

# Holmes Road Church of Christ

## A Brief History

On May 29, 1959, a small group of Christians secured 10 acres of land with one two-story white house at the corner of Holmes Road and Highway 51, Memphis, Tennessee. Opening services were held on July 5, 1959, with Brother E. H. Ijams speaking. The church experienced rapid growth at this new location generating a need for a new auditorium. The goal of an auditorium was reached in May of 1961. The first elders and deacons were appointed during the early spring of 1962, and a new educational wing was built in 1964 to continue to support church growth. In addition to our own Sunday school program, the newly formed Harding Academy of Whitehaven Elementary School began using these facilities and continued to hold school there until May of 1989. In 1965 the complete oversight of our first missionary family began. In 1967 a Children's Home was built on the church property, which provided temporary housing for children waiting for adoption through the Agape Child and Family Service Program. Due to continued growth, the west educational wing was added in 1971, and the Family Life Center was opened in 1982.

Since the early 1980s, our community has undergone significant demographic change. There has been a considerable increase in the number of African American families, and a growing number of Hispanic and multi-racial families. The congregation has stood firm in its commitment to serving this changing community and continues in that dedication to this present time. As a part of the evidence of this commitment, there are a number of families who have moved to other areas of the city while maintaining an active role within the congregation.

The Holmes Road church currently has a highly diverse (age, race, education) membership of 175 with five elders, thirteen deacons, and one co-minister. The church is involved in the support of four missions in Singapore, Kenya/Haiti, Romania, and Botswana. The church was involved in Mexico for 21 years with two annual trips to different areas of Northern Mexico to help the local Christians build church buildings, only ceasing when violence in Northern Mexico made it unsafe to continue. Holmes Road is involved in the community opening up our building to HopeWorks for HiSET/GED education and testing. Our youth program is vibrant with over 30 children under the age of 18. Our adult Bible classes are presently engaged in a study of Daniel. The church responded well to Covid, adapting to an online service streamed on multiple platforms. While we have returned to meeting in person, our services are streamed every Sunday for those still unable to join face to face.

In addition to our regularly scheduled worship and Bible classes, we have a ladies' class that meets on Wednesday morning, an active Young Adult Ministry, and a growing family ministry. We are also engaged with our local community and would like to be even moreso in the coming years.

## Additional Community Services

- ❖ Special family events throughout the year
- ❖ Addiction support group
- ❖ Benevolence outlet for food (by interview)
- ❖ YMCA Youth Achievers Program