

## Resurrection Greensboro

At the twentieth anniversary of the church, former pastor Thomas E. Ridenhour, now Professor at Gettysburg Seminary, preached about chronological time, the movement of history from past to present and into the future, and kairotic time, the special moments of truth in which past, present, and future fuse together into a single reality which has always existed and always will. Human limitations require us to live in chronological time; God dwells with us in kairotic moments.

The history of Resurrection, over chronological time, included the early services in the Grange Hall in the Town of Guilford College until the present church building was completed in October 1968; the architectural planning of the sanctuary, at first resisted by the Board of American Missions, for a beam extending downward from the rear of the building to a low point over the altar symbolizing God's love coming down to his people; the search for identity and mission under John Merck as First Church moved to northwest Greensboro, the Missouri Synod established a mission in Guilford College, and the cohesion of the early years began to weaken; Pastor Ridenhour's completion of his doctorate with released time from the parish; George Simmon's special emphasis on youth ministry and the growing number of young families coming to the church in the late 1970's and early 1980's; the movement under Pastor Simmons toward more frequent communion, and with the new Lutheran Book of Worship and the appointment of Eleanor Nesbitt as Music Director, a liturgical revival; the ordination in the church of Pastor Weisner and under his guidance weekly celebration of the Eucharist, communing of small children, and closer ties to neighboring churches of the western catholic tradition.

When the people of Resurrection reflect on their own history, talk quickly turns to several special kairotic moments. Most memorable was the faithfulness of charter members, Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Mitchum, whose severely retarded son, Carl Jr., was also a charter member of the church. When Blanche Mitchum died in 1964, her last request to friends in the church was that they look after Carl, by then a resident of the Murdock Center in Butner North Carolina. Members of the parish visit Carl's unit four times a year bringing parties, music, gifts, and expressions of love to these special people. In October 1976, under Pastor Simmon's guidance, the congregation unofficially adopted a Laotian refugee family, Mr. and Mrs. Pan Yang, their nine children, and later Mr. Yang's mother. In November 1986 a much larger proportion of the members of the church became involved in sponsoring six Dega (Montenyard) young men brought to Greensboro from refugee camps in Thailand by Lutheran Family Services. In helping with housing, employment, and health care, and teaching them English and preparing those for drivers license examinations, the members involved in this ministry have received in return amazing lessons in gentleness, sensitivity, and resourcefulness from these young men. Probably the most kairotic moment came in the spring of 1985 when about a third of the families in the congregation departed in a dispute over the authority of the ordained pastor—a crisis richly instructive to those who remained—and with God's grace we pray for those who left.

Resurrection closed in July 2013.

Pastors

1964-1969	John Merck
1969-1974	Thomas E. Ridenhour
1975-1983	George Simmons
1983-	Andrew F. Weisner