

## *A Brief History of North Riverside Baptist Church*

In the early 1950's, a vision was begun that developed into North Riverside Baptist Church. The Peninsula Baptist Association Church Extension Committee identified a need in the newly developing Riverside area for a Baptist Church. Under the leadership of Rev. Loyal Pryor (pastor of Hilton Baptist Church), Dr. Herman Stevens (church planter), and Mr. James Cale (local realtor), a group of forty-two charter members organized the Warwick Baptist Mission on November 2, 1952.

Before three months had elapsed, the mission had constituted into North Riverside Baptist Church and called Dr. Herman Stevens as its first pastor. Under his leadership, the church became established and grew. The first chapel was built and the first educational wing begun. The educational wing was completed in May 1955 when Rev. David Baily arrived. In the spring of 1958 the church welcomed its third pastor, Rev. Eston Mathews. In his 17-year tenure, the church continued to grow and it provided the sanctuary and educational facility for children, youth and preschoolers within the church's first decade of existence. In the summer of 1975, the church called it's fourth pastor, Dr. Joseph Strother. Under his 15 year leadership, the staff expanded, the parking lot was enlarged and a number of creative ministries and mission endeavors sponsored. In December of 1991, the church called its fifth pastor, Dr. John Carpenter. During his 8 year tenure, the adult education and fellowship hall building was erected along with a renovation of many of the church's older buildings. The sixth pastor, Dr. Quentin T. Madden, pastored North Riverside from October of 1999 to April 2006. During his time, the membership grew in number. It also grew spiritually through his fantastic sermons and Bible studies. The After School Program was started during his time. In February 2007, Dr. Ronald Farrar answered the call for Intentional Interim Pastor. He took the church through a time of transition, during which significant improvements were made in the identity, direction, organization of the church. Also, many physical improvements were made to the church building during his time which included: The Gathering Place new flooring and paint, handicap ramp access to sanctuary, Fellowship Hall chairs and painting outside and in. His time with North Riverside successfully concluded in September 2008.

As of October 5, 2008, the church voted in Dr. Jerry Haywood to be the Interim Pastor. Currently the pastor search committee is searching for the person God has chosen to shepherd the flock of North Riverside Baptist Church as their installed pastor.