

(This poem appeared in the Great Bridge Baptist Church bulletin for January 2, 1983)

Give Christ Your Best in 1983

Another year is dawning!
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee!

Another year of leaning
Upon Thy loving breast,
Of even deeper trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness,
In the shining of thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise;
Another year of proving
Thy presence "all the days."

Another year of service,
Of witness to Thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning!
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee!

-Copied-
The Bridge 12/29/82



50th Year
Anniversary
1957-2007





To all who are lonely and need friendship,
to all who are discouraged and need good
news, to all who mourn and need comfort,
to all who are tempted and need help,
to all who are sinners and need
forgiveness, to all who are complacent and
need disturbing, to all who love Christ and
would follow Him, this Church opens wide
its doors and bids you welcome.

- Copied from old GBBC bulletin -

Ministerial Staff:

Our first full time Minister of Education and Outreach, Tom Weikel, began his work here in February 1976. Keith Schrum was led to our church in 1979 as our first full time leader of Education and Youth. Rev. Allen Hendricks was called to be the first full-time Minister of Music & Youth in 1984.

Our Sunday School and Bible Study programs continue to prosper under the leadership of our current Minister of Education and Outreach, Rev. Ramon Owens, who joined our staff in July 1993. Sunday morning service is a time of worship and praise led by Rev. Alan Campbell who came as our current Minister of Music and Worship in September 2003. Our Youth Department is multiplying with our Minister to Students, Rev. Richard Castleberry, who joined us in August 2006. As a church, we realize the importance of ministering to our little ones and to lead us in this endeavor Sandi Moseley served as our first Minister to Children from January 1998 to May 2007 and Kay Fombell became our first Minister to Preschool in September 2002.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Many, many thanks to the following people who gave of their time and talents to make this 50th Year Anniversary celebration a joyous occasion!

The 50th Anniversary Committee:

Ruby Cromwell—Chairperson	
Allen Campbell	Butch Crafton
Red Cromwell	Bob Graves
Elizabeth Mackall	Charles Moseley
Artwell Pierce	Gene Starr
Leisa Todd	

Others:

Norma Venning
GBBC Office Staff

GREAT BRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH FIFTY-YEAR HISTORY

and his family felt the call to Great Bridge Baptist Church, a church of 650 members in a rural area near Norfolk, VA.

Throughout his ministry here, Pastor Moseley has always maintained that he is a pastor first, serving his people wherever their needs are. His greatest desire is to be a servant reaching out to his congregants during their most important times – marriage, birth, death, crisis, sickness, sorrow, fear, joy.

When asked what he would say were the highlights of his ministry here, Pastor Moseley recalled the following:

† The greatest of his delights is experiencing someone coming to know the Lord! The blessing of leading a person to know Christ as his/her Savior is the joy of his life.

† Seeing God's hand during this church's times of financial struggles in the early years, this church has learned that God is ever faithful when we put Him in first place!

† Watching our church grow in the knowledge of God's word through Sunday worship, Sunday School, weekly Bible study, 20 years of mid-winter Bible study with Dr. Harold Bryson, and individual study shows that our members hunger for the Gospel!

† We cannot look at our beautiful and spacious sanctuary without expressing thanks to our heavenly Father for His faithfulness and blessing towards our church in these 50 years! His promises are always true!

The history of Great Bridge Baptist Church is a demonstration of God's love for His children as evidenced by their response to His invitation to worship Him as He has set forth in His divine word in the Bible.

In the summer of 1955 Dr. John Brown, Executive Secretary of the Norfolk Baptist Association with the aid of Rev. Willis E. Joiner and some dedicated members of Temple Baptist Church of Norfolk, Virginia visited people in homes in Great Bridge to see if they were interested in a church in their own community. Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Hewitt of 2563 Marion Dr. opened their home for a Baptist Sunday School at 2:30 p.m. on the last Sunday in March 1956 with seven people present. This Sunday School continued until property was purchased by Temple Baptist Church on the corner of Hwy. 168 & Hurdle Dr. On Nov. 4, 1956, the Sunday School moved into the little house on the property, which was dedicated as the Great Bridge Baptist Chapel. Mr. Bradshaw served as the Sunday School Director and Dr. Brown was temporary pastor. Dr. Brown led the work at the Great Bridge Chapel until May 15, 1957 and continued his work with the Norfolk Baptist Association until his retirement in January 1969.



From Nov. 4, 1956 until May 15, 1957, fifty-two members united with the Chapel. On May 19, 1957, Rev. W. A. Richardson became the pastor. The congregation continued to organize and in July 1957 the Board of Deacons included Mr. L. D. Hewitt (also Sunday School Superintendent.), Mr. B. L. Lancaster, Mr. Cecil Morris (also Training Union Director), Mr. D. T. Spence, Mr. J. S. Snow, Mr. L. D. Lane, and Mr. J. H. Norton.



Construction Begins November 1957



During his time at seminary, Charles preached in many churches but was led to pastor two churches in Dillon County, South Carolina. He would travel between the two churches on Sunday preaching at one at 10 A.M. and the other at 11 A.M. It was during this time in December 1956 that he met his future wife Louise Martin. At the time, Lou was serving as Education Director of the First Baptist Church of Dillon, S.C. They were married in June 1957. As a senior at seminary, many offers from churches came for him to serve as pastor but Charles was not led to any of them until he received an offer from a small church in Valdese, N.C in early 1958. Abee's Grove Baptist was a small country church located in the mountains of N.C. with a Sunday morning attendance between 100-150 people.

Pastor Moseley and his family left this church in 1962 to begin a ministry at the First Baptist Church of Carthage, N.C. Located near Pinehurst, N.C., First Baptist was a dignified little church with a beautiful pipe organ, stained glass windows and friendly congregation.

From the beginning of his studies, Charles had the desire to be a chaplain in the Air Force but that was not the Lord's path for him. After repeated attempts by a General in the Air Force, contacting the Home Mission Board for recommendations, and finding openings in other military branches, Charles realized that the Lord's plans are not always our plans. He remained in the National Guard and proudly retired from the U.S. Army Reserves with 23 years of service.

Even in the beginning of his ministry, Charles had always thought he would be the pastor of a small church, never imagining that the Lord would lead him to shepherd a large, vibrant and growing church. However, in 1969 Charles



Rev. Charles Moseley 1993

Rev. Charles L. Moseley:

Charles Moseley was born in Camden, South Carolina the fifth child and only son of Fred and Julia Moseley. Growing up in a small town, Charles felt the influence of his godly mother and father. One evening in October 1949 after a revival service at First Baptist of Camden, while Charles and his friends were watching an eclipse of the moon, he felt the call of God to full-time Christian ministry.

Charles started his higher education achieving his Associate of Arts degree from Wingate Jr. College in January 1952. He went on to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Coker College in January 1954. Continuing to be led by the Lord, Charles then entered Southeastern Seminary at Wake Forest, North Carolina and graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity in January 1958. He later earned a Master of Divinity from Southeastern Seminary in the early 1970's. Throughout these years of college, Charles continued to see God's hand on his life in many ways through financial help, mentoring from professors, and preaching in churches in the area.

Great Bridge Masonic Lodge No. 257 laid the corner stone for our first building on Saturday, November 9, 1957. Rapid progress continued and on December 29, 1957, the Great Bridge Baptist Chapel organized into Great Bridge Baptist Church, with 180 charter members. These Charter Members are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. Emma Allen | Mr. G. W. Arthur |
| Sandra Arthur | Mrs. Annie Bancroft |
| Miss Linda Bancroft | Miss Janice Barnett |
| Miss Rose Marie Bearden | Mr. Wayne Bearden |
| Miss Angela Brown | Mr. B. E. Brown |
| Mrs. Viola Brown | Mr. John L. Bryant |
| Mrs. John L. Bryant | Mr. Jesse C. Campen |
| Mrs. Lucille B. Campen | Mrs. Betty Carawan |
| Mr. Charles Casey | Mrs. J.C. Chamberline |
| Miss Margaret Chamberline | Mr. Allen Christopherson |
| Mrs. Bulah Cornette | Mr. Jack Cornette |
| Mr. J. T. Cornette Jr. | Mr. J. T. Cornette Sr. |
| Mrs. Evelyn Creef | Mr. Jeffery Creef |
| Mr. Julian Creef | Mrs. Helen Davenport |
| Mr. Josh E. Davenport | Miss Linda G. Davenport |
| Miss Peggy L. Davenport | Mr. Carl Dozier |
| Mr. Ellsworth Dozier | Mrs. Eva Dozier |
| Mrs. Grace Dozier | Mrs. Marion Dozier |
| Mr. T. L. Dozier | Mr. Tommy Dozier |
| Mr. W. I. Dozier | Mrs. Thelma Drew |

Mrs. Evelyn Dunbar	Miss Francis Dunbar
Miss Judy Dunbar	Mr. Ronald W. Dunbar
Mr. Wheeler Dunbar	Mr. William Dunbar
Mr. John Edwards	Mr. Ralph Edwards
Mrs. Virginia Edwards	Mr. Henry Evans
Mrs. Jessie Evans	Miss Linda Evans
Miss Wanda J. Evans	Mrs. Cynthia E. Fields
Mr. Melvin Fields	Mr. Chapman Forbes
Mr. Cordell Forbes	Mrs. Gloria Forbes
Mr. Herman Forbes	Mr. Malcolm Forbes
Mr. Malcolm Forbes Jr.	Mrs. Nettie Forbes
Mrs. Thelma Forbes	Mr. Wesley A. Foster
Mrs. Wesley A. Foster	Mrs. Ann Fox
Mr. Larry Fox	Mr. Ronnie Fox
Miss Patricia Freeman	Mr. Charles Gibbs
Miss Delores Gibbs	Mrs. Hilda Gibbs
Miss Sherrel Gibbs	Mr. Wayne Gibbs
Mrs. Nancy Giles	Miss Bonnie Goggin
Mr. Jerald Allen Goggin	Miss Nancy Goggin
Miss Shirley Ann Goggin	Mrs. Allison Grant
Mr. Billy Grant	Mr. R. E. Grant
Mr. Eugene Griffin	Mr. Lankford Hewitt
Ms. Lillian Hewitt	Mr. McArthur Hicks
Mr. Robert Hill	Mr. Thomas L. Hill
Mrs. Mattie Hooker	Mr. O. G. Hooker

there, he attended the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

He then accepted a call to the mission church at Great Bridge, which grew to three educational buildings and a large sanctuary and became Great Bridge Baptist Church. When he retired from Great Bridge Baptist Church in 1969, it had grown to 650 members. During his retirement, he became an Outreach Minister for South Norfolk Baptist Church during which he preached in 37 different churches in 47 of the 48 states with travel trailer and pick-up truck. Uncle Willie had a heart attack in 1975, gave up traveling, and became chaplain of the Ocean Holiday Trailer Park where he remained for 11 years.



Cross in former sanctuary 1976

GREAT BRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

Fifty Years—Ministers & Staff



Rev. W.A. & Mrs. Helen Richardson - 1957

Rev. William Richardson:

The Rev. William Richardson – known familiarly as Uncle Willie – celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his ministry in April 1990. Uncle Willie had a busy career. He dropped out of high school in 1924 and went to work for the railroad as a messenger boy. On June 19, 1932, he was converted and felt God's call to become a minister.

About eight years later an opening occurred for Uncle Willie in the Indian Creek Church in Norfolk County. He was forced to leave Indian Creek Church because the gasoline rationing board would not allocate him sufficient gas to enable him to travel 20 miles each way to church. In 1943, he became the chaplain of the Navy housing project, which was close to home, while at the same time he was still working the midnight shift at the railroad. In 1948, he received a call from another church where he stayed for nine years. While

Mr. Robert Hooker	Mrs. Sharon Hooker
Mr. Wayne Hooker	Mrs. Elizabeth Hudgins
Mr. Charles Jones	Mr. Jerry Jones
Mrs. Myrtle Jones	Mr. W. R. Jones
Mr. Burton Lancaster	Mrs. Edna Lancaster
Mr. Edward Lancaster	Mrs. Eunice Lancaster
Miss Naida Lancaster	Mrs. Gladys Lane
Mr. L. D. Lane	Mrs. Irene Lusk
Mrs. Oldie Lusk	Mr. Ronald L. Lusk
Mrs. Joyce Maness	Miss Fay Mason
Miss Karen Mason	Mrs. Mary Mason
Mrs. Mabel McCann	Miss Gloria McKinney
Mr. John J. McKinney	Mr. John McKinney Jr.
Mrs. Leone McKinney	Miss Frances McPherson
Mr. Carlton Miller	Mrs. Shirley M. Miller
Mr. C. O. Morris	Mrs. Lois Morris
Miss Neva Ann Morris	Mr. William Morris
Mrs. Lizzie Nichols	Mrs. Barbara N. Norman
Mr. J. Hubert Norton	Mrs. Kate Norton
Mrs. Mildred Norton	Miss Virginia Norton
Miss Barbara Olah	Mrs. Elizabeth Olah
Mr. Ernie D. Olah	Miss Janice Olah
Mrs. Magdolna Olah	Mrs. Myrtle Olah
Mr. Paul Olah	Mr. Paul Clark Olah
Mrs. Betty Old	Mr. Robert Old

Miss Brenda O'Neal	Miss Patsy O'Neal
Miss Lola Osborne	Mrs. Clara Parker
Miss Montie Parker	Miss Rickie Parker
Miss Patsy Ruth Pruett	Mrs. Edith Reason
Mrs. Helen W. Richardson	Rev. W. A. Richardson
Mrs. Nellie Sawyer	Mrs. Elizabeth Sears
Mr. Troy Sears	Mr. Harold Sharp
Mrs. Shuler Sharp	Mrs. Geraldine Snow
Mr. James S. Snow Jr.	Mr. J. S. Snow
Mr. Dan Spence	Mrs. Ramond Spence
Mrs. Helen Speight	Mr. Raymond Speight
Mrs. Mary Stanley	Mrs. Edna Sullivan
Mr. Harvey Sullivan	Mr. Harvey J. Sullivan Jr.
Miss Madeline Sullivan	Mrs. Vivian Swift
Mrs. Lizzie Temple	Mr. Walter Temple
Miss Audrey Thompson	Mrs. Grace Thompson
Mr. James A. Thompson	Mrs. Joyce E. Thompson
Mrs. Lillian Umphlett	Mr. Woodrow Umphlett
Miss Delores Weight	Mr. Orville L. Weight
Mr. Lester Windham	Mrs. Lester Windham

Facilities are now available to accommodate the entire membership in one worship service plus additional offices, music suites, and classroom spaces. The combined facilities now allow worship activities throughout the week in addition to Sunday School and corporate worship. During the construction of the new Worship Center, a Bible was placed in a compartment under the pulpit so that the preacher is always "standing on the Word of God". Members of the congregation are deeply involved in local evangelistic efforts to include as many local residents as possible in the worship of Almighty God. They are also involved in missionary trips to Central American countries as well as trips to storm-ravaged sections of the U.S. to help physical recovery from the effects of weather devastation.

The response to God's call in the Great Bridge area can be measured by the growth in membership from 7 in 1957 to 1,690 in 2007 and in the number of baptisms of 1161 during this time with 822 in the recent period of 1991 to 2007 alone.

The budget for 2007 is \$1,926,454 to support the many community related church activities and missions in the fields. The best measure of Great Bridge Baptist Church's activities however is the attendance and fervor of the congregants who are constantly bringing God's word and caring throughout our community and around the world. **He is alive within this congregation!**
We give Him all the Glory!

The first unit was completed and dedicated on February 2, 1958 and on February 27, 1958, the Great Bridge Baptist Chapel was accepted into the Norfolk Baptist Association.

As the church continued to prosper and grow, it became apparent that more space was required to meet the needs of this expanding congregation. A new sanctuary was proposed, planned and financed in 1998 and on March 4, 2001, a milestone in the development of our church was realized.



July 2006



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Great Bridge Baptist Chapel 1956



Great Bridge Baptist Church 1957



Great Bridge Baptist Church 1976

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God continued to bless this congregation in Great Bridge and on April 13, 1958, work began on the second unit. This unit was ready for use on October 1, 1958, with ground breaking for the third unit held on June 14, 1959. A new organ given to the Church in memory of Billy Dunbar was dedicated to the Glory of God on December 6, 1959. On May 10, 1964, a new sanctuary was dedicated to accommodate growth of the congregation.



Rev. Charles L. Moseley—1976

On July 1, 1969, Rev. Charles L. Moseley came to our church as pastor, to lead our flock in God's service, giving our church strength through his leadership. At this time, there were 650 members.

Great Bridge Baptist Church experienced continued growth requiring the addition of a two-story educational building for additional classrooms that was completed in 1979.



Inside old sanctuary 1982

In 1986 it was necessary for GBBC to begin another building program. This would again increase our classrooms and provide additional office space, enlarge our social hall and kitchen, media center, and create a music suite. God arranged the financing for this \$1,250,000 addition that was constructed and dedicated on October 2, 1988. At this time Sunday School enrollment was 1300 and membership was 1500. In October 1989, the church conducted a "Together We Build" campaign to retire the debt incurred by the most recent building and in 1996 we accomplished this goal.



February 1989