

James Fraser Miller, Sr.

Pastor Emeritus

The son of a Presbyterian minister, Jim Miller was born in Savannah, GA, and spent his childhood in Clarkton, NC. In 1951, he received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Davidson College in Davidson, NC; then continued his education at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA, where he graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Divinity in 1954, and in 1955 earned a Master of Theology in Christian Ethics.

Ordained in 1955, Rev. Miller's first pastorate was at Slab Fork Community Church, Slab Fork, WV, from 1955-1957. He then served at Vaughn Memorial Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, NC, from 1957-1963.

Jim and his young family came to Greensboro, NC, in February 1963, having accepted a call from Meadowside Presbyterian Church which was just beginning construction at a new site. 1964 saw Meadowside merge with Bessemer Presbyterian Church, becoming Presbyterian Church of the Cross, which immediately began a building program to accommodate the combined membership. For 2 years Jim worked in a yoked pastorate with Bessemer's minister, The Rev. John E. Kimbirl, who eventually accepted the call to another church.

Under Rev. Miller's leadership, the PCC membership, after much thought, decided to remain in this fast-changing neighborhood and "be the Church", whatever that would mean. There were loads of children and youth with no recreation facilities. The church began a highly successful summer recreation program which included trips for swimming. This effort lasted for some 10 years until local Parks and Recreation kicked in. Simultaneously, a child care center was established and served the community for 31 years. The church was made available for multiple community meetings. Through the church's support, legal action was initiated which resulted in smaller subsidized housing units, and eventually led to scattered-site housing locally and nationally.

Jim has been chair of the Greensboro Human Relations Commission (2 terms). He served 9 years on the Greensboro Board of Adjustment Commission (4 years as chair), the Presbyterian Home of High Point and the Presbyterian Homes of NC boards, several Presbytery Councils and committees, etc. His service to church and community was recognized by the State of NC in September 2003 when he was awarded The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, and similar recognitions by the City of Greensboro.

Jim is now "Pastor Emeritus", having retired in 2009 after 54 years in the ministry, 46 of them with Meadowside/Presbyterian Church of the Cross. He continues to serve as a founding member of the Board of Directors of the B Natural Academy of Music and the Arts.

Jim and his late wife, Carroll Christian Miller, raised a son and 2 daughters. He enjoys gardening, genealogy, volunteering at PCC, and spending time with his grandson.