



Browncroft's History

Browncroft Community Church has been privileged to serve the Lord in the Brighton-Browncroft community since 1922.

Browncroft Community Church was originally born as Brighton Community Church due to a dispute when a new pastor was assigned to Bethany Chapel by the Evangelical Association. Problems arose over his liberal preaching, and the majority of the congregation voted to leave in 1922. Only 4 members remained at Bethany.

A new Tabernacle was built and dedicated that year. The original structure had bare dirt floors and walls from logs planked and hewn by hand, but church members made the most with what they had.

In 1924, Rev. Dean S. Bedford became Senior Pastor. Under his able leadership, the church continued to grow and develop. During church's early days, several famous speakers visited, including Dr. Harry Ironside, pastor of Moody Memorial Church in Chicago; Dr. A.J. Smith, mentor for evangelist Billy Sunday; and Dr. Donald Barnhouse, pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

The second factor in our growth was our commitment to World Missions. We always focused significant support on missions through prayer, finances and personnel. We firmly believe that "a faith worth having is a faith worth sharing."

In 1932 the church decided to set aside the second Sunday of every month as "Missionary Sunday," and this tradition continues today.

In 1945 a call was extended to Rev. William Millar Crawford as Senior Pastor. In 1951 a prominent visitor was M.R. DeHaan, founder of "Radio Bible Class," and in 1955 ground was broken for a new sanctuary on Winton Road.

Growth continued when in 1980, the church purchased the Atlantic Avenue Elementary School at our present location. At that time, the congregation met in the building's gym. After 37 years of devoted service, Dr. Crawford retired in 1982. His successor was Dr. Walter Winger who became Senior Pastor in 1983. Dr. Winger's passion to "build a place set apart for worship" motivated the congregation to add a worship center to the school facility.

Pastor Steve Harling was called in 1990 to become Browncroft's fourth Senior Pastor, and the next year, Browncroft continued to grow when the sanctuary was dedicated. Pastor Harling served for eleven years before departing for a call elsewhere in 2001.

After an intensive and prayerful search, Pastor Rob Cattalani joined as Browncroft's fifth Senior Pastor in February, 2005. Pastor Rob brings great enthusiasm, energy and demonstrated leadership. Above all, he wants to provoke, inspire and challenge. He believes excellence and authenticity should be reflected in every area of church life and worship.

Browncroft Community Church shares the Good News of Jesus Christ in a community that needs to hear it. We reach out in love to people who are often unloved by the world. We reach out to serve others, and we have an unswerving commitment to missionary outreach all around the world.

As part of our missions program, Browncroft has "adopted" the Wolof Tribe in Senegal as a target people group, and several short-term mission trips have served there.

As Browncroft Community Church moves into the future, we will remain firmly committed to the Word of God and to world missions. We are a fellowship whose purpose is to worship God and equip believers to model and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Browncroft Community Church was built on a phenomenal foundation of faith. God willing, the future of Browncroft can only be imagined as one filled with HIS greatness.