

## Seventh & James: Historical Highlights

- 1898: Third Street Baptist Church is formed in the Gurley neighborhood of South Waco.  
William D. Bowen begins as pastor.  
Congregation works for temperance movement through Waco Baptist Association.
- 1903: J. H. Benson becomes pastor.  
Third Street congregation moves to Bagby Chapel on Moore Street.  
Congregation purchases property on corner of 7th Street and James Avenue.
- 1904: Jeff D. Ray becomes pastor.  
Congregation moves to 7th and James.
- 1907: Seventh & James congregation begins the first recorded mission project: a mission Sunday school near 12th and Wood Streets.
- 1908: J. Edward Johnson begins pastorate.  
Congregation works to get out of debt and raises money for Baylor University.
- 1912: Walter W. Melton becomes pastor.
- 1919: Congregation tears down old church facilities and begins new building projects.
- 1924: Congregation votes to build new “auditorium” at the corner of Seventh and James.  
During the Melton years, Sunday school enrollment grows from 520 to 1,264.
- 1942: Frank Cheavens becomes pastor.  
Seventh members participate in famed Youth Revival Movement among Baptists in the US South.  
Grace Hamilton becomes music director. Seventh choir begins wearing robes.
- 1943: Woodson Armes begins pastorate.
- 1945: Bill Grey, roommate of Wally Christian, falls out of the sanctuary balcony during a Woodson Armes sermon and misses an afternoon date with Cleta Cawthon (later Cleta Bennett)
- 1950: Jared E. Cartlidge becomes pastor.
- 1951: Charles Wellborn becomes pastor.  
Seventh builds large sanctuary in its present location.

- 1955: Euell Porter begins 25-year stint as Seventh's music minister.
- 1958: Seventh votes to officially declare itself open to people of all "races and colors."  
Lewd graffiti is found on a sanctuary wall, the pastor receives threatening phone calls during the night, and a cross is burned on the lawn of the parsonage.
- 1961: John B. Davidson, a Baylor professor, serves as interim pastor.  
Seventh calls Riley Eubank as senior pastor.
- 1962: The Seventh & James Adult Learning Center forms to help Cuban refugees with English as a second language.
- 1963: Bob Weissinger takes position as associate pastor.
- 1967: John Westbrook, the first African-American member of Baylor's football team, trains as pastoral intern under Eubank's supervision.  
Seventh begins a fall celebration called "Seventh's Up" for new college students.  
Seventh gains tradition of openness to inquiry and challenge to society.
- 1968: Herbert Colvin begins first of 30 years as church organist.
- 1971: David Matthews becomes senior pastor.  
Mike Massar comes as youth minister and will later become associate pastor.  
Seventh youth group becomes the "James Gang" and college students begin creative Sunday late-night services called "Interrobang."
- 1976: Professor Edward Dalglish serves as associate pastor.
- 1977: Hal Warlick becomes senior pastor.  
The church reorganizes its structure and the deacon body becomes a "servant body."
- 1979: Dan Bagby becomes senior pastor.  
Seventh begins sharing worship and a Meals-on-Wheels ministry with Second Baptist, a traditionally African-American church also near the Baylor campus.
- 1980: Kitty Cooper, Frances Newland, Mary Ila Colvin, Kathleen Underwood, and Laverne Mosley are the first women ordained as deacons.
- 1982: Lucy Dunn's boarding house on 5th Street, between James and Bagby, becomes a Seventh & James mission: a group home for international students with financial difficulties.

1991: John Ballenger and Beverly Crowe Tipton serve as ministers to college, youth, and children.

Seventh begins housing the Seeds of Hope ministry, which publishes resources on hunger issues for churches and Christian denominations.

1994: Bruce McIver, a student at Seventh during the Youth Revival movement, serves as interim pastor.

1995: Raymond Bailey becomes senior pastor.

Seventh dedicates the newly renovated sanctuary.

1996: Youth sponsor Linda McManness and youth Ali Stanke are gunshot victims in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago during a youth mission trip.

1998: The church votes to return to the Uptown neighborhood as a witness to the congregation's commitment to missions.

1998: Seventh celebrates its centennial with special worship and fellowship, and with a drama and magazine depicting the history of the church.

—Most of the information above was excerpted by Katie Cook from *A Century of Service: A Centennial History of Seventh and James Baptist Church, 1898-1998*.