

## Hildale Park Presbyterian Church 100th Anniversary

One hundred years ago, when Ridgedale avenue was still a dirt road and trees and fields occupied the landscape where hotels, shopping centers, and pharmaceutical parks now stand, Hildale Park Presbyterian Church was founded by a group of residents and vacationers who were optimistic about the village's future. The first building was a small chapel purchased from the Sears Catalogue for \$400, and placed on a parcel of land donated by George Hild, who also provided the land for the Cedar Knolls Fire Department across the street. From that humble beginning, the church grew into a recognizable part of our community, made national news by donating money it raised for its own expansion (over \$100,000 in 2017 dollars) to assist in the construction of a hospital in Brazil, and continues to donate to local organizations as diverse as The Seeing Eye, the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter, and Homeless Solutions.

As part of our centennial celebration, we will be holding a series of events during the year for the whole community. The first of these will be a free concert featuring Rio Clemente on March 10th at 7:30 PM in the church sanctuary. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with as many members of the community as possible, and invite both old friends and new visitors to come and experience Hildale Park Presbyterian Church. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your lives, history, and community for the last century. We look forward with eager anticipation to the ways that God will use us to befriend, help, and encourage our neighbors in the years to come.