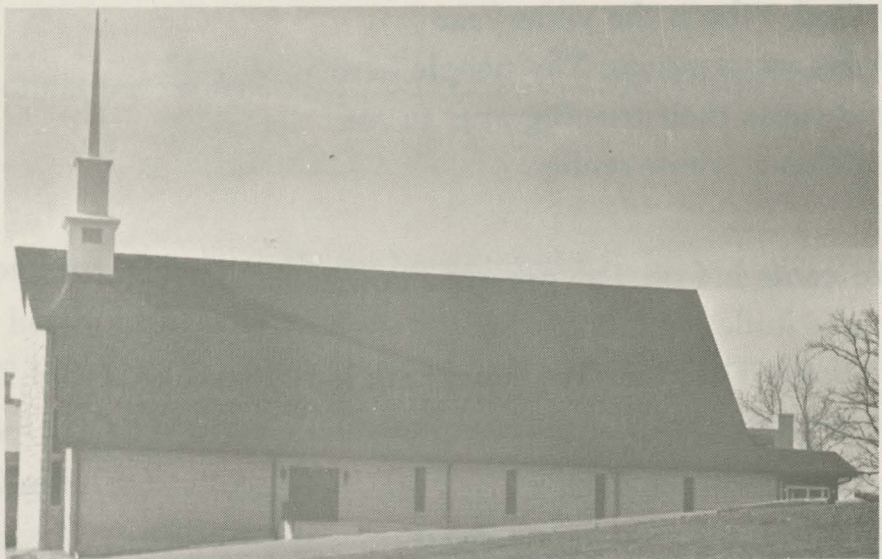
Interpretation of Building

Most any congregation of Christians runs the gamut of aesthetic tastes in architectural design and in theological interpretations. Flat Rock Baptist Church is no exception. Yet, out of these complex relations has come what many feel to be a very beautiful and adequate building.

Original plans called for brick instead of stone. But brick to blend with

granite were not easily found in 1973, and when found, were too scarce. The Building Committee then recommended granite from the local quarry, much to the pleasure of everyone. Why build a church in Flat Rock made of brick? Brick simply did not fit the geographical environment. The result is the impressive stone building with the peak of the front wall rising some forty feet high.

Atop the steep roof is a three-tiered steeple with a three-foot cross on top. Hopefully





the ascending tiers will remind passersby of a higher plane of Christian living. The cross designates the way that leads to that life. On a clear day and when lighted at night, the steeple and cross can be seen for several miles.

The sanctuary has two main entrances, both of which speak a warm welcome. The one nearer the front of the church has a

ramp for easy access via wheelchair. It is also convenient for weddings and funerals. The entrance nearer the back of the church enters into the narthex or vestibule. This offers direct access to the educational building and to the office wing. Though the narthex was historically the place where people stood to observe a service of worship, it is hoped that here the church family may enjoy each other in conversation and laughter before entering the sanctuary proper.

The two wall lights, one on either side of the main entrance, are bedecked with a cross and are replicas of the wall lights inside the sanctuary. These will remind us that we are entering the sanctuary, and will encourage us to prepare to meet God in the Spirit of Christ.

Upon entering the sanctuary, a long aisle leads one uninterrupted to the chancel or pulpit area. Here three steps, which may also be used as risers, lead one onto the chancel platform. Three is symbolic of the Trinity and of Faith, Hope, and Love. The lectern is located to the left, the communion table in the center, the accent stand on the right, and are thus explained.

To some people, the preaching of the cross is foolishness; to others, it is the power of God and salvation. (I Corinthians 1:18) The lectern symbolizes the preaching of the Word and is considered by some Baptists as their central theology.

To some people, communion with God is absolutely essential to the initial and to the continuing redemptive experience of Christ's love. One may begin his road to salvation by responding to the preached Word, but only through constant communion with the Holy Spirit can one arrive at "heaven's gate" and expect admission. Nor can one share in doing "for one of the least important of these brothers of mine" apart from a reverent communion with the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 25:40) "Do this in remembrance of me" is central to all areas of the Christian life. (I Corinthians 11:25) Therefore, the communion table occupies the central position in our place of worship.

The cross on the communion table reminds one that "The greatest love a man can

have for his friends is to give his life for them," following the example of our Lord. (John 15:13) The IHS on the cross symbolizes the Greek words for Jesus.

The candles on either side of the cross speak in burning flame that Jesus is "the light of the world." Whoever follows him will have the light of life and will never need to walk in the darkness. (John 8:12)

Flowers will be placed on the accent stand, to the glory of God and in loving honor or in loving memory of relatives and friends.

One can readily see, then, that the chancel area is designed so that no furniture will need to be moved when weddings and funerals are conducted in the sanctuary.

Elevated behind the communion table and the choir is the baptistry, fulfilling the scripture taught by Jesus to "baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19b) The baptistry opening extends to the ceiling, and causes one literally to cast his eyes upward and ask, "From whence does my help come?" (Psalm 121:1)

Hanging high above the baptistry is a "rugged cross," sixteen feet tall, with a five-foot crossarm, reminding worshipers of the ignominious death of our Lord, the price He was willing to pay that we "might have life and have it in all its fullness." (John 10:10) The cross hangs against a background of light sky blue, blue to represent the ethereal, the celestial or heavenly. This was needed, since the various shades of brown are symbolic of the terrestrial, the earthly life.

One could hardly look at the narrow windows without remembering the rainbow. The various colors of the plexiglass bring to our memory the covenant between God and Noah:

"This is the sign of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth . . . the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh." (Genesis 9:13, 15b)

It is my personal conviction that if one cannot worship in the warm physical and spiritual setting of this sanctuary, one cannot worship. It is therefore the prayer of all: may the architectural design, the religious symbolism, and the loving fellowship of this church family draw one again and again to worship our God in this place.

BOYD HOPKINS
Pastor

From Log Cabin to Stone Building: A Brief History of Flat Rock Baptist Church

1899-1974 . . . from Laurel Hill to Flat Rock . . . from a membership of 25 to the present resident membership of 335 . . . from J. H. Powers, our first pastor in 1899

to Boyd Hopkins, our present pastor in 1971 . . . from a log cabin which served as a meeting house for the members in 1899 to the rock building in 1905 in Flat Rock to the granite building in the mid-30's to our new stone building on March 3, 1974, we can proclaim we have come a long way.

On January 15, 1899, John A. Martin wrote in his minutes at a meeting for the purpose of organizing the Flat Rock Baptist Church "... representatives from different churches met here (Laurel Hill) today for the purpose of organizing a new church." Sixteen members from Hollow Springs Baptist Church (now called Holly Springs Baptist Church) and nine members from Mt. Airy Baptist Church (now known as the First Baptist Church of Mt. Airy) became members of the newly organized church. Martin continues "... on motion of Rev. C. C. Haymore these 25 members were declared a regular organized and independent Baptist church. On motion of Brother J. W. Simmons the church was named Flat Rock Baptist Church."

On February 11, 1899, the members elected the Rev. J. H. Powers their first pastor. Serving as the first church building in 1899, a log cabin was used until the members moved into the rock building in 1905.

In the mid-30's, the church family moved into the granite building which stood only a few feet from the rock building. This building, once a school house, was remodeled. At one time this house of worship also served as a dwelling house for at least two families. In 1954 an educational building was added. A new parsonage followed the construction of the 1954 addition.

Since we moved into the granite building, we have had ten men who have been ordained into the ministry. Harvey Baughn, Jr., Mike Childress, Murray DeHart, T. W. Estes, Reuben Hiatt, Dale Loftis, Eldridge Marshall, Sam O'Neal, Paul Riggs, and Roland Simmons are these men.

Pastors who served after J. H. Powers and before Boyd Hopkins number twenty-three. Robert M. Loftis was pastor in 1900 followed by S. M. Morton and William Beamer. C. C. Haymore, 1911; Tom Smith, 1912; W. H. Wilson, 1913; T. S. Grey, 1915; L. M. Hooks, 1919; A. L. Harrison, 1922; O. H. Hauser, 1926; James Belton, 1929; Joe Hall, 1932; J. H. Hadley, 1935; O. E. Ward, 1936; Felix Wagoner, 1943; Robert Weckle, 1945; Howard Baraham, 1946; Paul Bruner, 1949; Joe Maye, 1953; William Eaton, 1961; Lowell Willis, 1966; Joe Maye, 1967; and James Fink, 1969 complete the list of men who have served our church.

And now the new church stands — a house built for the worship of God and service to men — a gift of love and sacrifice from the descendants of those twenty-five members and the hundreds of other dedicated men and women who are and have been friends and members of Flat Rock Baptist Church. On April 4-7 dedication services were held in the sanctuary with the theme WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TO HUMANITY.

And thus history continues at Flat Rock Baptist Church.

**Those Who Had a Part in Constructing
and Furnishing Our New Building**

SUPERVISORS OF CONSTRUCTION

FRED ALLRED AND BROOKS GEORGE

Painting

TOM SHAW PAINTING COMPANY
Mount Airy, North Carolina

Flat Roofing

REGAN ROOFING COMPANY
Mount Airy, North Carolina

**Heating, Air Conditioning,
Electrical Wiring**

MCCRAW-KING
Mount Airy, North Carolina

Plumbing

SHELTON PLUMBING COMPANY
Mount Airy, North Carolina

Sound System

CUSTOM BACKGROUND MUSIC COMPANY
Installed by Orange Shelton
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Organ

RODGERS ORGAN
Hillsboro, Oregon
Installed by PEARSON MUSIC COMPANY
Greensboro, North Carolina

Stone

NORTH CAROLINA GRANITE
CORPORATION
Mount Airy, North Carolina

Construction Materials

MOUNT AIRY BUILDERS SUPPLY
Mount Airy, North Carolina

Steeple and Baptistry

GLASS-TECH PLASTICS
Roswell, Georgia

Carpet, Pews, Lights, etc.

VERNON EQUIPMENT COMPANY
Ken Vernon, Representative
High Point, North Carolina

Landscaping

CHARLES EARNEST
Agricultural Extension Department
Dobson, North Carolina

Engineers and Architects

PENDLETON, LEONARD, AND KRIDER
Statesville, North Carolina

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PIONEER PRINTING COMPANY of
Mount Airy, North Carolina

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Elmer Timmons, Chairman 1969-1972
Bob Patterson, 1969-1974,
Chairman 1972-1974
Frank Hensley, 1969-1974
Frank Archer, 1969-1974
Lewis Collins, 1969-1972
Patty Sue Hart, 1969-1972
Clarence Fagg, 1972-1974
Charles Goad, 1972-1974
Clifford Inman, 1973
Wayne Pike, 1973

INTERIOR DECORATING COMMITTEE

Alfred Hiatt, Chairman
Mary Hensley
Frank Archer
Jean Hopkins
Clifford Inman

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASING ORGAN AND PIANO

Joby Shelton, Chairman
Kathe Beaver
Sharon Simmons
Pat Williams
Gray Simmons

DEDICATION COMMITTEE

Dillard Hiatt, Chairman
Betty Gwyn
Jimmy McMillian
Kathe Beaver

ex officio, Boyd Hopkins

We Dedicate This Building

*At last it's finished. God's Building!
We've dreamed, and now
that dream's come true.
Now it stands tall, beautiful, and new,
And we who've waited and watched it grow
are near to tears. We love it so.*

*Slowly,
softly we enter.
The Holy Spirit in the midst of us.
The pews, the organ, the cross,
the windows, the carpet, the door
Are a part of us,
forevermore.*

*What shall our prayer be?
"Father, grant that as we who come to worship
here will feel Thee close and dear."
So as we dedicate this building
in the name of the Father,
the Son,
the Holy Spirit,
and to humanity,
"we also dedicate our lives — anew, to Thee."*

A. DILLARD HIATT