

History of St. James Presbyterian Church Jenks, Oklahoma

September 13, 1981: Rev. O. H. (Neal) Dancer, organizing pastor, holds first church service for new church development at Jenks' Senior Citizen's Center with 10 people in attendance - We place our roots in the Jenks community by housing our office in the Jenks Chamber of Commerce train

New church development requests permission from Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery to charter as St. James Presbyterian Church

October 23, 1983: Chartering Service at Jenks Public School cafeteria with 91 chartering members

May 13, 1984: Groundbreaking service for St. James Presbyterian Church Educational Building at 120th and Elm - Phase I

Easter, 1985: Dedication of Building Phase I (education building)

February 12, 1989: Dedication of Building Phase II (sanctuary)

August 31, 1990: Rev. Neal Dancer retires

October 1, 1990: Rev. Marney Wasserman becomes interim pastor

April 26, 1992: Congregation extends pastoral call to Rev. Rodger C. Mattson (installed on August 9, 1992)

January, 1994: Rev. Rodger Mattson dissolves pastoral relationship with St. James

July, 1994: Rev. Rodgers Spencer becomes interim pastor

July 10, 1995: Rev. Jane A. Huffstetler becomes designated pastor (3 year term) with installation service on August 20, 1995

September 8, 1996: Installation of Cathy A. Hamrick as Christian Educator (10 hours) and David O. Huffstetler as Director of Music/Organist (10 hours)

December, 1997: St. James Music Endowment Fund established with initial \$10,000 donation

March, 1998: Rev. Neal Dancer becomes Pastor Emeritus of St. James

May, 1998: St. James sends first mission team of 16 to El Guacio, Puerto Rico

July 12, 1998: Rev. Jane Huffstetler installed as pastor of St. James

Sunday, October 25, 1998: St. James celebrates its 15th anniversary

April, 1999: Two Easter Worship Services held for first time

August 8, 1999: Congregation of St. James votes to establish Board of Deacons with first class of 5 to begin serving in January, 2000

September-October, 1999: Two Worship Services held: 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Discontinued in November – no noticeable increase in attendance

January, 2000: Diaconate held first meeting

May, 2000: Intergenerational Mission Team/Choir Tour to Scotland and England with 48 member choir

June, 2000: Session votes to move ahead with expansion and elects 2 temporary committees: Building Committee and Funding Committee

August, 2000: Mrs. Jill Clupper becomes the Rev. Jill H. Clupper, ordained at St. James and installed as Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

September 1, 2003: Rev. Jill Clupper increased to half-time (20 hours) Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

September 7, 2003: Two worship services begin at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Christian Education programming moved to Sunday evenings

November 7, 2004: Congregation votes to proceed with building expansion program including new building for fellowship hall, kitchen and youth rooms; new office space; renovated educational building; and expanded narthex

February 6, 2005: Congregation celebrates successful capital campaign drive, and donations for one of the youth rooms to be named in memory of Frank Herald as a gift of Graber and Imel Architects, and the new pastor's study given by Bill and Dala Westmoreland

February 20, 2005: Congregation votes to accept debt of \$1,000,000 to fund building expansion program

April 1, 2005: Pastor Emeritus Rev. Neal Dancer employed as Parish Associate for Administration

May 15, 2005: Ground Breaking Ceremony for building expansion

August, 2005: Work begins on the building expansion

August, 2005: Rachel Horton employed as Music Associate for Youth and Children's Music

April, 2006: New Fellowship Hall initiated and opened with "Join Us for a Cup of Tea" reception on Palm Sunday

June, 2006: New Fellowship Hall dedicated as the H. O'Neal and Jacqueline Dancer Fellowship Hall - new youth rooms dedicated as the Frank Herald Youth Center

July, 2007: Congregation elects an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to begin search for full time Associate Pastor in the areas of teaching, mission, evangelism and youth/adult ministry

July 1, 2008: End of contracts with Parish Associate for Caring Ministries Rev. Jill Clupper; and Parish Associate for Administration Rev. Neal Dancer

October 5, 2008: Rev. Cheryl Finch begins (installation service Jan 2009) as first full-time Associate Pastor for St. James with responsibility for Youth and Adult Education/Nurture, Mission and Evangelism

May, 2009: St. James becomes a certified Red Cross "Ready When the Time Comes" Shelter, prepared to open after natural disasters to provide safe refuge to distressed persons who have experienced loss of home and property

November, 2010: Jenks area churches join together for a community Thanksgiving service with prayers, hymns, soloists and a combined choir

September 21, 2011: Rev. Jane Huffstetler retires as Head of Staff, David Huffstetler retires as Director of Music. Nancy Strimel hired as Interim Director of Music

December 1, 2011: Rev. Ann Wasson begins as Interim Head of Staff

January 17, 2013: Founding pastor Neal Dancer dies; Memorial Service held in sanctuary at St. James on Saturday, January 26, 2013

February 2013: Associate Pastor Cheryl Finch and St James dissolve pastoral relationship

February 2013: Sanctuary facelift- fresh paint, new carpet, pew and chair coverings.

March 2013: St. James extends a call to Rev. Jonathan Watt to become St. James' next pastor (installed May 19, 2013)

April 2013: Rev. Ann Wasson resigns as Interim Pastor; Rev. Jon Watt arrives as Pastor of St.

James

May 2013: Interim Director of Music Nancy Strimel resigns

**June 2013: Director of Music Search Committee formed; St. James renews identity as a
“Ready When the Time Comes” disaster relief shelter with the Red Cross**