Shelby, First Baptist Ch.

Picture, p. 1

Sketch, pp. 6-8

Bibl Rec June 2 1943
PRELUDE
WELCOME TO VISITORS
OUR CHURCH PROGRAM
HYMNS OF INSPIRATION
No. 375 "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" · Kirkpatrick
No. 409 "When We Walk with the Lord" · Trust and Obey
READING OF THE SCRIPTURE
PRAYER
HYMN—No. 277 "We Have Heard the Joyful Sound" · Kirkpatrick
OFFERTORY PRAYER
MESSAGE IN SONG · The Youth Choir
SERMON · Mr. Tom Greene, Director of Stewardship Advance Baptist State Convention
INVITATION HYMN—No. 178 "Out of My Bondage, Sorrow, and Night" · Stebbins
PRAYER FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE
BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1975
9:40 Christian Education
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Children's Church
5:15 Keener Klub Meeting
5:45 Youth Choir Rehearsal
5:45 University of Christian Truth
7:00 Evening Worship
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1975
GYM CLOSED
9:30 Ladies Slimnastics
10:30 Carolina Weight Masters
10:00 W.M.U. Luncheon
5:30 Sing-Out
6:00 W.M.U. Supper
7:00 Carolina Weight Masters

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1975
GYM CLOSED
9:00 Ceramics
12:30 Men's Quartet
6:30 RA's
7:00 Actees, GAs, Mission Friends
7:00 Ensemble Rehearsal
8:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1975
GYM CLOSED
9:00 Ceramics
12:30 Men's Quartet
6:30 RA's
7:00 Actees, GAs, Mission Friends
7:00 Ensemble Rehearsal
8:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1975
GYM CLOSED
9:30 Ladies Slimnastics
4:30 Expression Rehearsal
6:00 Leadership Banquet
8:00 Truth Concert

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1975
3:30-9:00 Open Gym

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1975
9:30 Church Bus Evangelism
10:00-5:00 Open Gym
10:00 Association Golf Tournament

( ) I plan to attend the Leadership Banquet.

Names of family members planning to attend with me:

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Name
WORSHIP IN PRAISE
CARILLON PRELUDE
ORGAN PRELUDE
WELCOME OF OUR GUESTS
OUR CHURCH PROGRAM
*CALL TO WORSHIP—No. 10 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” Herren
*DOXOLOGY
*HYMN OF WORSHIP—No. 30 “O Worship the King” Lyons

RESPONSIVE READING
Minister: O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!
People: Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
Minister: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!
People: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.
Minister: For all the gods of the peoples are idols; but the Lord made the heavens.
People: Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Minister: Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!
People: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!
Minister: Worship the Lord in holy array; tremble before him, all the earth!
People: Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns!”
*GLORIA PATRI—No. 524 First Setting

WORSHIP IN SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER
READING OF THE SCRIPTURE
PASTORAL PRAYER
PRAYER RESPONSE—“Hear Our Prayer, O Heavenly Father” Chopin

WORSHIP IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS
*HYMN OF INSPIRATION—No. 67 “Praise Him! Praise Him!” Joyful Song
OFFERTORY PRAYER
OFFERTORY

WORSHIP IN PROCLAMATION AND DEDICATION OF LIFE
ANTHEM—“All Hail The Power” arr. Carmichael
The Sanctuary Choir
All hail the power of Jesus' name, let angels prostrate fall. Bring forth the royal Diadem and crown Him Lord of all. Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial; ball. To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all. Oh that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall;
Join in the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all.
SERMON Rev. W. Glenn Davenport

*HYMN OF INVITATION—No. 174 “Lord, I'm Coming Home” Kirkpatrick
*BENEDICTION
*CHORAL RESPONSE—“The Lord's Prayer” Malotte
POSTLUDE
*Congregation Standing

Leadership Banquet
Thursday, November 6, 1975 — 6:00 p.m.
Featuring: Dan McBride
The First Baptist Church
Shelby, North Carolina

DR. ZENO WALL, Pastor
405 W. Marion Street

MR. HORACE EASOM, Ed. Director
510 W. Marion Street

MISS MARY SUE THOMPSON, Secretary
517 W. Marion Street

Missionaries: Rev. and Mrs. Nestor Quintero, Miss Vena Aguillard,
Rev. Wesley Lawton, Jr.
THE LORD'S DAY MORNING

June 22, 1947

10:55 A. M.

Organ Prelude "Adoration" Borowski
Hymn No. 6 "Holy, Holy, Holy" Dykes
Invocation
Chorus "Praise The Maker" Williams
Junior A Choir, Mrs. Oscar Stuart, Director
Hymn No. 269 "Higher Ground" Gabriel
Prayer
Anthem "Lovely Appear" from "The Redemption" Gounod
Scripture
Offering
Offertory Duet "Love Divine" Stainer
Mrs. Ben Suttle, Mr. Joe Hamrick

Sermon THE CHRISTIANS' COURSE IN THE WORLD
Dr. C. H. Durham

Hymn No. 57 "Jesus Is Calling" Stebbins
Benediction
Organ Postlude "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor" Bach

Monday 9:00 Royal Ambassadors attending camp meet at church to leave for Ridgecrest
7:00 Mary Class meets at Buffalo Fish Club
7:30 Fidelis Class meets with Mrs. Ralph Ruppe
7:45 Ruth Class meets with Mrs. C. C. McMurry, Jr.

Wednesday 7:30 Mid-week Prayer and Praise Service

Friday 7:30 Senior and adult choir rehearsal

Scout troops will meet as usual
The First Baptist Church
Shelby, North Carolina

DR. ZENO WALL, Pastor
405 W. Marion Street

MR. HORACE EASOM, Ed. Director
510 W. Marion Street

MISS MARY SUE THOMPSON, Secretary
517 W. Marion Street

Missionaries: Rev. and Mrs. Nestor Quintero, Miss Vena Aguillard,
Rev. Wesley Lawton, Jr.
May 18, 1947

MORNING WORSHIP

10:55 O'CLOCK

Organ Prelude
Hymn No. 192  "Break Thou The Bread Of Life" Sherwin
Invocation
Chorus  "Building, Daily Building" Meredith
Junior B Choir, Mrs. L. P. Williams, Director
Hymn No. 276 "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms" Showalter
Prayer
Anthem  "O Lord, Most Holy" Franck
Scripture
Offering
Offertory Sextet "List! The Cherubic Hosts" Gaul
Sermon  A THREEFOLD OBJECTIVE Pastor
Hymn No. 230 "Pass Me Not" Doane
Benediction
Organ Postlude Dr. Stephen Morrisett

BAPTIST TRAINING UNION - 7:00 O'CLOCK

EVENING WORSHIP

8:00 O'CLOCK

Organ Prelude
Song Service Dr. Stephen Morrisett
Led by Mr. Easom
Prayer
Anthem  "The Marv'lous Work" Haydn
Scripture
Offering
Offertory Sextet  "Fully Persuaded" Ackley
Sermon  Rev. Bruce Whitaker
Hymn No. 174  "Take My Life, And Let It Be" Bradbury
Benediction
Organ Postlude Dr. Stephen Morrisett
Monday

3:30 T.E.L. Class meets with Mrs. S. A. McMurry, Groups 1 and 2, hostesses
4:00 Girl Scouts (Miss Margaret Long, Leader)
7:00 Philathea Class meets at Ollie Moore's for fish fry
7:30 Bethany Class meets with Miss Mildred McArthur
7:30 Fidelia Class meets with Mrs. John Dixon
7:30 Boy Scouts

Tuesday

3:45 Brownies (Mrs. Walter Fanning, Leader)

Wednesday

7:30 Mid-week Prayer and Praise Service

Thursday

3:15 Brownies (Mrs. Ned Smith, Leader)
5:00 Girl Scouts (Miss Carolyn Williams, Leader)
4:00 Girl Scouts (Mrs. A. D. Carpenter, Leader)
6:30 Friendship Class will have picnic at home of Mrs. Hill Hudson, Jr.

Friday

7:30 Senior and adult choir rehearsal

Rev. Bruce Whitaker, a graduate of Wake Forest College and a recent graduate of our Seminary at Louisville, will bring a helpful message tonight.

Next Sunday, May 25, has been designated as "Gardner-Webb College and Wake Forest College Day." Our Church has decided to raise $50,000, one-half to go to the Gardner-Webb College Endowment Fund and one-half to the Wake Forest College Enlargement and Relocation Fund. Gardner-Webb is raising $250,000 in former commitments from churches and individuals, and Wake Forest is raising $1,500,000 through the churches of North Carolina. On next Sunday morning at 10:15, all will meet in the Church Auditorium and make our contributions. If it is not convenient to pay cash at this time, you may sign and drop a pledge card in to be paid at any time in the future you may wish. All are asked to do our very best.

Training Union Devotional Assembly, this evening, 7:00. Evening Worship will begin at 8:00.

Please keep in mind the Mid-week Prayer and Praise Service, Wednesday evening, 7:30.

Every member of the choir is urged to be present at the rehearsal on next Friday evening at 7:30.

Plan now to attend many of the Ridgecrest Conferences.

**CHURCH COMMITTEES FOR 1947**

**Deacons**

W. H. Hudson
Elisha McBrayer
Paul Webb, Jr.
W. L. Angel
A. A. Powell
Max Washburn
F. Cline Hendrick
J. G. Haganman
Jack Garrett
W. G. Whitworth

B. S. Greene
J. F. Abernathy
Wilbur Wilson
John P. Mull
J. P. Smith
E. S. Bennett
Doris Bolt
Lloyd Bost
Hackett Wilson
A. V. Hamrick
F. O. Champion

Carver Wood
E. F. McKinney
Yates McSwain
O. M. Mull
Lee B. Weathers
Joe Beckham
Mal Spangler, Jr.
Dr. John Hamrick

Trustees

Geo. Blanton, Sr., Chm.

Church Treasurer
Jesse E. Bridges
Missionary Treasurer
J. L. Suttle, Jr.
Organist
Mrs. H. S. Plaster
Morning Ushers
S. A. McMurry
H. B. Edwards

(Church Committees Continued on Next Page)
GALLIMORE, ARTHUR RAYMOND (1885-1955) ['09].
PCMS 0041.

GILLESPIE, ARTHUR SAMUEL (1902-1952) and PAULINE P.
PAPERS, 1920-1952. 23 folders.
PCMS 0288.

GLENN, DODSON ALTON (1852-1930).
PAPER, 1876. 1 item.
PCMS 043.

GOLDFINCH, SIDNEY LANGSTON AND SARAH FRANCES.
PAPERS, 1926, 1938-80. 3 RC cartons.
PCMS 0314.

GORE FAMILY.
PAPERS, 1922. Addition. 1 item.
Note: Temporary Cataloging.
PCMS 0299.

GRAHAM, WILLIAM ALEXANDER (1839-1923).
PAPERS, 1898-1900. 18 items.
PCMS 0046.

GRAYLYN ESTATE.
Note: Temporary cataloging.
PCMS 0176.163-166.

GRAYLYN ESTATE.
PCMS 0176.167.

GRAYLYN ESTATE.
PAPERS. ADDITIONS.
Note: Temporary cataloging.
PCMS 0176.162.

GREEN, CHARLES SYLVESTER (1900-1980).
Note: See related collection Charles Sylvester Green Scrapbooks, 19399-1945 (96 vols.), Southern Historical Collection #3541, UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C.
PCMS 0157.

PAPERS, 1934-92. 134 folders.
PCMS 0353.
Solley (c/o)

Land Jun 19, 1847, a Servant named Mary
Cowan & Mary Doherty.

Wm. of Broad Mead (SS) 1847-56, 1868-71
King Mea 1856-59
1871-

Kerne Shelly First 1909

First purs John Meller Wells
A Message From Our Pastor

MY DEAR FRIENDS:

While we could survey this moment as the culmination of dreams, the realization of hopes and the focus of rejoicing, it would become us to begin our celebration by saying with Samuel: "Hitherto has the Lord helped us."

You have been a patient people. Never have I known a people to accommodate themselves to greater inconveniences for so long a time with so little said about it.

You are a gracious people. It never occurred to you to suggest we build only what we could get by with; instead, you have poured out your wealth and your love for the glory of God.

In humility let us acknowledge that we have entered into the labors of others and gathered where we did not sow. In gratitude let us be glad that we have had a part in an undertaking sure to enrich the future, certain to bless the present, and which amply demonstrates just returns on the investments of the past. In faith let us escort the present into the future with a lively hope.

Your work has been your worship. It was all of God. The glory must be His. My prayer for you and for all of those who rejoice with us is found in Hebrew 13:20-21:

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

GENE L. WATTERSON
Pastor
DEDICATION DAY
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 A. M.

Prelude
Meditation and Prayer
Call to Worship “Almighty God, unto whom all Hearts be Open” Pears
Doxology
Hymn 380 “The Church’s One Foundation” Aurelia
Responsive Reading of Scripture
Silent Meditation and Prayer
Prayer of Invocation Pastor
Choral Response “Almighty Father, Hear Our Prayer” Mendelssohn
Announcements and Words of Welcome Associate Pastor
Greetings from North Carolina Baptists Dr. Perry Crouch
Hymn 382 “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” St. Thomas
Worship with Tithes and Offerings
The Service of Dedication
Prayer of Dedication Dr. Perry Crouch
Anthem “Kings of Kings - Lord of Lords” Gaither
Sermon “The Meaning of This Fellowship” Reverend Gene L. Watterson
Hymn of Invitation 235 “Only Trust Him” Stockton
Benediction Pastor
Choral Benediction “Fourfold Amen” Stainer
Reception of New Members
Postlude
THE SERVICE OF DEDICATION

PASTOR: Believing that thou are, O Father, above all the Builder of this house through thy servants, we offer unto Thee our humble and grateful praise. Knowing that, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it".

PEOPLE: “Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name: Bless the Lord, O my Soul, and forget not all his benefits.”

PASTOR: To the glory of God the father, whose provident grace has circled all our needs; to the honor of his Son, who in love and self-sacrifice has secured for us redemption and eternal life; to the praise of the Holy spirit, who illumines, comforts, and strengthens us;

PEOPLE: To Thee, the only true God, we gratefully dedicate this Sanctuary

PASTOR: With thanksgiving to God for calling us together into a new church, and for the work of his grace within us, thus bringing us to this good hour,

PEOPLE: We gladly dedicate this Sanctuary

PASTOR: For the worship of God in prayer and praise; for the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ; for the teaching of the Holy Scriptures;

PEOPLE: We humbly dedicate this Sanctuary

PASTOR: For the observance of the sacred ordinances; for the comfort of those who mourn; for the encouragement of those who are weak; for the counsel of those seeking guidance;

PEOPLE: We faithfully dedicate this Sanctuary

PASTOR: For the evangelization of our community and the world; for the promotion of righteousness; for the battle against evil;

PEOPLE: We obediently dedicate this Sanctuary

PASTOR: For the global extension of the kingdom of God; for the exaltation of Christian brotherhood; for the relief of human suffering;

PEOPLE: We hopefully dedicate this Sanctuary

PASTOR: In the unity of the faith; in the bond of Christian discipleship; in acknowledgement of our affection for the cooperation with other churches;

PEOPLE: We joyfully dedicate this Sanctuary

PASTOR: In gratitude for the labors and gifts of all who love and serve this church; in loving remembrance of those who shall follow us;

PEOPLE: We hopefully dedicate this Sanctuary

UNISON: We, the people of this church and congregation, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifices and zeal here made evident, mindful of our responsibility to perpetuate the spirit and ministry of our Christian forefathers, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of God, through our Lord, Jesus Christ.
PLANNING AND BUILDING COMMITTEE
J. A. West, Chairman
Harold Causby, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Rush Hamrick, Jr.
Charles A. Horn
Mal Spangler, Jr.
Mrs. Gene Branton
Claude Lawing
Paul Allen
Mrs. Robert Callahan
Hoyt Bailey
Ray Webb Lutz

FURNISHINGS COMMITTEE
Mrs. C. J. Hill, Chairman
Mrs. Nelson B. Mauney
Mrs. Robert Litton
Mrs. John J. Hunt
Bob Hines
George Byrd

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS COMMITTEE
Mrs. Cecil Gilliatt, Chairman
Mrs. Charles Senn
Mrs. Charles Dearing

DEACONS
George Byrd, Chairman
Hugh Mauney, Vice Chairman
Fred Jones, Secretary
DeMar Boyles, Asst. Secretary
F. O. Champion
Max Daves
James Frazier
Lee Gilliatt
L. T. Hamrick
O. V. Hamrick, Jr.
Gene Kirkpatrick
Claude M. Lawing
Ray Webb Lutz
J. A. West
Joe Cabaniss
George Hamrick
Jim Horn
Robert Jones
R. G. Kelly
H. S. Plaster
Stephen Royster
J. Speed Williams
A. Donald Allen
R. F. Bowling
Robert G. Cabaniss
C. Michael LeCroy
Arthur L. Moss
A. W. McMurry
David Spangler
W. B. Wilder

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION
Mrs. DeMar Boyles, Director
Mrs. John Ed Davis, Baptist Women Day President
Mrs. Horace Steadman, Baptist Women Night President

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE
Hackett C. Wilson, Chairman
Scott Warrick
Gary Shuford

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE
Alford D. Miller, Chairman
Mrs. Howard Beam
George Byrd
J. Speed Williams
Max Scism
Mrs. C. C. Horn
Paul Limerick
Pete Tedder
Maurice Wishnoff

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
C. Donald Allen, Chairman
Ken Vassey
Maurice Wishnoff

COMMITTEE OF TEN
Lloyd Bost, Chairman
Hoyt Bailey
F. O. Champion
Rush Hamrick, Jr.
John L. Hawkins
Robert Litton
Avery W. McMurry
Newlin Schenck
Ken Street
Paris Yelton

SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE
C. B. Cash, Jr., Chairman
Lloyd Bost
Joe Wright
L. T. Hamrick
Julian Hamrick
John L. Hawkins

TRUSTEES
L. T. Hamrick
C. C. Horn
Charles I. Dover

MEMORIAL FLOWERS
Flowers will be placed in the sanctuary Sunday by Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Senn in memory of Mr. Senn's father, Karl A. Senn.
One Hundredth Anniversary

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Shelby, North Carolina

1847-1947
THE RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL

held

June 15 - 22, 1947

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE

100th ANNIVERSARY

of the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Shelby, North Carolina

DR. ZENO WALL, Pastor

HORACE EASOM, Director of Education and Music
Presenting

The Program of the First Baptist Church, Shelby North Carolina, held in observance of her centennial anniversary, June 15-22, 1947.

The church was organized June 19, 1847. The organization of this church resulted from a revival meeting conducted by Rev. Drury Dobbins, one of the founders of the Baptist cause in Cleveland County. James Love donated the land on which the church now stands. He not only gave the First Baptist Church a building site, but all the other churches in Shelby. He also donated the land for the town site, including the land for the cemetery, Sunset. James Love is buried at Zoar Baptist Church and has the tallest marker in the large cemetery. According to the late Judge J. L. Webb, the First Baptist Church building was erected “mainly by the efforts and liberality of William Roberts, Dr. Thomas Williams and David Warlick.”

Elder James M. Webb, of Rutherford County, became the first pastor in the latter part of 1847. He served as pastor for three years. He was a man of many talents, having been a legislator, clerk of Rutherford County Superior Court, newspaper editor, and minister of the Gospel. He was the first moderator of the Green River Baptist Association.

The first deacons were J. R. Logan (famous for his History of the Broad River and Kings Mountain Baptist Associations), William Roberts, and David Warlick. The first church clerk was William Roberts.

The Baptist State Convention has met in this church four times—1875, 1890, 1913, 1929.

The present church roll shows a membership of more than 2,500. The Sunday School enrollment is 1,600. The Training Union enrollment is 350. The Woman’s Missionary Union enrollment including auxiliaries totals about 600. The offerings for the past year exceeded $100,000.00.

Our church has been a lighthouse to the world ever since its birth a hundred years ago. Some day the hundred years of history will be published and the names of many wonderful Christians will illuminate the pages. Such personalities as Dr. Charles H. Durham, who spent such a long time in the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Lumberton; Rev. John W. Suttle, who has made such an illustrious record as a Christian minister; Rev. Wade Bostick, who spent thirty-one years in China serving tirelessly; Mrs. T. J. League, the former Miss Attie Bostick, who gave forty-three years of her life telling the story of Jesus and His love to the Chinese people; many young and full-time religious workers such as Woodrow Wall, son of Dr. and Mrs. Zeno Wall; Mrs. Charlotte Tedder Swift, who was with the Baptist Sunday School Board; Rev. E. E. (Gene) Poston; Rev. Z. Miller Freeman; Rev. Leon H. Hollingsworth; Rev. Bruce Whitaker; Rev. L. M. Kanipe, Rev. W. D. Williamson; Rev. Douglas Eades; Mr. Lewis Earle Hancock; and many names of other great Christians will appear.
A Prayer of Thanksgiving

OUR FATHER which art in heaven, we give Thee thanks for putting it into the hearts of our forefathers to establish a church on this spot of ground. We thank Thee for brother James Love who gave the ground upon which this building rests, and for enabling our people to keep and use it for church purposes. We thank Thee for the men who organized this church and for the pastors and people who have served wisely and faithfully through the years.

Thou hast been our dwelling place here for many generations, and hast richly blessed us. We thank Thee for giving to Thy people here vision, faith, hope, love, courage, compassion and good success; and we humbly lay this building and these redeemed ones down at thy feet, and would say: “Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.”
OUR FIRST CHURCH HOME and MINISTERS

The first church building was a small wooden structure painted white and seated about 200 people. It was heated in winter by stoves and was very comfortable. This building stood until about the year 1889 when it was razed and a new brick structure erected. This brick structure proved uncomfortable and unsatisfactory. Hence, another brick structure was erected in 1911. In 1929 the church was remodeled, being greatly enlarged. The auditorium is said to be one of the largest in the state.

The First Baptist Church has had twenty-seven pastors.

James Milton Webb  J. A. White  R. F. Treadway
M. C. Barnett      W. A. Nelson  W. D. Hubbard
Wade Hill          R. D. Mallory  M. E. Parrish
A. J. Cansler      W. B. Bussy    C. A. Jenkins
Thomas Dixon       W. H. Strickland L. W. Swope
E. A. Crawley      J. M. McManaway Lee M. White
Tillman R. Gains   G. P. Hamrick  J. Marcus Kester
Needham B. Cobb    J. L. Sproles  Robert L. Lemons
A. L. Stough       J. D. Hufham  Zeno Wall
OUR PRESENT CHURCH HOME

Located at 120 North LaFayette Street

HIGHLAND AVENUE MISSION

Services are held here on each Thursday evening and on Sunday morning and evening. We have a Sunday School with almost one hundred enrolled, and splendid congregations attend each service. Our church has always been interested in extension work and in the organization of new churches. The present Calvary Baptist Church was organized from a Mission Sunday School which we began in the West Graham School building.
Dr. and Mrs. Wall and family came to Shelby on October 1, 1925. Dr. Wall was born near Mooresboro, N. C., August 20, 1882, and was educated at Mars Hill College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He entered the ministry in the spring of 1906 and was ordained July 8, 1908. He served as pastor of the Clinton Baptist Church, Mississippi College, 1916-1921; Chaplain, U. S. Army, World War I; President of Boiling Springs Junior College, 1930-1932; President, North Carolina Baptist State Convention, 1933-1936.

He married Miss Ada Ramsey of Marshall, N. C. They have five children: Zeno, Jr., Mrs. Ollie Harris, Yates, Woodrow and Mrs. Walter Fanning.

On October 1, Dr. Wall begins his twenty-third year as our pastor. The twenty-two years have been marked by growth, unity and generosity. During this period we have witnessed the construction of our educational building and the enlargement of our auditorium, and all phases of our work go forward.

In the twenty-two years of his ministry we have seen the membership grow from 763 to more than 2,500. A total of 3,509 have united with our church during this period, 1,464 coming by profession of faith and baptism. Soon after Dr. Wall came to us he said that he longed to see three things accomplished during his pastorate: first, the erection and equipment of an adequate church building; second, a standard Junior College at Boiling Springs; and third, a great revival. He has seen all three, as during a certain revival two hundred and seventeen united with our church.

Dr. Wall is the author of two books of sermons, “Heartening Messages” and “Verities of the Gospel”. In addition to being president of the Baptist State Convention, he has served on many important boards and committees. He is now president of the board of trustees of the North Carolina Baptist Orphanage, and represents North Carolina on the board of trustees of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Both pastor and people have their faces toward the rising sun and are going on. May the blessings of the Lord continue to fall upon pastor and people as the church enters upon its second century.
Mr. and Mrs. Horace Easom came to Shelby on August 1, 1928. Mr. Easom came to serve our church as Director of Education and Music and has been here ever since with the exception of the two years he was associated with Dr. George W. Truett and the First Baptist Church, of Dallas, Texas.

Mrs. Easom is the former Miss Margaret Stevens, of Clinton, N. C. They have one daughter, Margaret.

Mr. Easom has not only done a great work with our church, but since 1941 he has been chairman of a campaign for Gardner-Webb College, formerly Boiling Springs Junior College, to raise money for the renovation and enlargement of the institution, and for the endowment fund. Approximately one million dollars has been raised from the beginning until now.

Through the years he has been in evangelistic campaigns in hundreds of churches in North Carolina and other states. His activities have not been confined to the church, college, and evangelistic work alone, but he has been active in all civic activities of Cleveland County, and has been deeply interested in denominational work. At present Mr. Easom is a member of the Board of Trustees of Wake Forest College and serves on many of the boards which direct young people's work in Cleveland County.
MRS. H. S. PLASTER
Who has been our church organist since February, 1927, serving more than nineteen years, rendering as fine service as any individual could possibly render.

MISS MARY SUE THOMPSON
Our efficient Church Secretary, who took up her duties on January 1, 1947.

OUR MISSIONARIES

MISS VENA AGUILLARD
Our missionary with the Home Mission Board serving in many states in the Southland.

QUINTERO FAMILY
Rev. and Mrs. Nester Quintero, our missionaries with the Foreign Mission Board, located at General San Martin, Mendoza, Argentina.

REV. AND MRS. WESLEY LAWTON, Jr.
Our missionaries with the Foreign Mission Board, located at Kaifeng, Honan, China.
CHURCH DIRECTORY

TRUSTEES

George Blanton
John P. Mull

Church Treasurer
Jesse E. Bridges

Building Fund Treasurer
C. Rush Hamrick, Sr.

Missionary Treasurer
J. L. Suttle

Chairman of Music Committee
C. Rush Hamrick, Sr.

Chmn. of Finance Committee
O. M. Mull

BOARD OF DEACONS

W. H. Hudson
J. G. Garrett
E. S. Bennett
Yates McSwain
S. A. McMurry
O. M. Mull

Elisha McRaney
W. G. Whitworth
Doris Bolt
O. M. Mull

Paul Webb, Jr.
B. S. Greene
Lloyd Bost
Lee B. Weathers

W. L. Angel
J. F. Abernathy
Hackett C. Wilson
Joe Beckham

A. A. Powell
Wilbur Wilson
A. V. Hamrick
Mal Spangler, Jr.

Max Washburn
John P. Mull
J. Carver Wood
Dr. John Hamrick

F. Cline Hendrick
J. P. Smith
E. F. McKinney
F. O. Champion

J. G. Hagaman

Church Ushers

S. A. McMurry
O. M. Mull
O. Max Gardner, Jr.
A. D. Allen

H. B. Edwards
Max Washburn
J. F. Abernathy
P. M. Washburn

Wilbur Wilson
Charles Austell
Tom Graham
Charles E. Davis

Earle Hamrick
Lee B. Weathers
Jesse E. Bridges
John E. Davis, Jr.

W. L. Angel
Penry Owen
B. S. Greene
Robert Doggett

Lloyd Bost
J. L. Suttle, Jr.
Elisha McRaney
Henry Lide

W. H. Hudson
J. L. Suttle, Jr.
L. T. Hamrick
J. Carver Wood

Clyde Daves
E. S. Bennett
K. K. Keeter
J. Carver Wood

Sunday School General Officers, Department Superintendents


Woman's Missionary Union

General Officers: President—Mrs. Fred Swift; Young People's Director—Mrs. Alton Hopper; First Vice-President—Mrs. Paris L. Yelton; Second Vice-President—Mrs. Dixon Smith; Secretary—Mrs. Oscar Evans; Assistant Secretary—Mrs. Hoyt Keeter; Treasurer—Mrs. W. L. Packard; Assistant Treasurer—Miss Elizabeth Dudley; Pianist—Mrs. J. T. Thornton; Choristers—Mrs. George Carpenter, Mrs. Grady Lovelace.

Committee Chairmen: Mission Study—Mrs. Walter E. Abernethy; Community Missions—Mrs. Ernest Moore; Literature—Mrs. J. R. Misenheimer; Social—Mrs. L. J. Baley; Stewardship—Mrs. W. L. Hatcher.

Auxiliary Counselors: Young Woman's Auxiliary—Mrs. Hugh Hamrick, Mrs. Walter Fanning; Intermediate Girls' Auxiliary—Mrs. Lowery Austell; Junior Girls' Auxiliary—Mrs. O. V. Hamrick, Jr.; Royal Ambassadors—Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Davis, F. O. Champion, O. V. Hamrick, Jr.; Sunbeams—Mrs Nelson Mauney, Mrs. A. A. Powell, Mrs. Harvey Wray, Mrs. J. B. Harrill.

Circle Chairmen: Vena Aguillard—Mrs. Roland Elam; Susan Anderson—Miss Sara Mundy Hamrick; Mary Archer—Mrs. Carl Putnam; Bethany—Mrs. Gary Hamrick; Attie Bostick—Mrs. D. M. Morrison; Carey—Mrs. James Roberts; Inabelle Coleman—Mrs. L. P. Williams; Louise English—Mrs. E. S. Bennnett; Alda Grayson—Mrs. Rush Stroup; Fannie Heck—Mrs. Raymond Cline; Ann Judson—Mrs. I. D. Stone; McMillan—Mrs. Hoyt Keeter; Pauline Lide—Mrs. George Carpenter; Lottis Moon—Mrs. J. E. Chadwell; Luther Rice—Mrs. Robert Spangler.

Training Union


Leaders and Sponsors: Mrs. T. M. Gladden, Mrs. J. F. Abernathy, Mrs. Harry Sauls, Mrs. Bonnie Elliott, Lewis Earle Hancock, Mrs. L. T. Hamrick, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Price, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Davis, Jr., F. O. Champion, Miss Eloise Heffner, Miss Margaret Grigg, Mr. and Mrs. John Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kent, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Eskridge, Miss Sadie Clark, Mrs. George Goforth, Mrs. Horace Easom, Miss Etatlie Moses, Mrs. B. M. Jarrett, Mrs. Moody Hambright, Mrs. Roland Elam, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hoyle, Miss Elizabeth Dudley, Miss Elizabeth Greene.

Veterans Brotherhood

F. O. Champion, President; J. Ollie Harris, Vice-President; Pegram Holland, Rush Hamrick, Jr., Secretaries; Harold Reber, Treasurer.
OUR CHURCH CHOIRS

CHURCH CHOIR

INTERMEDIATE B CHOIR

VETERANS BROTHERHOOD MALE CHORUS
INTERMEDIATE A CHOIR

JUNIOR A CHOIR

JUNIOR B CHOIR

CHERUB CHOIR, PRIMARY DEPARTMENT
PROGRAM PERSONALITIES

DR. ELLIS A. FULLER
President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

MRS. J. M. DAWSON
Washington, D. C.

DR. M. T. RANKIN
Secretary, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Virginia

DR. J. B. LAWRENCE
Secretary, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia
DR. W. F. POWELL
Pastor, First Baptist Church,
Nashville, Tennessee

DR. LOUIE D. NEWTON
Pastor, Druid Hills Baptist Church,
Atlanta, Georgia
President, Southern Baptist Convention

DR. DUKE K. McCALL
Secretary, Executive Committee, Southern
Baptist Convention.

DR. CHARLES H. DURHAM
Well known and loved in North Carolina and the
Southern Baptist Convention. Spent boyhood
days in Shelby. Served many years as
pastor of the First Baptist Church,
Lumberton, N. C.

DR. SANKEY L. BLANTON
Dean, School of Religion, Wake Forest College,
Wake Forest, N. C.
"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever." — Psalm 136:1

THE LORD'S DAY MORNING

June 15, 1947

10:55 A. M.

Organ Prelude: "Intercession" .................................................. Bingham

Hymn No. 1: "All Hail The Power" .......................................... Holden

Invocation

Chorus: One Hundred and Third Psalm
Junior B Choir, Mrs. L. P. Williams, Director

Hymn No. 228: "Footsteps of Jesus" ...................................... Everett

Prayer

Anthem: "Ho, Everyone That Thirsteth" ................................. MacFarlane

Scripture

Offering

Offertory Solo: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" ...................... Harriss
Miss Anna Lou Toms

Sermon: "WHY CALL YE ME LORD AND DO NOT THE THINGS WHICH I SAY?" .................................................. Dr. Ellis A. Fuller

Hymn No. 31: "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus" ...................... Webb

Benediction

Organ Postlude: "Carillon" .................................................. Bingham
"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." — Mark 16:15

THE LORD'S DAY EVENING
MRS. FRED SWIFT, Presiding
June 15, 1947
8:00 P. M.

Organ Prelude: "Vision" .................................................. Rheinberger
Hymn No. 56: "I Am Thine, O Lord" .................................. Doane
Invocation ................................................................. Mrs. Zeno Wall
Chorus: "Serve The Lord With Gladness" ......................... Tullar
Junior A Choir, Mrs. Oscar Stuart, Director
Hymn No. 192: "Break Thou The Bread of Life" ................. Sherwin
Prayer ................................................................. Miss Vena Aguillard
Anthem: "Open the Gates of the Temple" ......................... Knapp
Scripture ............................................................... Mrs. Robert Doggett
Offering ............................................................... Mrs. Rush Stroup
Offertory Solo: "O Divine Redeemer" ......................... Gounod
Betty Jo Putnam
Message: "THE ABUNDANT TOMORROW" .................. Mrs. J. M. Dawson
Hymn No. 174: "Take My Life, And Let It Be" ............... Bradbury
Benediction .......................................................... Mrs. Horace Easom
Organ Postlude: "Pastorale" ........................................ C. Franck
MONDAY
June 16, 1947
8:00 P.M.

Organ Prelude

Hymn No. 117: “Send The Light” ........................................ Gabriel

Invocation

Chorus: The Lord’s Prayer ................................................ Forsyth
Intermediate B. Choir, Bill Baley, Director

Hymn No. 15: “Jesus Saves” ........................................... Kirkpatrick

Prayer

Anthem: “Seek Ye The Lord” .......................................... Roberts

Scripture

Offertory: “Lest! The Cherubic Hosts” .............................. Gaul
Ladies Sextet

Sermon: “THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PRIVILEGES” ........ Dr. M. T. Rankin

Hymn No. 222: “I Gave My Life for Thee” ........................ Bliss

Benediction

Organ Postlude
Offertory Solo: "The Messenger of Peace"  
Mrs. Ben Suttle  

"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his son Jesus Christ our Lord." — I Corinthians 1:9.

TUESDAY

June 17, 1947

8:00 P. M.

Organ Prelude

Hymn No. 371: "I Love to Tell the Story"  .................. Fischer

Invocation

Chorus: "Open My Eyes That I May See"  .................. Scott  
Intermediate A Choir, Joe Beckham, Director

Hymn No. 199: "How Firm A Foundation"  .................. Steele

Prayer

Anthem: "My God And I"  ............... Sergei

Scripture

Offertory Solo: "The Messenger of Peace"  .................. Scott  
Mrs. Ben Suttle

Sermon: "KINDLING WATCH FIRES"  .................. Dr. J. B. Lawrence

Hymn No. 80: "Rescue the Perishing"  .................. Doane

Benediction

Organ Postlude
Even as the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.” — Matthew 20:28

WEDNESDAY
June 18, 1947
8:00 P. M.

Organ Prelude

Hymn No. 112: “At the Cross” ................................................................. Hudson

Invocation

Chorus: “Follow The Gleam” ................................................................. Douglas
Junior B Choir, Mrs. L. P. Williams, Director

Hymn No. 193: “I Need Thee Every Hour” ............................................. Lowry

Prayer

Anthem: “Lift Up Your Heads” from “The Messiah” ......................... Handel

Scripture

Offertory Solo: “God Leads His Dear Children Along”
Mrs. B. M. Jarrett

Sermon: “WIDENING REACH AND HEIGHTENING POWER” ............... Dr. W. F. Powell

Hymn No. 300: “Ready” ........................................................................ Tillman

Benediction

Organ Postlude
THURSDAY
June 19, 1947
8:00 P. M.

Organ Prelude
Hymn No. 2: “O Worship the King” ........................................ Haydn

Invocation
Chorus: “Wonderful Book” ....................................................... Smith
    Junior A Choir, Mrs. Oscar Stuart, Director

Hymn No. 150: “Jesus Shall Reign” ........................................ Hatton

Prayer
Anthem: “Hallelujah Chorus” from “The Messiah” ...................... Handel

Scripture
Offertory Solo: “How Beautiful Upon the Mountain” ................. Harker
    Joe Hamrick

Sermon: “I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH” ................................. Dr. Louie D. Newton

Hymn No. 151: “O Zion, Haste” ............................................. Walch

Benediction
Organ Postlude
"And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee."—Deuteronomy 8:2.

FRIDAY

June 20, 1947

8:00 P. M.

Organ Prelude

Hymn No. 185: "Glory to His Name" Stockton

Invocation

Chorus: "For the Beauty of the Earth" Koch
Cherub Choir, Primary Department, Mrs. O. V. Hamrick, Jr., Director

Hymn No. 191: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Mason

Prayer

Anthem: "Gloria In Excelsis" Mozart

Scripture

Offertory Solo: "Come Ye Blessed" Scott-Deis
Harold Spangler

Sermon: "HEIRS OF GOD" Dr. Duke K. McCall

Hymn No. 254: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" Stebbins

Benediction

Organ Postlude
"As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world."—John 17:18

THE LORD'S DAY MORNING

June 22, 1947

10:55 A.M.

Organ Prelude: "Adoration" .................................................. Borowski

Hymn No. 6: "Holy, Holy, Holy" ........................................... Dykes

Invocation

Chorus: "Praise The Maker" .................................................. Williams
        Junior A Choir, Mrs. Oscar Stuart, Director

Hymn No. 269: "Higher Ground" ......................................... Gabriel

Prayer

Anthem: "Lovely Appear" from "The Redemption" ..................... Gounod

Scripture

Offering

Offertory Duet: "Love Divine" ............................................. Stainer
        Mrs. Ben Suttle - Mr. Joe Hamrick

Sermon: "THE CHRISTIANS' COURSE IN THE WORLD" ............ Dr. C. H. Durham

Hymn No. 57: "Jesus Is Calling" .......................................... Stebbins

Benediction

Organ Postlude: "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor" ...................... Bach
THE LORD’S DAY EVENING

June 22, 1947
8:00 P. M.

Organ Prelude: “Berceuse” .................................................... Dickinson
Hymn No. 154: “My Jesus, I Love Thee” ................................... Gordon
Invocation
Chorus: “The Lost Chord” ....................................................... Sullivan
Intermediate B Choir, Bill Baley, Director
Hymn No. 160: “What A Friend” ............................................. Converse
Prayer
Anthem: “Unfold Ye Portals” from “The Redemption” ............... Gounod
Scripture
Offering
Offertory Solo: “I Heard The Voice of Jesus Say” ...................... Rathbun
Mrs. E. B. Hill
Sermon: “WHAT CHRIST EXPECTS OF US” ...................... Dr. Sankey L. Blanton
Hymn No. 100: “Softly and Tenderly” ...................................... Thompson
Benediction
Organ Postlude: “Prelude in B Major” .................................... Bach

“One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all.” — Ephesians 4:5-6
A BENEDICTION

"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."
“Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”
John 20:21
NEW STRUCTURE OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SHELBY

This magnificent house of worship was opened for the first time on Easter Sunday. The church has been totally remodeled and a Sunday-school building erected. This makes one of the finest church plants in North Carolina. Dr. Zeno Wall is pastor of this progressive church and led in remodeling the church and Sunday-school plant. The building program was launched last year and in a short time $108,000 was pledged to the building fund. The auditorium was enlarged to a seating capacity of 1,200. This is said to be the largest church and auditorium on one floor of any Baptist church in the State. Governor Gardner, who is a member of this church and taught a great class in the Sunday-school until coming to Raleigh, went to Shelby to be at the opening of the new building.
First Baptist Observes 129th Year
In Special Service On July 4th

Shelby's First Baptist Church will observe its 129th year in special July 4th service Sunday morning when its history will be dramatized and an old-fashioned dinner will be held on the grounds.

Dr. Gene Watterson, pastor, will deliver a patriotic and historical message. A historical pageant written and directed by Mrs. Rush Hamrick, Jr., will be presented. The special service will get underway at 10:30 a.m. Ed Rackley, minister of music, will direct the choir in a number of favorite anthems and patriotic medleys, and assisting Mrs. Hamrick in presentation of the church history will be Fred Flowers and Ken Vassey.

Sunday School will convene as usual, with classes to be dismissed early for the patriotic observance planned in conjunction with the nation's 200th birthday celebration.

Also being readied for Sunday is a replica of the old sanctuary, being prepared by Mr. and Mrs. R. Hubbard Hamrick, which will include the old altar, the historic little pew that served as the center of the unique round sanctuary, and other historic memorabilia.

Members of First Baptist have been worshipping in new and renovated facilities for the past two and one-half years when a one and one-half million dollar building program provided a new Youth and Activities building, a new sanctuary with added balcony to provide seating for over 1,400 and completely renovated educational facilities. The church ranks ninth in size among the 3,500 Baptist churches in the state and is third in mission giving.

Thirty-two pastors have filled the pulpit of the church since it was organized on

CONT. ON PG. 2
SEE FIRST BAPTIST
Church Elects Women To Board Of Deacons

By SUSAN McBRAYER
Star Staff Writer

Shelby's First-Baptist Church has elected women to serve on the board of deacons for the first time in more than 25 years when there was a separate board of women deaconesses.

Mrs. Mae Stroup and Mrs. Jessie Forney were elected last Sunday along with nine men to serve a three-year term and were among 30 church members nominated.

Prior to the nominations, the church at large considered the matter and gave an "overwhelming affirmation" to the idea of women on the board, said the church's minister, the Rev. Gene Watterson.

Although there has never been an unwritten rule saying women could not serve, it has always been a practice for only men to serve on the board, he said, adding that as far as he knows, a woman has never even been nominated for the board until now.

Women make up at least one half of the church's congregation and Watterson said the congregation's opinion is that "we are one in Christ." The scriptures (New Testament) do not speak of the dominance of the male. . . . although it's been practiced," he said, adding that as far as he knows, a woman has never even been nominated for the board until now.

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They were elected, not because they are women, but because of the people they are. The effect of their leadership will be felt and they will contribute to the high level of doing things, he said.

Mrs. Forney said she thinks it's a good idea for women to be included on the board, but said she doesn't think equal rights for women had anything to do with it. She hopes people will look at her as an individual.

"I would like to serve as an individual like the other members," she said. "Being a woman has nothing to do with it."

Mrs. Stroup, a member in the board of deaconesses in the 1930's, said serving on the board will be a "new experience" for her and said she hopes to do what she can to advance the church's work. She said she feels that women deacons have the support of the congregation and that many of the women members think it is time women were being consulted.

Board of deacons chairman Harold W. Causby said he thinks having women deacons is "allright," and said the board had always "accepted ladies' ideas."

Kings Mountain Baptist Association superintendent of missions, the Rev. Cline Borders, said there are no guidelines from the Baptist Convention concerning women deacons but it is left up to the individual church and how it interprets the New Testament.

Borders said the Boiling Springs Baptist Church has a woman deacon, Mrs. Katie Ruth Dixon, and that he knows of others that are considering having women as deacons.

In another denomination, Shelby's Central United Metho-
Holy Week noon-day services will be held Monday through Friday at First Baptist Church from 12:05 to 12:35 daily.

Dr. Eugene Poston will speak Monday on "Father, Forgive Them, They Know Not What They Do." The Rev. Roland Leath will speak Tuesday on "Today With Me in Paradise." Dr. John Drayer will speak Wednesday on "Behold Thy Son." Dr. Forrest Feezor will speak Thursday on "Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?" and Dr. Gene Watterson will speak Friday on "The Final Moments."

Observance of the Passover meal will be Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the activities building. Reservations will be required and may be made by phoning 482-3467.

Concord Baptists Plan To Begin Revival Sunday

CONCORD — Dr. Gene Watterson, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Shelby, will be the speaker at revival services to be held at the First Baptist Church here beginning at the 11 a.m. service Sunday.

Evening services will be held at 7:30 p.m. daily through Wednesday.

Dr. Watterson is a native of Alabama, a graduate of Samford University, William and Mary College and the Southeastern Seminary, and has pastored churches in Virginia, Florida and North Carolina.

Dr. Watterson received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Gardner-Webb College in 1974. He is a member of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and a member of the general board. He serves as president of the N.C. Council on Christian Higher Education and has served on the Commission of Housing and Urban Redevelopment and the Human Relations Council of Shelby. He is married and the father of two daughters and one son.

A nursery for small children will be provided at each service.
Life Begins At 60

By Aleeta Walker
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Enthusiasm is contagious, and enthusiastic is the word to describe representatives of the Shelby First Baptist Church Keenager’s Club.

The senior adult organization, first begun in 1972, now claims a membership of 120 persons between the ages of 60-100 years.

Varied programs and activities keep members busy, not only at the bi-monthly meetings at the church, but also on special all day outings, overnight stays, or week-long trips.

Forty-two members of the club have recently returned from an exciting 5-day journey by train and bus to New Orleans. Mrs. Claire Angel, president of the Keenagers, bubbles over with excitement when describing the colorful sights and scenes encountered on the trip.

“It’s an adventurous group,” says Glenn Davenport, Administrator of Activities at First Baptist and who accompanied the group to New Orleans. “We go anywhere and everywhere we CAN go!” he laughs, offering as evidence a thickly bound album of photos he has taken on previous trips.

Mrs. Angel explained that the Keenagers at First Baptist are divided into 8 groups of some 20 persons each. At the first of the bi-monthly meetings, officers and representatives of each group meet with Glenn to plan 4-6 months of activities. During the winter the club enjoys indoor programs such as Bible studies conducted by Pastor Dr. Gene Watterson, meals, birthday, holiday, and other themed parties. From a such “tasting party” came a published cookbook compiled by members of the club containing recipes handed down through generations.

In warmer weather members go on picnics and believe it’s important for our representatives to know us and learn first hand of our needs and problems. We get involved.”

In addition to travel the (SEE Keenagers pg. 2)
Benefit Performance

The Rev. Van Ramsey, former minister of music at First Baptist Church in Shelby, and a group of Florida high school and college students will present a program of songs in Shelby Sunday, July 1.

"An American Experience," defined by Ramsey as "an historical panorama," will be presented in Malcolm Brown Auditorium at 4 p.m.

Although no admission will be charged, donations will be taken and given to the Disaster Fund commemorating the five men who lost their lives in the West Warren Street fire last month and benefiting their families.

The singers will have lunch with Gov. Jim Hunt in Shelby Monday.

The group is touring western North Carolina. Ramsey is now with First Baptist Church in Merritt Island, Fla.

10th Anniversary

Dr. Gene Watterson was honored Sunday afternoon at a reception at First Baptist Church on his 10th anniversary as pastor. Shown in photo with Dr. Watterson are (from left) his daughter, Lisa; Mrs. Watterson; and daughter, Mrs. Robert Runyans Jr. of Raleigh.
For First Baptist Keenagers,
Life Begins At 60

By Aleeta Walker
TIMES STAFF WRITER

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In warmer weather members go on picnics and other local outings, attend plays, visit dinner theatres and restaurants, and take one day or overnight sightseeing or shopping trips to Charleston, Williamsburg, Washington, D. C., Florida's Disney World, and the Dutch country of Pennsylvania.

"We try to see historical Atlanta, Asheville, Raleigh, and Charleston and more. The Keenagers have visited wherever we travel," says Glenn. "I believe it's important for our representatives to know us and learn first hand of our needs and problems. We get involved."

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Photo by Jim Banks

Sanford Herald
Shelby Star
Statesville Record & Landmark
Tarboro Southerner
Thomasville Times
Tryon Bulletin
Washington Daily News
Wilmington News
Wilmington Star
Wilmington Star-News
Wilson Daily Times
Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem Sentinel
Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel
Northside Baptist Church on Highway 68 north of Shelby will dedicate its new church building Sunday during the 11 a.m. service. Marse Grant, editor of *Biblical Recorder*, the official news publication of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, will be the speaker.

The church began in 1975 and became a mission of First Baptist Church of Shelby until it was chartered a church in March 1976.

The church has been served by three pastors and the present pastor, the Rev. Stanley D. Webb, has served the church since October 1978.

The building, recently constructed by Northway Contractors Inc. of Taylors, S.C., is the first unit of a multi-unit facility which contains educational and temporary worship space. Additional units are designed to connect with this building and will provide space for educational activities, a family life center, a recreational facility, and a permanent auditorium with a 600 seating capacity.
Rhodesians still has a future, says a pastor from that civil war-torn African country. The seven-year war is over now, but last week Marxist guerrilla leader Robert Mugabe won the office of Prime Minister in a landslide election. So far, Mugabe has proclaimed the goals national unity, conciliation and, presumably, a continuation of a capitalistic economy. But that might change.

White Rhodesians and many blacks fear a Communist government lurks somewhere down the line, according to the Rev. John Broom, pastor of the Salisbury Baptist Church in the Rhodesian capital. People hope for the best, however, and there is a lot of good will in the country, Broom adds.

Broom and his wife Elaine are in Shelby this week along with a group of nine other pastors and several laymen from Rhodesia. The ministers are holding revival services in area churches through a program sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention and under the local auspices of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association.

Broom will spend six weeks in America, holding other revivals in Alabama, Oklahoma and Illinois.

The theme of his messages — all delivered at Shelby's First Baptist Church — has been "key principles in victorious Christian living," says Broom. The last service was Thursday night. The possible loss of religious freedom in Rhodesia troubles Broom deeply.

The Brooms first learned of Mugabe's victory while stopping over in Johannesburg, South Africa, en route to the United States. "We almost went back (to Salisbury and their four children)," said Mrs. Broom. "The news was a real shell-shock."

Everyone expected the winner to be Bishop Abel Muzorewa, who took over as prime minister last year in an election organized by the country's white government. Instead, 2.7 million black voters gave an overwhelming majority to Mugabe, now head of the new Zimbabwe's first black-power government. Broom feels the election was free "in that everyone had a vote," but that "it wasn't fair in that the populace was intimidated by the terrorists." "What worries us is that manifestos found on terrorists during the war were typically Communist, anti-capitalistic and anti-Christ," says Broom. "They said churches would be changed into barrack rooms or dance halls. Now, the man who led these terrorists is our prime minister."

Mugabe, who describes himself as "a socialist," is an "intelligent man," Broom says, and may very well stick to his promises of a government that will include blacks and whites and coexistence with South Africa. "Communism has done nothing for Africa and Africans know that," Broom adds. "To think that people who have been fighting each other are now working shoulder to shoulder"
Local Church
 Gets $10,000

Shelby's First Baptist Church is among beneficiaries of a 
$7.5 million estate left by former Shelbian Mrs. Martha 
Eskridge Love Ayers of Guilford County.

According to the Greensboro Daily News, Mrs. Ayers' 
will leaves $10,000 to the Shelby church she attended before 
she left the area.

Daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eskridge of 
Shelby, she married J. Spencer Love, founder and board 
chairman of Burlington Industries. Six years after his death 
in 1962, she married Nathan Ayers, chairman of the board 
of Highland Cotton Mills in High Point.

Most of the estate of Mrs. Ayers, 68, goes to her four 
children and her husband, the Greensboro paper reports. 
The majority of assets were in stocks and bonds of $6 
 million, including 123,078 shares in Burlington Industries.

Mrs. Ayers' will spread $450,000 among 16 charities, with 
the largest single amount, $200,000, going to the Medical 
Foundation of the N.C. Cancer Research Building at the 
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro receives 
$70,000. Receiving $20,000 each are Wesley Long Hospital 
Inc., J. Spencer Love Tennis Center at Jaycee Park, the 
Edward R. Zane Planetarium and Natural Science Museum 
and the J. Spencer Love Fellow's Program at Harvard 
University.

In addition to Shelby First Baptist Church, receiving 
$10,000 each are the Children's Home Society of North 
Carolina, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 
the Education Foundation of the University of North 
Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Royal Poinciana Chapel in 
Palm Beach, Fla., Crippled Children's Society 
Rehabilitation Center in Palm Beach, Agnes Scott College 
in Decatur, Ga., and the Good Samaritan Hospital in West 
Palm Beach, Fla.

Surviving children of Mrs. Ayers are Martin Eskridge 
Love of Chapel Hill, Charles Eskridge Love of New York 
and Cornelia S. Love and Lela P. Love, both of Washington.
Family

The Rev. Gene Watterson of First Baptist Church (seated) and Billy Cooper, the church’s minister of education, discuss plans for an upcoming area-wide singles conference with Christian Singles members (from left) Louise Frank, Beth Tallent, Pat Jones and Dot Poston.

Conference To Address Interests Of Singles
Parenting, legal matters, self-awareness — all are topics of interest to every adult. But they take on added importance for those adults who are single.

An area-wide Christian Singles conference sponsored by Shelby’s First Baptist Church will address these and other issues in workshop sessions conducted by specialists in each area.

Some 400 churches within a 50-mile radius of Shelby have been contacted about the event, planned for April 11 at the church.

The conference, says Dot Poston, one of the organizers, has long been a goal of First Baptist’s Christian Singles organization. “We want to reach out to the people in the community who need this type of ministry,” she says. “This whole conference has been planned toward that end. We just feel like this would be a ministry for the whole area.”

The Rev. Gene Watterson, pastor of the church, sees the singles group and the upcoming conference as a logical progression of the First Baptist ministry. The church has periodically directed itself toward specific portions of its population — handicapped children and adults, unwed mothers and the deaf. The singles ministry,” says Watterson, “was the logical extension of what we saw as the most neglected of any group we found.”

“There’s a biting loneliness among single people that cannot be dismissed, and the opportunities for fellowship are extremely limited — not just in numbers but in quality,” Watterson says. “People need people and especially do Christian people need Christian people.”

Minister of education Billy Cooper, who Watterson calls the venture’s “organizer, energizer and mover,” says the thought behind the conference has been tossed about for months but that actual planning was begun only about three months ago.

He believes the event can have far-reaching effects on a varied group of people — never-marrieds, singles with young children, divorced, those who are separated or who have been widowed: “It’s possible for us to be able to touch people in a lot of areas,” he says.

Conference participants can take part in two of the five sessions — on self-awareness, single parenting, emotional issues of being single, legal knowledge for singles and value clarification.

The schedule for April 11 begins at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts, followed by a welcome and assignments from 9:30 to 9:45.

The first conference session begins at 9:45 a.m., and lunch follows at 11:30.

Groups interested in beginning their own singles organizations can get ideas on “how-to” during a half-hour program from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

A second conference session gets under way at 1, and activities conclude with chapel at 2:15 p.m.

The session on self-awareness will be conducted by Dr. Dorothy Sizemore, dean of students at Meredith College. Widowed and a single parent, Dr. Sizmore is a consultant in a singles ministry.

Clinical psychologist John Rosemond will direct the session on single parenting. The father of two children, Rosemond is known for his nationally syndicated column “Big People, Little People,” which appears in this area in The Charlotte Observer.

Dr. Robert H. Crook, who will lead the discussion on dealing with the emotional issues of being single, is chairman of the religion and philosophy department at Meredith College. He has written several books, including “Christian Families in Conflict” and “An Open Book to the Christian Divorcee.”

A session on value clarification will be led by Dr. Robert Lee Newton, director of the Christian family life department of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. A family life counselor, he has worked with mental health centers throughout the state.

Shelby attorney Fred Flowers will lead a discussion on legal knowledge for singles. Flowers, who has 18 years of experience in the general practice of law, is the only local resident among the conference leaders. He is a member and deacon of First Baptist Church.

Anyone interested in participating in the event should register by March 31. The $10 fee includes lunch.

Both the conference and the Christian Singles group are open to all singles in the area, regardless of church membership or religious affiliation.
Success Of Singles Conference Encourages Event’s Organizers

By BRENDA CROSBY
Star Family Editor

Organizers of Saturday’s Christian Singles Conference at First Baptist Church say around 125 people took part in the day-long event.

And they say the program was so successful that a second conference is already being planned.

"We’re just really very well pleased," said Dorothy Poston, president of First Baptist’s Christian Singles organization. "We believe the day was totally successful, and we’ve already started planning one for the fall.”

Mrs. Poston said this weekend’s conference attracted participants from Forest City, the Gastonia-Belmont area and as far away as Columbia, S.C. "We feel like there is a need for something like this and that it’s something people are searching for," she said.

Highlighting Saturday’s activities were five conference sessions involving a variety of issues of importance to singles.

Dr. Dorothy Sizemore, dean of students at Meredith College, directed a discussion on self-awareness. The issue of single parenting was addressed by clinical psychologist and columnist John Rosemond. Dr. Robert H. Crook, chairman of the religion department at Meredith College, dealt with the emotional issues of being single.

Value clarification was discussed by Dr. Robert Lee Newton, director of the Christian Family Life department of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. Fred Flowers, a Shelby attorney and First Baptist Church deacon, led a discussion on legal knowledge for singles.

Billy Cooper, minister of education at First Baptist, opened the event with a welcome.

Dr. Newton, whose Christian Family Life department at the Baptist State Convention assisted in enlisting conference speakers, congratulated the church for organizing the event. "The church is a family of families," he said, "and that’s what this is all about.”

The pastor of the church, Dr. Gene Watterson, addressed the group during lunch and encouraged his listeners to seek inner strength.

"Regardless of what you face in life as a single or in life as a married person, there are pressures from the outside," Watterson said. "It’s clear these pressures can make you cave in unless there is that inner reinforcement. Life is too much for all of us without that inner strength."
This afternoon Dr. Gene Watterson is a comforter. A phone call brings word a church member has died, so Watterson immediately goes to meet the family at Cleveland Memorial Hospital.

Before the day ends, Watterson’s roles may switch from counselor and teacher to administrator. “A preacher’s job is multi-faceted,” says Watterson, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Shelby. “The responsibility is always there, 24 hours a day, but I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Sometimes Watterson thinks it is a sin to get paid for a job he likes so well.

Back in the days Watterson puffed Old Gold cigarettes; helped “rescue” a case of beer, forged his father’s name to join the Navy and cursed his way across several oceans, preaching was the last thing on his mind.

Born 52 years ago in Decatur, Ala., Watterson spent most of his childhood in Birmingham. Watterson’s father, A.D., ran a sawmill and building supply business with his brother until the Depression closed down the operation. The elder Watterson moved his family to Birmingham where he found an $18-per-week job as an electrician.

“Dad was a hard working man,” says Watterson. “But he never complained. He had a positive, upbeat attitude.” Watterson thinks he inherited that quality from his father.

The change from suburban school to big-city school wasn’t easy for Watterson and his older brother, Doug. As newcomers, the boys had to prove themselves to a hostile student body. In that time and place, this meant “fighting every kid in school,” Watterson says.

Every afternoon by the school flagpole, the Watterson brothers slugged it out with various opponents. The brothers lost more rounds than they won.
Local Minister Loves His Work

"From Page 1"

"My father saw what a rough time we were going through and got a man who had once been a professional boxer to teach us how to fight," Watterson says.

The old pro offered some basic advice: Keep your hands up and your eyes open. Down at the school they had once been a rough time we were going through and got a man who had never done anything in mine," says Watterson. "I had never understood the difference in belonging to a church and a commitment.

Watterson made a commitment that day. He got a master's degree at the College of William and Mary and steered onward to seminary.

While training in clinical counseling at Central State Hospital in Petersburg, Va., Watterson interviewed a man who murdered four members of a family. "He was gentle and quiet," Watterson says. "He was an individual who had some loose wires and, like electricity, sometimes they sparked." Watterson considers his hospital training invaluable.

Watterson entered the pastoral ministry with an idealism "both naive and indescribable." He thought everyone in the church was a Christian. "That's a very bad error," Watterson says. "My idealism was

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In 1965, Watterson joined a ministry that took him to New Zealand, Australia, Vietnam and other Far Eastern countries.

After pastoring churches in Colonial Heights, Va., Crestview, Fla. and Jacksonville, Fla., Watterson came to Shelby in 1969. "This is the longest I've lived in one place," he says.

Watterson met his future wife, Yvonne Caudle of Petersburg, Va., during a church function. They have three children and one grandchild.

Since his Navy days, Watterson says he has set goals for himself and he has continued the practice.

"I have some physical goals — I try to exercise some everyday," Watterson says. "And I have goals financially."

Spiritual goals can go in several directions, Watterson says. "First, a minister has to know how to speak," he says. "I've studied speech and oratory. Second, he has to have something to say."

The content of Watterson's sermons is broadened by his wide range of reading, especially in history. Also, he tries to re-read the Bible every 30 days.

"I take every speed reading course I can find," Watterson says. He slows down for pleasure reading and savors the rich prose of an author like Shelby Foote, whose Civil War trilogy made battles come alive for Watterson.

Another important part of any minister's spiritual goal, says Watterson, is living what he preaches.

"This is a rewarding kind of work, a changing kind of work," says Watterson.
Handbell Festival Set

That joyful noise coming from Shelby's First Baptist Church this weekend will be provided by some 225 handbell ringers from throughout western North Carolina.

The North Carolina State Baptist Adult Handbell Festival gets under way tonight at 7 with a demonstration performance in the First Baptist Church sanctuary by a Moravian handbell group from Winston-Salem.

Following that, participating groups will gather for mass rehearsals and then individual critical reviews.

The culminating event will be a mass concert Saturday at 12:15 p.m. in the church gymnasium.

All events are open to the public.

Guest clinician is Betty Garee of New York, who will direct the mass concert and critique individual performances. Also expected to participate in the two-day event are Charles Gatwood, North Carolina state Baptist music secretary; and Clinton Flowers, a Baptist minister of music from Rock Hill, S.C.

In the critiques, groups will be evaluated on such areas as technique, overall musicianship and appearance.

According to Bob Dills, First Baptist's minister of music, who is coordinating the event, groups from 17 western North Carolina churches will take part in the program. Adult handbell-ringing, says Dills, is a relatively new activity, although youth groups have been a part of Baptist church programs for several years.

The first statewide adult handbell festival was held only last year, but was so popular and attracted so many church groups that two festivals were planned for 1982. The second will be held in Fayetteville.

Handbell groups from Elizabeth and First Baptist churches will be among the organizations participating in the local event. The Elizabeth group is directed by Steve Coldiron, minister of music.

The First Baptist group, directed by Dills, has nine ringers and is into its fourth year of existence.

"I anticipate a good learning experience for our group and for all the groups participating," says Dills, "especially by working with someone who is an expert in the field - which Mrs. Garee is. We hope to be able to grow some with this experience."

First Baptist Church sets revival services

Dr. Gene Watterson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Shelby, will be the guest minister for the "Here's Hope" revival services at First Baptist Church, Hickory, April 18-21.

The services are being held in cooperation with the "Here's Hope" Crusade now in progress in the churches of the Theron Rankin Baptist Association and throughout North Carolina. The crusade involves the churches of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina as well as those of the General Baptist State Convention, a total of over 5,000 churches.

Dr. Watterson serves as a member of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, and has served on the general board of the Baptist State Convention.

In preparation for the revival church members made visits this week and held cottage prayer meetings in the homes of Hendley Ellington, E. R. Fickling Jr., Donald Greene, Mrs. Kate Hardin and Albert Wentz.

On April 17, Dr. Watterson will attend a Sunday School Key Leadership Prayer Dinner and speak to the youth of the church at a youth prayer rally and supper at the lake.

He will preach at the 11 a.m. service April 18th, and at the evening services, Sunday through Wednesday, at 7:15 p.m. Puppet Teens will perform at the beginning of each of the evening services, and there will be a special revival choir.

Dr. Watterson will also attend fellowship luncheons at noon, Monday through Wednesday, in the fellowship hall of the church. Cost of the luncheon is $2 per person, and reservations are requested by 9 a.m. each day. Interested person may call the church office at 328-2031. //
Church, Kids Big Part Of Suzie Anthony's Life

By Joe DePriest
Star Staff Writer

Vacation bible school singers rang the hymn around the rafters of First Baptist Church: "Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus, going on before."

Throughout the song, led by the Rev. Ronald Leath, a little blond girl dreamed of being a missionary. Along with other children, she pledged allegiance to the U.S. and Christian flags and the Bible, but with thoughts turned toward distant lands. Later, acting in religious plays seemed like an appealing career and further on, social work interested her.

The little blonde, Suzie Anthony, is now 32 years old and has sampled bits of all those dreams. For three years, she has served her home church as director of weekday ministries, which include child day care and adult day care for the profoundly and severely mentally retarded.

During Mrs. Anthony’s career, she has worked as home-school coordinator for Shelby City schools and taught creative dramatics at Shelby City Park. She helped set up and directed the Tot Spot, a therapeutic pre-school program for emotionally disturbed children.

Church and children have long been major themes in Mrs. Anthony’s life. Everyday she channels her energy in those directions.

Until Mrs. Anthony, then Suzie Connor, left Marion Elementary School, she and her family lived on East Marion Street beside the Coca-Cola plant. Her father, L.B. Connor, worked first for Arey Oil Co. and later Williams Oil Co. Inez, her mother, teaches French and English at Shelby High School. Mrs. Anthony has a brother, Rick.
Church A Big Part Of Suzie Anthony's Life

"I was a shy kid," Mrs. Anthony says. Neighborhood flashbacks still reach her: paperboy east, Moss bicycling by and riding to Miss Maudlin's first-grade class with scalc taxi-cab legend Black Cat.

Shyness unraveled at the First Baptist Church: very nice place indeed, Mrs. Anthony thought. Friendships blossomed. Commitments were born: choir, Sunday School, ramas. The taste and zeal of vacation bible school lingers inside Mrs. Anthony like a sweet asmine haze. Nothing can ever replace the deliciousness of the mid-morning soft drink and anilla wafers, gulped own between bending ails on bird houses and oakcases.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands..." little vacation ible school voices hummed inside the church sanctuary. Hands were positioned over hearts, and all eyes watched Rev. Leath. Mrs. Anthony looked past the stained glass windows to somewhere else.

As a teen-ager, Mrs. Anthony took part in summer missions led by Mel Doughty, minister of youth. They worked in New York City, Jacksonville, St. Louis. At Shelby High, Mrs. Anthony studied French in her mother's class. "I made As," she says. "She helped me at home, but she was willing to help anybody. She made me work for it."

After graduating from high school in 1968, Mrs. Anthony enrolled at Lake Erie College, planted on the lake at Painesville, Ohio. "Mother knew some people who had gone there," she says. But Europe called first. Mrs. Anthony attended the Baptist World Youth Conference in Bern, Switzerland, and afterwards visited other countries, including England.

"I really liked it and wanted to go back," she says. A roommate at Lake Erie had an aunt who worked at the U.S. Embassy in London. The two girls contrived to stay with the relative. The following summer, they were off to England, where they spent three months working at various secretarial jobs. Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones turned Hyde Park into a wall of rock 'n' roll that summer.

The last three weeks of Mrs. Anthony's stay, she embarked on her great adventure: hitchhiking all-but-broke across Europe with two friends. They hit the back roads. They hopped a freighter across the English channel. They had a ball.

The land of Lake Erie, while pretty, blew bitter cold in the winter and Mrs. Anthony missed Carolina. She came home to Gardner-Webb and graduated there in 1972 with a degree in theater arts. Baptist seminary beckoned. She nodded, but married Irvin Anthony instead. They have two children, Tony, 8, and Keely, 7.

The Mental Health Department's Tot Spot work pleased Mrs. Anthony. "I liked role playing, puppets and pretending," she says. "There were lots of opportunities to do creative things."

One problem: She felt her lack of knowledge about psychology and counseling impeded her performance.

So Mrs. Anthony enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. For the next three years, she worked all day, drove to college at night, came home about 11 p.m. and then worked on her thesis. She graduated in 1979 with a master's in guidance and counseling.

At the Tot Spot the biggest counseling lesson Mrs. Anthony had to learn was "to listen and be non-judgmental and not give my own advice."

The facts of children's lives parade by her memory: kids who had never been insei; and a parent murdered; a kid who couldn't stay still and sometimes climbed a nearby building threatening to kill himself.

"The saddest cases were the child abuse cases," Mrs. Anthony says. Sometimes the work went home with her, the parade continuing at night. "I had to learn, hard as it was, to leave work at work. I had my own family to take care of. But nobody can do that completely."

The old longing for a church reached fulfillment in 1979 when the First Baptist job opened. Mrs. Anthony and a staff of 13 have 180 children in day care and around 13 in adult day care. She also directs pre-school Sunday School.

Adult day care for the severely and profoundly mentally retarded is a program the church began offering a year ago last June. Class members can't function in vocational workshops. At the church, they get help in socialization, communication and self-help skills. The handicapped are isolated from the children who learn. Mrs. Anthony says, "that the handicapped are special and important. They may be something different, but that doesn't make them any less important."

Away from church and in Mrs. Anthony's not-too-plentiful spare time, she works with Child Abuse Prevention Services as a board member. The Shelby Civitians and is a juvenile court volunteer along with her husband. A sometime backpacker, she often leads juvenile offenders on therapeutic outings. She also swims. Her days are full and she wouldn't have them any other way.

"We have so many different programs," says Mrs. Anthony, "there's never any time to be bored."
By Joe DePriest
Star Staff Writer

A gaping ceramic frog turns under careful paint-brush strokes.

"I don't want to get none in his mouth," says Willie Lowe, the painter.

Vicki Blanton guides Lowe's hands during the frog decoration. Getting paint in the wrong place would be easy: Lowe is blind.

Across the table from Lowe is 75-year-old Hattie W. Kennedy. "I've not got an eye in my head," she says, removing her sunglasses. "I'm diabetic. My eyes wouldn't stop hurting, so they took them out. But I've seen and done enough."

All seven people working at the table in the Shelby First Baptist Church ceramics room are blind or visually impaired. Volunteers help them through each step in making flower pots, Christmas trees, Iris, pitchers.

Mrs. Kennedy has already completed her ceramic items, but she still comes to the class. She likes the company. "This has really brought up my day," she says. "You stay home and say, 'I can't do this. I can't do that.' But this has opened up a way to get away from home."

Bob Davis, director of Christian Social Ministries for the Kings Mountain Baptist Association, feels the pilot program's mission is being accomplished.

"The new thrust in the Southern Baptist Convention is ministry to the handicapped," says Davis. "We felt we needed to do more."

Davis consulted with Vicki Blanton, state social worker with the blind, and several workshops were held. "We asked what needs the blind had," Davis says. "She (Mrs. Blanton) told me some things the Lions Clubs were doing." There are an estimated 700 to 750 blind or visually handicapped people in Cleveland County. Transportation and combating loneliness..."
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from page 1

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Ministers To Visually Impaired

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Willie Lowe paints his ceramics frog.
Burst Pipes Prompt Probe Of First Baptist's Structure

By Stern Dixon
Star Staff Writer

Water damage resulting from two recent burst pipe incidents have prompted an investigation into the condition of the entire facility at Shelby's First Baptist Church. According to the Rev. Gene Watterson, the church's building and grounds committee is now trying to determine if any aspect of the 55-year-old structure is less than sound. The probe follows flooding from a burst pipe which caused an estimated amount of water damage to the church sanctuary Monday. The flooding has forced the church to move Sunday's worship service to another location.

"Water is amazing in its destructive power," said Watterson. "It was a mess."

On Dec. 26, a pipe burst on the fourth floor of the church's educational building, causing $43,000 in damages to all four floors of the building. The incident followed several days of single-digit temperatures and is believed to have been caused by frozen water in the pipes.

The church continued its usual schedule following that incident, although Watterson said the damages are still being repaired. Insurance is taking care of costs.

Church officials are in the process of getting professionals to inspect the building — especially the plumbing — to try to prevent things like this before they happen again, Watterson said. The church was remodeled in 1972; but, he said, a lot can happen in 12 years.

According to Watterson, Monday's flooding was caused by a break in a four-inch cast iron pipe which ran above the sanctuary ceiling. The accident was discovered shortly after 5 p.m. by someone returning to the church to pick up a Bible they had left in the sanctuary on Sunday.

Watterson thinks the water ran for an hour or less before being detected. The quick discovery of the broken pipe, he said, helped keep damage at a minimum.

Approximately 15 percent of the sanctuary ceiling suffered water damage, he said, while adding that no estimate of the cost of repairs has been made.

Watterson said he doesn't believe the break was caused by ice inside the pipe since it was insulated. But, he said, the pipe could have been weakened by the recent cold weather.

Until the sanctuary ceiling has a chance to dry out from the latest flooding, Sunday morning worship services will be held in Malcolm Brown Auditorium, Watterson said. Evening services will be held in the church's Web Chapel.

Watterson said he expects to be back in the sanctuary by next Sunday.
First Baptist to restore

When Shelby First Baptists began a building program for the present structure 75 years ago, they sacrificed to assure they could have a building second to none in architecture, embellishments and furnishings. Thus the edifice today is one of this area's most unique and historically significant.

One of the more exciting features of the new church, which was begun in 1910, was the inclusion of a method to present Christ through fine art. It was the era of Louis Comfort Tiffany, whose process for producing delicate hues of color from light bulbs and old glass, was exclusive and unique. It was to Tiffany the building committee turned.

For $1,300 the new sanctuary was adorned with three beautiful large stained glass windows depicting Biblical scenes. Twelve other single windows complement the larger ones and are intricate works of art in brilliant hues of yellows, golds, blues and purples, reds, browns and greens. All are astonishingly beautiful when caught between sunlight and the sanctuary. Also in the order were slim windows in the tower. That first investment of $1,300 today represents well over $1 million in value.

One of the Tiffany windows shows Jesus with his left hand on the head of a sheep with his right hand holding his staff. The scene, according to Gene Watters, pastor, signifies Jesus as the good shepherd showing his affection for and protection of the sheep. Another pictures Jesus as he comforts a kneeling woman. The third large window has no scene but is an intricate work of art.

According to church minutes, an order for art glass was first awarded a company in Atlanta, but “the company failed to produce satisfactory results and the order was cancelled at our request and the kindness of the company.” The contract was then awarded for the Tiffany work and was let to George Hardy Payne Studio in Patterson, N.J., on Jan. 13, 1911.

Ten years ago, in 1975, the two large Tiffany windows with scenes were appraised at $350,000 each. One could expect today that, plus the single ones and the third large window, would be of inestimable value.

As an enhancement program to raise $1 million gets underway to shore up the church complex that now occupies a city block in uptown Shelby, attention has been focused on the stained glass windows in the sanctuary.

Tiffany windows

The Tiffany windows are also a part of the enhancement program. A&H Art & Stained Glass Co. Inc. of Harmony is restoring the windows at a contract price of $17,500. Work, which is already underway, includes replacing broken glass with the closest available color and installing stormshields. The company has been removing two or more windows at a time and reworking them in the shop, a process requiring six months to complete. The windows have been repaired one other time during a renovation program in 1956 at a cost of $2,500.

The present church building is the third to house the Baptist congregation since it was founded in 1847. The first building was a wooden structure painted white with a seating capacity of 200 with an additional 50 in the balcony. A wood stove in the center of the building provided heat. It was sufficient for the congregation for 40 years.

The second edifice was completed in 1889 at a cost of $6,000. It was of very poor construction and trouble from the beginning. It would not heat, windows did not fit and the chimney did not draw properly. Church minutes tell of the problems and extra offerings to pay for heat.

On May 14, 1905, the committee on church building recommended a new church to cost “no less” than $15,000 if a committee could raise that amount. In church conference of Jan. 10, 1910, a resolution was adopted to proceed with the building and announcement was made that $28,350 was on hand.

Special timbers were required for the large overhead beams, sleepers and sills. The special trees were found and cut from the land of C.C. Hamrick and sawed by J.A. Wilson. The tall spires, thin windows, soaring arches and buttresses give it a Gothic air though architects quibble over whether it's French, English or Italian Gothic. First services were held in the new edifice on June 25, 1911.


It would be interesting to know if other Tiffany artwork has been used in local churches or institutions.

—The Shelby Star
First Baptist Church breaks with traditions

From Page 17

nearly $1 million renovation of Sunday School classrooms nearing completion. An organization alteration involves the structure of classes, many of which had been unchanged for 75 to 100 years.

The smell in the air is one of new carpet and fresh paint. Watterson and many of the 2,500 active members of his congregation are smiling.

"This has been in the planning for a long period," Watterson says. "It comes out of an in-depth study about the patterns in the church. This is a deliberate change in stance, organization and direction. As a church, you are either in a growth or a death process. We were in a death process."

This past April, the congregation approved a plan to change completely the organization of Sunday School classes. To accomplish that, changes also had to be made to the rooms where classes are held.

On six floors of the church, walls have been torn out, classrooms rebuilt and decorated. Where the church had five Sunday school departments and 30 classes, it now has nine departments and 44 classes. The classes and the classrooms have been made smaller.

"Small classes grow faster," Watterson says. "They grow and divide."

A church community goes through five stages, he says. The first is the creative stage in which members band together in common beliefs and goals. The second is the legalizing stage in which organization is established. The third, he says, is the dissension stage where the "dynamic" that started the church has been lost. The fourth is the nostalgia stage in which church members look fondly on the past without consideration for the future.

Watterson says there are two options in the fifth stage. There is either disintegration or "to dream the dream again."

"We chose to dream the dream again," he says. An example of how the organization has changed is in class size. Normally, only about half the members of a class can be expected to be present at any one time. If the class has 100 members and 50 are present, they pretty much fill up a room. The members look around and see a lot of people there and they have little enthusiasm for enlarging with additional members.

Under the new plan, the maximum size of an adult class is 20 members. There had been no maximum size before.

"Some of them were rather huge," Watterson says. Watterson says the break-up of some of the classes which had been around for many years and the requirement for people to attend class in different portions of the church could have been traumatic. But, he says, it has been well-received by members.

Classrooms are now located throughout the church. A chapel has been converted to classrooms. The new rooms are decorated in Williamsburg-style colors. There are large rooms for department gatherings and numerous small rooms for the new classes.

Watterson says the organization and building changes should support growth by the church.

"But this is not growth for growth's sake," he says. "The purpose is teaching. The aim of this is to enlist more people in the study of the biblical revelation."

The new classrooms were dedicated during services Sunday.

"We ought to have the tools now to get the job done," Watterson says.
Good News Revivals
Set By Baptist Churches

"Good News America, God Loves You" is the theme for the Southern Baptist Convention 1986 simultaneous revivals. Southern Baptists are cooperatively delivering one message to America: the essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that God really does love you (America as well as the entire world.)

Sixty-one Kings Mountain Baptist Association churches will be participating in the upcoming "Good News" revival emphasis during the week of April 6-13th.

In connection with these revivals an inspirational Rally will be held on Monday, January 27th, 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Shelby. The featured speaker will be the well known Dr. Alastair Walker, Pastor First Baptist Church Spartanburg, S.C.

Dr. Walker was born in Paisley, Scotland and came to America at the age of twenty.

He holds a Master of Arts degree from Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Bachelor of Theology from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois; Master of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky; Doctor of Divinity from Baptist College at Charleston, South Carolina; and the Doctor of Divinity degree from Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina.

The public is invited to hear Dr. Walker.

Prior to Dr. Walker's address is a mini-concert will be presented by Baltzgier Gospel Group.
Illinois group to ring its bells at First Baptist

By Joe DePriest
Star Staff Writer

They ring a little Tchaikowsky, Debussy and Massenet.
That is pretty intricate ringing.

So is Bach's "Fugue in G Minor" and Sinfonia from "Cantata No. 29."
Change the pace, and they ring out some John Philip Sousa: "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and "Semper Fidelis."

This summer, the Martin Ringers will ring all the way from their homebase in Rockford, Ill., to Shelby.

The First Baptist Church in Shelby is sponsoring a program Aug. 11 at 8 p.m. There will be no admission charge, but a love offering will be taken.

The Martin Ringers are no ordinary bell ringers. Based at the Second Congregational Church of Rockford, Ill., the group has been heard throughout the United States and England.

Since 1961, the group has appeared regularly at the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers and is a leader in the field.

Members ring bells cast and tuned at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry of London, England. The Whitechapel Foundry dates back more than 400 years. Among the famous bells cast there are the original American Liberty Bell and London's Big Ben.

The Martin Ringers are made up of young adults with one or two high school-age as needed. Twelve players play upon the massive set of bells. A 13th player, called a "floater," has a rotating assignment for each piece.

The musical demands on the group are unique, because everyone plays the same instrument — the total set of bells. This fragmented instrument is played by several ringers doing rapid runs, grace notes, rolled chords and so forth. A high degree of coordination and interdependence is required, and no musical study or solo practice is of much benefit. Bell-ringing is a social endeavor in which all practice, as in performance, must be done together.

The set of bells used by the Martin Ringers is one of the largest collections in the world. The set is actually composed of three sets. The first, which totals 69 bells, are the Rebecca Martin Memorial Handbells. Later a set of 37 bells known as the mini-bells was added. The final set of 40 bells is known as Liberty Bell collection. Including all duplicate and triplicates, the collection totals 168.

Richard Litterst directs the Martin Ringers. He is a church musician at the Second Congregational Church and for 17 years has conducted the summer season of the Rockford Pops Orchestra.

For 21 years, Litterst has been a member of the board of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers and is a past president of the organization. He also serves as a handbell clinician all over the United States.

On the current tour, the Martin Ringers will appear in Asheville, Morganton, Charlotte, Greensboro, Cary, Henderson and Fayetteville, before appearing in Shelby en route to Knoxville, Tenn.
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The election will be held Nov. 10 in Greensboro.

Watterson will seek the post formerly held by the Rev. Leon Smith of Goldsboro, who will run for president of the state convention.

"Friends from all across the state urged that I allow my name to be used," said Watterson, "and I acquiesced."

Watterson, who is seen as a moderate in Baptist circles, said he decided to run because "this is an extremely important year for the N.C. Baptist Convention in terms of leadership."

Also, he said, "I think they wanted a candidate whose church is like the First Baptist" in support of important Baptist convictions such as the separation of church and state.

Watterson is entering his 19th year at the First Baptist Church of Shelby. He has served on the state convention’s executive committee and chaired the program and budget committees. He has also served on the mission service cooperation committee, the first such study committee since 1925.

Over the years, Watterson has spoken to the WMU convention in Houston and served as president of the Council on Christian Higher Education.

Recently, he was named to serve on a state commission to study youth suicide.

"There are many able men in the state," said Watterson, "and an election by no means assures I will win. If I do, it will be a four-year commitment."
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Watterson seeking state post

By Joe DePriest
Star Staff Writer

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“There are many able men in the state,” said Watterson, “and an election by no means assures I will win. If I do, it will be a four-year commitment.”
For Van Ramsey, years in Shelby helped shape his music ministry

By Joe DePriest
Star Staff Writer

Van Ramsey has been away from Shelby since 1975, but he still meets former members of his group, "The Good News Singers of America."

For the nine years he served as minister of music at Shelby's First Baptist Church, he had a special interest in youth musicals and missions.

Ramsey to today, above, and in 1966.

His music groups traveled all over the United States and several foreign countries. The Baptist Foreign Mission Board helped with arrangements for a tour in Colombia, South America. All the music was sung in Spanish.

"The Good News Singers" toured England, France, Portugal and spent eight days in Russia.

When Ramsey looks back on those days, which he often does, he realizes how much they helped shape his professional life.

"I think they were the best years of my ministry," says Ramsey.

As of May 1, he became minister of music at First Baptist Church of St. Charles.

Ramsey put together a singing Christmas tree program with 110 singers and a full orchestra. They gave nine performances.

From Merritt Island, he moved to St. Petersburg's Northside Baptist Church and, after a brief stay, on to Birmingham.

Jane Ramsey served as organist at Central Park church.

The Ramseys have four children. Mark, a student at Belmont College in Nashville, is in charge of sound and lighting for a contemporary Christian music group. Lynne majors in early childhood education at Stamford University and is getting married on May 28. Paige plans to attend college next fall. Chris is a high school student who wants to be a minister of music.

In recent months the Ramseys have been back to Burke County several times. Ramsey's 84-year-old mother has been ill; and his brother Howard, 59, is awaiting a heart transplant.

Commenting on his new job, Ramsey says, "Jane and I are very excited that God is leading us to this growing church and city. We encourage all our friends in Shelby to pause and pray for us that we will be obedient to God and his leading in our lives."

"We still miss Shelby and First Baptist Church," Ramsey says. "Of all the places we have lived and served, we have never felt at home as we did in Shelby. You have a wonderful city, and we recall experiences all the time of how kind everyone was to us. We are very appreciative to everyone and especially the fellowship called the First Baptist Church."
The Rev. Gene Watterson (right) is pastor at First Baptist Church.

BACKGROUND: Dr. Gene L. Watterson, pastor at First Baptist Church in Shelby, was educated at Sanford University in Birmingham, Alabama, William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, and Southeastern Theological Seminary in North Carolina. Before arriving in Shelby, Dr. Watterson had been a pastor in churches in Georgia, Virginia, and Florida.

FAMILY: Dr. Watterson and his wife, Yvonne, have three children; Pamela of Raleigh, Gene Jr. of Memphis, and Lisa of Shelby.

MINISTERIAL FOCUS: In 20 years of pastoring, Dr. Watterson feels that his focus as a pastor involves three steps: First, fulfilling the great commission and reaching the people for Christ. Second, training them in discipleship. Third, motivating the membership to reach out to others.

“We visualize the church as an umbrella; the central staff being the local church. The umbrella of concern is the area and its people.”

CHURCH HISTORY: First Baptist Church was organized in 1847, under the pastorate of Rev. J.M. Webb. The first church building, a wooden structure painted white with a seating capacity of 200 and an additional 50 in the balcony, sufficed for approximately 40 years. The second building was completed in 1889 at a cost of $6,000. An additional third building for the church was erected in 1910-11. The church outgrew the auditorium and in 1928, another building program was launched. On Easter Sunday, March 31, 1929, the congregation began worshipping in the new auditorium. Good sacred music has enriched the worship of this church through its expanding years to the point that it is now tradition—a reputation that has come about through dedicated, consecrated musicians.

As of today, First Baptist Church is one of the 11 largest Baptist churches in N.C.

ORGANIZATIONS: Ministry at First Baptist touches people of all ages in the community. The church offers several Sunday school organizations; youth and activities groups; several choir organizations for groups of all ages; an on-site gymnasium; a bus for transportation to and from events; a mission organization and a church training department which presents various seminars.

LOCATION: First Baptist Church is located on the corner of Sumpter St. and North Lafayette St., a block off from the square.
State’s first: Blanton is First Baptist’s artist-in-residence

By Joe DePriest
Star Staff Writer

Joseph Blanton, a former member of the New York City Opera, has been named artist in residence at Shelby’s First Baptist Church, the first such position at a Baptist church in North Carolina.

A Shelby native, Blanton, 53, is a tenor who has conducted many sacred concerts in the area over the years, including the first concert in Brown Auditorium.

At First Baptist, he will continue his concerts as an extension of the church’s music ministry. He will work under the leadership of Dr. Gene Watterson, senior minister, and Bob Dills, minister of music.

Blanton will be involved in solos, cantatas, special music events, singing in and helping Dills with the choir.

The artist in residence is an unpaid position, but the church will allow Blanton to teach voice lessons at the church. Also, the church will support him by helping him arrange concerts through the state convention and will establish a fund to be used for home and foreign mission projects, music conferences and workshops.

“We feel this will enhance our program and add an extra dimension of excellence,” said Bob Dills. “Joe will be able to offer some critiques, and he will enable us to do some major works and use him as a soloist. We can tap his experience. It’s a prayer ministry, a support ministry. It will broaden our scope for outreach ministry. I’m excited.”

The son of the late Ernest and Lassie Blanton, Blanton is a graduate of Wake Forest University and did graduate study at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City. He also studied voice and drama privately with some of the leading coaches and teachers in New York and Europe.

For many years he was principal singer with the Israeli National Opera in Tel Aviv; the Bonn Opera in West Germany; and the New York City Opera.

Blanton was away from Shelby for nearly 20 years, but came back regularly not only to visit his family, but to perform a variety of music, from psalms, spirituals and traditional favorites, to contemporary gospel songs. He has done programs with the N.C. Symphony and the Winston-Salem Symphony.

About 1½ years ago, he decided to return to the area and begin a full-time career in musical evangelism.

“The artist in residence program is “very unique opportunity,” Blanton says. “I’ll be involved in the total music ministry with the expertise have to offer. It’s one of those kinds of things where you are the only limits. You can soar as far as your imagination will let you.”

Through the special fund, he will be able to conduct programs such as the one he hopes to do this summer at the Broyhill School for battered children outside Waynesville.

“This will be a real outreach ministry type of thing,” Blanton says.
Gene Watterson vying for Baptist presidency

GREENSBORO — The Rev. Gene Watterson of Shelby was among the slate of candidates being considered this morning for president of the N.C. Baptist State Convention.

The membership was to vote on that and other issues today at the annual convention.

Dr. Watterson, pastor of Shelby's First Baptist Church and convention first vice president for two years, is backed by moderates within the denomination.

On Monday, the outgoing president, the Rev. E. Leon Smith, said division among moderates and conservatives within the convention is interfering with the denomination's religious mission.

"It is no news to any of us that we as a denomination do not have that wonderful sense of unity that we need to face today's world," Smith said during the opening of the group's annual meeting. "As long as we always think it is the other person committing the infractions and violating our religious space, we will never perceive our own failures."

Old prejudices and stereotypical thinking among Southern Baptists have served only to isolate the denomination from others, Smith said.

Nearly 4,500 messengers from churches across the state will meet through Wednesday to elect new officers and vote on a $29.3-million budget.

Elections for the offices of president and vice president are scheduled to be held today. Two conservative candidates and Watterson are expected to vie to succeed Smith, who is ending his second one-year term as president of the state organization. He is not eligible to run again.

Moderates have been able to maintain control of the state convention, despite conservative challenges.

The decade-long division between moderate and conservative factions has hurt the convention's efforts to reach others, as well as taking its toll within the 1.1-million-member state group, Smith said.

Smith called for Baptists of both groups to overcome the division by looking to Jesus and by examining their own actions. The moderate president also noted that the conservatively controlled national denomination has not supported women as pastors. That stance, Smith said, alienates younger members and particularly women.

"They will not stay in a denomination that seems bent on turning back the clocks on a reasonable and intelligent approach to the scriptures or a holistic understanding of the Gospel," he said.

"A system of bias and exclusion that denigrates women by either principle or language has nothing in common with the liberating spirit of Jesus," he said.

Moderates apparently are united behind Watterson, who has been first vice president of the convention for two years.

The conservatives, however, are divided behind two possible candidates, one of whom is from Wilmington.

The Rev. Eugene Ridley, the pastor of the 1,500-member Long Leaf Baptist Church, has been supported by one group of traditional conservatives. Another group, the Conservative Carolina Baptists, has backed the Rev. Billy Cline of Asheville.
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See BLANTON Page 8B
Opinion

Readers’ forum

Bored youths should try church activities

TO THE EDITOR:

We would like to comment on the article “Shelby Youth Find Little To Do,” which appeared in the Star on Friday, Aug. 17.

We used to spend a lot of time at the mall and other places where there was nothing productive to do until we realized that what we were looking in the wrong place. We strongly encourage anyone who feels this way to come and visit a good church with an active youth group such as Faith Baptist where we attend.

You may think that church is only for Sunday morning. Our youth group regularly holds activities for us on weekends such as Bible study, softball, trips to Carowinds, white water rafting, and snow skiing.

Youths, encourage your church to have things for you to do, but only if you are willing to live a Christian life. Don’t go drinking on Saturday and then go to church on Sunday.

Parents, encourage your kids to attend church with you. If anyone wants to find something productive to do, or is looking for answers to important questions in life, a good Bible believing church is where it is.

In the words of Psalms 122:1, “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.”

ROBERT WAGNER
DAVID ROLLINS
Shelby

CHRISTIAN RECORDING and television artist, Gary McSpadden, will be appearing in concert on Sunday, Oct. 28, at First Baptist Church, 120 B. Lafayette St., Shelby. The concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. and is one of many in a tour of dates.

McSpadden is known for his collective work with The Bill Gaither Trio and The Gaither Vocal Band and his many solo accomplishments as a singer, songwriter, producer and former television host on the PTL Network under the direction of Jerry Falwell. Gary’s solo ministry continues to expand through increased television appearances, the release of new solo albums, and solo performance in excess of 100 concerts a year.

A Love Offering will be taken at the concert. For more information, please call First Baptist Church office at 482-3467.
Church must provide ‘hang outs’ for youth

TO THE EDITOR:
I am writing in response to the letter “there’s nothing to do in Shelby.” The young lady thinks there should be a place for the teen-agers to hang out, “a parking lot.”

With the astounding number of unwed mothers, the atrocious number of abortions and the alarming number of reported AIDS cases, why should Shelby or any other city provide such a place, a “hang out,” if you will, that will only insure that those numbers rise?

There are already too many parking lots for the kids to hang out. You can’t even go to the mall on Friday or Saturday night without having to dodge the kids in the parking lot not to mention inside the mall.

What’s wrong is not having a place to go to but going to the proper place.

If they want something to do, go to church. The failure of local churches to provide activities for the youth is why kids seek parking lots. Parents are also responsible for teens seeking this form of entertainment. Dumping their children out at the mall is in no way helping them learn values. On the contrary, it is teaching them to shirk the responsibility of parenthood. It is handing them over to the world and letting them go their own way.

I have a 16-year-old daughter myself. She is not allowed to cruise the mall or other parking lots. She also does not learn moral values from Hollywood movies or MTV. She is actively involved in church activities which include Bible Study. Not only is she involved with other teen-agers but she is being taught moral values from the Bible that will stick with her the rest of her life. These values are not learned from malls, in parking lots or from Hollywood. They are learned from the word of God.

Pastors of these local churches that do not provide youth activities within their church are only telling their youth that the world has the answers. The world doesn’t. If churches fail to provide activities for them the world will gladly give them “the parking lots” and snatch them away from moral and decent values.

This area once was known as the Bible Belt. The only way we are going to raise our children to be decent and have moral values is to go back to being the Bible Belt. This is not only the responsibility of our churches, but we as parents must share that responsibility.

Sure there will always be problems, but we can find the answers through the study of God’s word. After all the Bible says “train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

BILLY R. ESTES
Shelby Baptist Church
First Baptist presents 'Star of Bethlehem'

The Adult Choir of First Baptist Church, Shelby, will present "Star of Bethlehem", a Christmas Musical, on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. The choir will be accompanied by an orchestra and drama. The public is invited to attend.

Readers' forum

Travelers learn value of hometown church

TO THE EDITOR:

In the past 10 months, my wife and I have been in 14 different states and I have made two very interesting observations. One is that we have been in many different churches (Baptist, where we could find) of different denominations. We attended services in one beautiful Catholic church on the campus of Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind. All my life, I have heard that you don't know what you have at home until you are away from it for a while. The truth of that has certainly been brought in a graphic manner to us. Until we finally got back down to Nashville, Tenn., we did not hear a choir that could even compare to our home church choir of First Baptist Church, Shelby, (many of the churches in Michigan did not even have a choir) and we have yet to hear a pastor who could come up to own Dr. Gene Watterson. We're very thankful for what we have here.

The other observation is about the price of gasoline. In none of these states, did I pay as much for gas as I did right here in Cleveland County. The price for unleaded regular gasoline, which I believe most people use, varied some, of course, but I paid substantially less. The most difference was in Atlanta, Ga., recently, where I paid $1.189 and came home that same day and saw $1.399 posted on most pumps in Shelby. I found this very interesting, also.

J.T. JONES JR.
Kings Mountain
First Baptist To Host Victory Celebration
To Honor our Troops

By John Hoyle
Associate Editor

First Baptist Church in Shelby is planning a victory party like no other. This Sunday the church is inviting the entire community to join in for a daylong celebration of the U.S. and Allied victory in the Persian Gulf War.

The day will begin with an 11 a.m. Celebration Service in the church sanctuary. The service will be led by First Baptist Pastor Dr. Gene Watterson.

"This is going to be a massive celebration of our victory," he said. "The morning service will have three components. First there will be a thanksgiving of God's protecting hand on our people. Next we will recognize and honor those who have carried this victory out. And third, we will have a time of prayer for guidance."

Also for the celebration service, Christian recording artist Sheri Thrower will be singing "For the World -- Peace" and also a special rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner". Sheri Thrower will also present a free concert at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Dr. Watterson's message on Sunday morning will be about a famous Old Testament battle that God won. After the service, everyone is invited to attend a free barbecue lunch at noon. Dr. Watterson said that one of the major streets uptown will be blocked-off so the lunch and afternoon activities can be held outdoors. The barbecue dinner is for the city of Shelby and everyone is invited to attend.

There will be some elements of the Shelby High School Band playing during the afternoon and the 505th Engineering Battalion, Company B in Shelby will be in uniform and providing a color guard unit. There will also be a special presentation to the local families who have loved ones serving in the Gulf War.

Dr. Watterson explained why the church is providing the celebration. "I think the miraculous events and the protection of our troops with swift and total victory prompts thanksgiving of what God has done for his people," he said. "And people want some focus for celebrating this victory -- this will be a way to express it."

Dr. Watterson said that unity of purpose was a big factor in the victory. He is also glad to see America celebrating again. "It is great to see the return of nationality and patriotism. It is real and genuine."

The celebration service will begin at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary and is open to everyone. Then following the service, a free BBQ lunch will be provided for the community. At 6 p.m. the day will conclude with a free concert featuring Sheri Thrower in the church sanctuary. The church invites everyone to come out this Sunday March 10, and join in the celebrating of our victory in the Persian Gulf.
Local servicemen and Cleveland County citizens mingled Sunday during a “Victory Celebration” at First Baptist Church in Shelby. Event-goers enjoyed barbecue and balloons as part of the celebration of the end of the Gulf war.

Citizens, soldiers celebrate Gulf war’s end

By Roberta Borden Rhyne
Star Staff Writer

More than 1,000 people gathered in front of First Baptist Church in Shelby Sunday to sing the National Anthem and other patriotic songs and to celebrate the end of war in the Persian Gulf.

The victory celebration, which began at noon and lasted approximately two hours, featured Mayor George Clay, North Carolina state Senators Jim Forrester and Helen Rhyne Marvin, and the color guard of the 505th Engineering Battalion.

The Rev. Gene Watterson, church pastor, led the group in prayer and Sheri Thrower of Chattanooga, Tenn., sang.

Watterson offered “a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s protection of our service people, a prayer honoring our young men and women who performed so magnificently, prayers for the wounded, and prayers for those who had people die in the war, both coalition members and Iraqis.”

“We felt that a celebration service to mark the end of the war in the Persian Gulf was necessary,” said the Rev. Mike Johnson, First Baptist’s minister of education and evangelism.

“Most of the people attending were members of our church, but there were other guests, including the families of the 505th Engineering Battalion,” he said. “We were very pleased with the outcome of the celebration and the outcome of the war. We’re thankful that it ended quickly with little loss of life.”

Letters from President George Bush and Governor Jim Martin were read. Both men were invited to the festivities, but were unable to attend.

The celebration was planned the day after victory was declared, said a church spokesperson.

Lafayette Street, between Sumter and Marion streets, was closed for the celebration that included a barbecue lunch.
Speed racers

Robert McSwain competes against Kevin Hammett in the Boy Scouts' annual Pinebox Derby competition, which was held Saturday at First Baptist Church in Shelby. In it, Scouts have to construct their own cars to race against others.
First Baptist Church will hold victory celebration

First Baptist Church in Shelby will hold a "Victory Celebration" Sunday, beginning at 11 a.m. All families of those who have been serving in the Persian Gulf are invited to attend.

Mayor George Clay and Dr. Gene Watterson will address the gathering and an honor detail from the local Army National Guard unit will present the colors.

After the service, Lafayette Street will be blocked off from Marion to Sumter streets for a free barbecue picnic. The Shelby High School band is scheduled to perform.

The celebration will climax with the Sherri Trower concert at 6 p.m. Ms. Trower will also perform patriotic songs during the morning church service.

First Baptist Church reschedules attic sale

The First Baptist BYW attic sale set for last Saturday has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 27 from 8 to 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Kings Mountain on Sims and West Mountain streets.

Proceeds from the sale will go to missions.

Talent search, concert upcoming May 4 in KM

Son Sound Records is sponsoring a talent search and concert May 4 at Kings Mountain High School's Barnes Auditorium.

There will be a soloist division from 8 a.m. until noon. Prizes for the first place winner will be 10 hours of studio time and 200 cassette tapes of the recording. Also, the winner will be offered a three-year recording contract with Son Sound Records.

There will also be a group division that will run from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

For an application form, call (704) 868-4807 or come by Son Sound Studios.
Shelby music man comes

By Craig Allen
Star Staff Writer

Perhaps you can go home again. This Sunday, Mark Cabaniss, a longtime Shelby resident, will direct a performance of "The Song of Bethlehem," a Christmas cantata he helped write.

The cantata will be presented at Shelby's First Baptist Church Sunday at 6 p.m. and will include a 20-piece orchestra and a choir of more than 45 singers.

Bob Deals, who is minister of music at First Baptist Church, invited Cabaniss to direct the cantata. He said the church had never invited him to direct, although they had performed some of his compositions before, including "The Song of Bethlehem" and a children's musical.

"I thought it was a good story — local boy goes to Nashville and becomes president of a publishing company," Deals said. "He's hit it pretty big."

Hit it big, indeed. Cabaniss has always loved music. He grew up in Shelby and began writing music, including anthems and other religious songs, while he was still a student at Shelby High School.

He played in the high school band and sang in the high school chorus.

Cabaniss also sang in the choir at First Baptist Church, where he and his parents were members. Directing the cantata Sunday will give Cabaniss a chance to return to his musical roots, he said.

While he was still in high school, Cabaniss decided to pursue a career in music, although he wanted to become a music writer. He wrote much of the music and lyrics for "The Song of Bethlehem."

Cabaniss began pursuing a career in music by attending Mars Hill College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in music. He then earned a masters degree at the University of Tennessee.

After college, he served as a music teacher in Tennessee for a few years. In 1986, he published a composition for the first time.

Slowly, his dream began to take shape. In 1989, Cabaniss took a job with Brentwood Music in Nashville, Tenn., the same company that first published his work.

A year later, when Brentwood bought a smaller music publishing company, they made Cabaniss the president of the newly acquired company. His ascent through the ranks of the music industry had accelerated to a blinding pace, although he is now a music publisher, instead of a composer.

"I rarely get the chance to write music anymore," Cabaniss said.

"I'm really more of a publisher now than a writer."

Cabaniss has a successful career in Nashville. But he says he still considers Shelby his home.

"Shelby was a very nurturing environment from a musical and spiritual standpoint," Cabaniss said. "It will always be home."

"The Song of Bethlehem" was published in late 1990 by Designer Music Group, the Nashville publishing company Cabaniss directs. Cabaniss co-wrote the cantata with other Designer Music employees.

Designer Music concentrates on religious music, while its parent company, Brentwood Music, publishes both religious and secular music. Designer Music serves an international market.

"I've been the president since the company's inception," Cabaniss said. "It was really an exciting experience to be in on the ground floor of a new publishing company."
Goodbye 1991

Dancing into the new year, Scottish Country Dancers were a part of the Carillon '91 celebration in uptown Shelby last night at the First Baptist Church. The annual festival let area residents ring in 1992.
Special class helps children cope with hearing problems

Imagine noticing that your child does not respond to sounds the way you think he should, or that he is not learning to talk as well as other children his age.

Or maybe he is failing to respond to your verbal communication with him. You might begin to suspect a hearing loss and your pediatrician would probably suggest that your child’s hearing be tested by an audiologist.

But what if your suspicions are confirmed and you are told your child will continue to have a substantial hearing loss even after he is fitted with the best hearing aids? What would you do next? Where would you go for help? How would you begin to help your child develop communication skills? How would you help him learn all of exciting things other preschoolers learn? How would you cope with the frustration of not being able to communicate the things that are important to you and to him?

These are just a few of the questions that can be overwhelming to parents of a very young child who is diagnosed with a hearing loss.

And that is why the Preschool Satellite Program for Hearing Impaired Children exists.

The Shelby classroom (under the direction of the North Carolina School for the Deaf) is part of a statewide network of enriched community-based programs of early childhood development and learning for hearing impaired children and their families (authorized by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1973).

The local classroom is located in First Baptist Church and serves children ages birth through five years (both in the classroom and in the home) from Cleveland and surrounding counties.

The class (currently five children are enrolled) meets during the morning hours Monday through Friday, and the children learn through a wide variety of developmentally appropriate opportunities (including engaging in experiences with their hearing peers) with special attention to language development; the learning environment is designed to encourage exploration, curiosity, creativity, discovery and communication through play, loving relationship, cooking, storytelling, dramatization, art, gymnastics, and field trips built on the children’s interests.

During the afternoon and evening hours, the staff is involved in parent education, home visitation, sign language instruction and activities to promote community awareness. The parent education program deals with the emotional implications of deafness as well as working with parents in the early development of two-way communication between family and child.

A certified speech pathologist provides speech and auditory training services.

And the classroom teacher has hearing impaired, preschool handicapped and early childhood certification. The teacher aide is hearing impaired herself and brings a special dimension of understanding to the families.

All services are provided without charge to the families. The whole staff is deeply committed to the children and families whom they serve, and the parents of the children are very supportive and encouraging toward one another.

The program goals are based on the philosophy that children with hearing impairments, no less than others, need the services and opportunities provided for all children.

They have a great deal to contribute to our community now and in the future.

If you have any questions, the program welcomes your call. Contact Barbara Preuss at 487-0081.
Cameron Crawford carefully readies his car in the pinewood derby held by Cub Scout Pack 101 at Shelby's First Baptist Church on Saturday. Cameron placed first overall among 56 competitors. Second place went to Dan Travis and third when to Alan Heavner.
First Baptist will present Easter musical

Members of the First Baptist Church Music Ministry will be performing a musical Easter drama under the guest direction of David Danner.

Named "And He Still Made The Sun Rise," it will be presented April 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Malcom Brown Auditorium. The performance is free and open to the public.

Danner, who received his bachelors of music degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1973 and his masters in music in 1978 from Vanderbilt University, currently works through David Danner Productions. His experience includes over 100 published compositions for choirs and instrumental groups designed for adults as well as children.

Some of his clients have included The National Governors Association, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, the Gospel Music Association, and Lee Greenwood.

He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences and the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference.

He is married to the former Judith Dunn and the couple has two daughters, Diane and Elizabeth.
Choir that broke Cold War

By Daniel Conover
Star City Editor

Gene Watterson, 40, carried a surprise with him that summer day in 1970 as he boarded a plane in Charlotte and headed off to the Soviet Union.

The surprise: eight Russian language New Testaments, hidden beneath a false bottom Watterson had constructed in his brief case. The young pastor's plan: distribute the books to believers in Leningrad and Moscow while he guiding 136 young singers on a tour of England, France and the monolithic Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Those singers are middle-aged adults 22 years later; their adult leaders are approaching retirement age. But today they'll take a step back in time, back to the 1970s, the Cold War, and one very important moment in their lives.

The Good News Singers of America, a Cleveland County-based youth choir that became one of the first religious singing groups to penetrate the officially atheistic USSR, reunites today at Moss Lake for an informal get-together. They'll celebrate a formal banquet tonight.

The story began two decades ago, when the U.S. State Department got a message through to Van Ramsey, then the minister of music at First Baptist Church in Shelby. State Department officials were looking for a youth choir for a cultural exchange to the USSR. Ramsey, who had been holding combined choir "sing-outs" on Tuesday nights, was contacted. Would he be interested in putting together a regional youth choir an overseas tour?

"We did not accept the invitation straight off," Ramsey said Thursday in an interview from his St. Charles, Mo., home. "We prayed about it for a good long time because of all the uncertainties involved."

The community jumped to assist the project, raising $130,000 to send the kids overseas.

Beth Gant, a pre-school teacher and the director of the after-school program at Central Methodist Church in Shelby, was 17 in 1970. She had never been farther from home than Myrtle Beach.

"It took a year to get it all together," she said this week. "Of course, we were all excited. That was the first airplane ride I'd ever taken."

They were anxious, too. Those were the Pre-detente days, and the Soviet Union was arguably the most repressive regime on the face of the earth. Gant remembers being scared to death by the Soviet authorities.

Stopping over in England en route, Ramsey said he experienced his own anxieties while praying in Belmont Abbey. He was leading 136 young people into the path of a potential political confrontation. Ramsey resolved to keep the group on the straight and narrow. He said he didn't know about the forbidden cargo carried by Watterson, then as now the pastor of First Baptist Church in Shelby.
'Super Sixes' who met to swim and frolic at Blake and Melba McWhirter's home in Mooresboro are, left to right, Justin Allen, Michael Grose, Trevor McDaniel, Libby Davis, Anna Hawkins and Kqisha Whitehouse.
"In England, we were approached by people to get Bibles in there, and we cooperated with them ... but we were very careful to stay within the rules," Ramsey said.

Watterson, however, had resolved to get his Russian language texts into the country. What went through his mind as he decided to take the risk?

"Probably not nearly enough went through my mind," Watterson said Friday, laughing. "I was a very young man and the consequences didn't loom nearly as large as the thrill of getting it done."

Watterson's secret cache made it through customs without problem. Delivering them was another matter. He had to slip away from his state-appointed Intourist guide to find a church in Leningrad, the group's first stop. But even when he got to the church, handing out the Testaments proved no easy task. Churchgoers avoided him, apparently thinking he was dressed like a communist party official. Finally, Watterson decided to take a chance.

"I ripped that section out ... and laid four (Testaments) on the table. I said, These are Bibles in the Russian Language ... and there was a sudden rush to where I was. They started to kiss me, and Russian men, as you know, kiss on the lips. It was a little unusual."

Watterson later delivered the other four to the Moscow Baptist Church. That wasn't easy, either. The group's guides wouldn't take them there.

But Ramsey had met the church's pastor, and had called him on the phone. With directions, Watterson knew the church was within blocks of some little-known place called the Roskovsky Gate.

"What the students didn't know was that I told (the bus driver) we wanted to go to the Roskovsky Gate ... that it was a real big thing in the west. I'd never heard of them before, but I had directions."

The group walked the couple of blocks to the church, where Watterson delivered a memorized eight minute sermon in phonetic Russian. Gant remembers the experience vividly.

"They were definitely held back," she said of the worshipers. "They were so sincere, it made us think about the things we took for granted here."

The group played and sang in two Russian cities and a Pioneer Youth camp, where officials did their best to keep their own teenagers from conversing with the American teens. The experience left a distinct impression on the young singers.

They returned with a renewed sense of America. ("When we lifted off in Moscow the kids spontaneously broke out into 'The Star-Spangled Banner,'" Watterson said), to a community full of pride.

When Shelby won recognition as an All-America City the next year, many credited the choir as the deciding factor.

Ramsey said he believes the best thing to come out of the Good News singers may have been the group's effect on the 136 young people who participated.

"I was looking down the list yesterday and I saw young people who are in every avenue of life," Ramsey said. "I really think the investment we put into all those kids paid off."

Gant has been looking forward to a reunion for years. This is the first time a reunion has been practical, organizers said.

"Some of my best friends now are friends I met through this group," she said. "I'm really looking forward to renewing some old friendships."

They may even sing.

"I hope so," said Gant, who hasn't sung in a choir in years. 
Justin Allen launches himself toward the float as Trevor McDaniel watches from below.
When the middle school opened four years ago, sixth-graders in First Baptist’s elementary grades program aged out, said Peter West, minister of youth for the church. Some parents thought they should be included with the teen-agers. West disagreed — vehemently.

"I was diametrically opposed to the idea of putting sixth-graders in with the older kids," West said. "Their maturity level is way too low."

There were other considerations, too.

"If the sixth-graders had been added, I would have lost the juniors and seniors," West said. "Not to mention the possibility of the 'dating thing.'"

"Eleven-year-olds and 15-year-olds don't belong in a dating relationship," West said.

Being in sixth grade is tough enough, West said.

"It's a big change going from fifth grade to the middle school."

Some of them are starting all over. Their friends don't always end up in the same classes — or even the same school," West said.

"I think parents have a tendency to forget just how tough it can be for them," West said.

So West and First Baptist created a place just for them.

They call it "The Super Six Group." Between seven and 20 sixth-graders have participated, West said. The number fluctuates each week. The last few Thursdays, the group has gone to Heritage U.S.A. Water Park, Happy Lake in China Grove and Celebration Station. Tomorrow they go to Carowinds. "We'll probably have a big group for that," West said.

No matter what the group size, West said the sixth-graders know what's expected of them up front.

They are given freedom, but within well-defined boundaries.

"When we go to Carowinds, we'll have parents with us, but the kids will really be on their own in the park," West said. "I'm a stickler for time. They'll have to be back at a certain place by a certain time or else they'll face the consequences."

This may be one of the most important lessons they learn this summer, West said.

"I laid all the rules out at the very beginning so they'd know what to expect," West said. "It's important for young people to know the consequences of their actions and then be made to accept them. That's where a lot of teens get messed up."

They've not had any problems so far.

"Their enthusiasm is great," West said. "The parents love the idea. Some of them have even volunteered to help us in the fall."

One parent, Susan Grose, church member and mother of a sixth-grader, helps out already.

"I've wanted the church to do something with this age group for a long time," Grose said. "Before this, all there was for them to do was church choir."

"I think the fun stuff we've done this summer has built good foundation for what we'll do in the fall," Grose said. "I think they'll be ready for more."

This fall, the Super Six Group will meet on Sunday nights from 6 to 8:30 p.m. They'll have a simple supper then a Bible Study based on active games. It's a whole new curriculum, and parents will be encouraged to participate, Grose said.

(West and Grose said the Super Six Group is open to any sixth-grader — not just members of First Baptist. For more information, call the church office at 482-3467.)
Ousted seminary leader to speak at First Baptist

By Bethany Bradsher
Star Staff Writer

For a landmark service on Sunday, First Baptist Church welcomes a Baptist leader who has been at the center of a recent denominational debate.

Dr. Russell H. Dilday will deliver the address at First Baptist in Shelby at the 11 a.m. worship service Sunday. The service marks the celebration of Dr. Gene Watterson's 25 years as the church's pastor.

Until March, Dilday was the president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. After 16 years in that position, the seminary's trustees voted to fire him, and the ouster drew criticism from Dilday's supporters.

The relationship between Southwestern trustees and Dilday had reportedly been rocky for years, because the board is dominated by fundamentalist Baptists who objected to Dilday's association with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a moderate group.

The night before the firing, the trustees gave Dilday a favorable evaluation. But within minutes of the vote to fire him the next morning, the locks on his office door had already been changed and the trustees had distributed letters about his dismissal to students and faculty.

Dilday is now serving as Distinguished Professor of Homiletics and Special Assistant to the President at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He has been the pastor of various churches in Texas and in Atlanta, and he has worked in several capacities for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Home Mission Board and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dilday's visit to First Baptist will be a homecoming of sorts. In 1974, while he was pastoring Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, he was the speaker for First Baptist's annual revival.
A well-known Southern Baptist leader urged the congregation at First Baptist Church to seek faithfulness — and held up the church’s pastor of 25 years as an example of a faithful man.

Dr. Russell Dilday was the guest speaker for the 11 a.m. worship service honoring Dr. Gene Watterson, who this year reached a quarter-century of service with the 1,800-member church.

“When I go around from church to church, I’m finding out that Baptist people don’t stick with it,” Dilday said. “And the question is probing — will you be found faithful to God’s task when the Lord comes back?”

Dilday, a professor and assistant to the president at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, was invited March 11 by the president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, the largest Southern Baptist graduate school in the country.

When Southwestern’s conservative board of trustees voted to fire Dilday, moderate Baptists across the nation protested the coldness of the dismissal, which was done the morning after the board had given Dilday a favorable evaluation.

Dilday did not mention his own situation Sunday, but he said that in spite of unfavorable headlines that may arise from Southern Baptist controversies, congregations like First Baptist should remain faithful to the ideals and the heritage of its denomination.

During his sermon, he challenged church members to stay faithful to their task and to their Baptist name, but most importantly to Jesus Christ.

The cultural climate encourages Christians to water down their faith, so that no one offends anyone else, Dilday said. But the very nature of Christianity calls for spiritual and moral absolutes, and believers must not back down from those principles.

“Political correctness says you’re not to make specific faith claims,” he said. “You certainly don’t say Jesus is the only one. That’s politely incorrect. There’s sensitivity to others we need to be aware of, but not to be
Lay messengers to give program

Lay messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta will be the guest speakers at a dinner meeting of Baptist Men of Shelby First Baptist Church Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Family Life Center.

Tickets are $5 and may be purchased through the Sunday School.

Senior Adults of the Church are planning several outings in August: to Kannapolis and Cannon Village on August 16; a Keenager picnic on August 22; and a trip to Carl Sandburg's home and attend a play at Flat Rock on August 31.

Members

From page 1A

son's preaching but his constant presence.

"He has been very involved with our family, with marriages and funerals. He has been a vital part of our life and we feel that loss," she said.

The pastor's retirement will echo beyond First Baptist's walls, Speed Williams said.

"In his career at First Baptist, it seems like he soared to some real lofty places and he maintained a positive attitude, a role of total leadership," Speed Williams said. "I am very sad to see him leave our pulpit because he has been a bright and shining star in Cleveland County ever since he's been here."

While the congregation honors the past, it also looks to the future, said Rick Bowling, chairman of the board of deacons.

The church began searching for an interim pastor some months ago and once that search is complete, the committee will look for a new pastor.

The search could take from six months to a year, a time for the congregation to let go but also to open up, Bowling said.

"When I look at the church, I see a time of pulling together and a time of growth," he said. "A time looking for a new pastor and finding him or her."

"Change often seems to be difficult, but it usually is a time when the greatest growth can take place," he said.

Local veterinarian Joe Wright agrees the future holds much.

"Certainly there will be a void, since he is as much a part of First Baptist as anything," Wright said. "But I'm sure God has a plan for us and if we listen closely, He'll help us find that."

"One woman who has no qualms about First Baptist's future is Gene Wattersons' wife, Yvonne."

"The church has stood there for many years and will continue to be there. I am sure it will not go backwards but forwards," she said.

At 5 p.m. Sunday, First Baptist will hold a dinner and program for the Wattersons. More than 400 people are expected to attend.

Church members voice sadness over longtime pastor's departure

By Valerie Bauerlein

When Dr. Gene Watterson steps down from the pulpit of First Baptist Church on Sunday, he takes with him 27 years of service.

"He is one of the finest men I ever knew," said Dr. Robert Jones Sr. "He will be hard if not impossible to replace." Although Watterson has said he intends to keep his home in Shelby, his ministry may take him to other areas and churches at times.

Cindy Bilton said she will miss not only Dr. Watterson but also the guest speakers at a dinner meeting of Baptist Men of Shelby First Baptist Church Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Family Life Center.

Tickets are $5 and may be purchased through the Sunday School.

Senior Adults of the Church are planning several outings in August: to Kannapolis and Cannon Village on August 16; a Keenager picnic on August 22; and a trip to Carl Sandburg's home and attend a play at Flat Rock on August 31.

Virginia as speaker.

Baptists to host Associational Rally

Shelby First Baptist Church will host a KM Baptist Association rally, "Challenging People to Renew," August 18-29 at 7 p.m.
Minister's retirement delayed

By Valerie Bauerlein
Star Staff Writer

The snow shut down area churches on Sunday, including First Baptist where the Rev. Gene Watterson was scheduled to preach his last sermon as senior pastor.

Instead, Watterson will preach at 11 a.m. Sunday, bumping his official retirement back one week.

The church also postponed a dinner honoring Watterson and his wife Yvonne until 5 p.m. Sunday.

Fortunately, food for the dinner can be frozen, including ham and homemade cakes, said Ruth Hill, event chairperson.

"The most lovely cakes are frozen in different refrigerators all over town," she said.

However, the church will lose dozens of red roses decorating both the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

The committee somewhat optimistically decor-
Mission to serve

First Baptist Church group to renovate Jamaican church

By Shawn Reeves
Star Staff Writer

A group of 41 from First Baptist Church will soon be packing up and traveling to the land of Jamaica. This is no vacation, however, but rather a mission with a definite purpose.

Twenty-three teen-agers and 18 adults from the church have volunteered to work in a small mountain community called Catadupa (about 22 miles from Montego Bay) July 18-27 to renovate an existing church. The renovation will expand the church's capacity from 60 people to 120, said Peter West, youth minister at First Baptist.

"Our purpose is to add more room to a church which will ultimately house more students in its capacity as a school," West said.

"With the costs of public education so expensive in Jamaica, many young people cannot afford to go to school.

"Our mission will provide more physical space and free up others to help pay for books and other things," he said.

Although many in the group have participated in various mission trips within this country, Jamaica will be the first international trip for most.

Through a partnership between New York and North Carolina's Baptist Conventions, the First Baptist Church youth group has spent part of previous summers in New York working with disadvantaged people.

"We have worked in construction and painting and done anything from puppet shows to soup kitchens," West said. "Everyone seems to gain a lot from the experience and take a lot with them when they leave."

This year, however, having studied Third World conditions, the young people wanted to direct their efforts toward one of those areas and affect change in another part of the world, West said.

"The neat part about it is that the trip has really come from the teen-agers," West said. "They have worked hard to raise money and have decided exactly where they wanted to do their mission work."

World Servants, an organization which helps coordinate mission trips, has been a tremendous asset as well, West said.

"They have taken care of a lot of the logistics for the trip, allowing us to concentrate more on our reason for being there," he said.

The cost for the trip is $1,040 per person. Some of the money has come from bake sales, yard sales and other fund-raising efforts.

"Sunday school classes have raised some (money), and the team members have done other things on their own."

Anticipation for the trip is high, and the missionaries have spent a significant amount of time preparing for their journey.

Shannon Whatley, a Shelby High School senior and mission participant, has attended training sessions Wednesday nights at the church and has gained a lot of insight already, she said.

"We've learned some of the things to do and some not to do once we get there," Whatley said. "We have also learned more about Jamaica's culture so we can understand it a little better when we get there."

Having participated in other mission trips, Whatley expects the group to come together in a setting where people have very little.

"There's a lot of satisfaction in giving what you have to help those people," she said.

Whatley's peer and fellow missionary, Laney Brown, also spoke about the trip.

"This will be different from other mission trips we've taken because ours will be the only youth group there."

Because Jamaica is Brown's first mission trip out of the country, she doesn't know what to expect but is looking forward to it.

"I love working with the kids and always hate to leave them when a trip like this is over," she said.

"I'm eager to meet the kids in Jamaica and get to know them and what their lives are all about."

Donations to the mission group at First Baptist Church should be sent to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1360, Shelby, N.C., attention Peter West.
First Baptist Shelby eyes Maryland pastor

Prospect to preach Sunday

CASSIE TARPLEY
Star Staff Writer

First Baptist Church of Shelby is prepared to call Dr. Robert W. Canoy as its next permanent pastor.

The church is excited about the appointment, which comes almost a year after the departure of 26-year pastor Dr. Gene Watterson, said Dianne Travis, secretary to the church and pastor.

Dr. R. Wayne Stacy of Gardner-Webb University has served as interim pastor during the church's search.

Canoy currently is senior pastor at First Baptist Church, Rockville, Md.

Members of the pastor search committee and the board of deacons have recommended the call, Travis said.

In Shelby to meet with groups from the congregation at drop-ins today, Canoy will preach his first sermon to the full congregation Sunday at 11 a.m.

Travis said the church will convene a called conference immediately following the morning worship service to vote on Canoy's appointment.

Pending a successful call and acceptance — which is expected — Canoy could be in Shelby by the first of March, Travis said.

Canoy, 38, is a native of Greenville, Miss., and received his master's and doctor's degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He and his wife, Cynthia, have two sons, ages 10 and 5.
Area Baptist men team up in effort

CASSIE TARPLEY
Star Staff Writer

Babies in the remote mountains of India will soon be cradled in the arms of a quiet partnership with roots in Cleveland County.

Incubators for infants are ready to ship — traveling safely in crates built by local volunteers — to a small hospital serving the isolated people living in the Himalayan Mountains.

Baptist Men from First Baptist Church of Shelby have teamed up with the World A Resource Center of Gardner-Webb University’s School of Divinity and others to complete the project.

Local coordinator Harold Causby of Shelby said Cathy Ollis at World A asked the First Baptist Men to participate.

“'We're a part of the Baptist Men’s organization, which originated to help other people, and we do lots of different kinds of projects,' Causby said.

Since 1992, medical and dental care for the remote Indian region has come from the Ladakh Medical Project, where North Carolina Baptist Men have served as volunteers.

Site volunteers learned of the need and knew equipment was available, stored at N.C. Baptist Men’s headquarters in Cary.

Preparation and shipment at reasonable expense was a key element of the project.

All the supplies were brought to Shelby for the packaging phase.

Baptist Men’s president Dick Kelly, retired from Jefferson Smurfit Corp., worked with Harold Poe, manager of special accounts for the company on Washburn Switch Road, to provide corrugated packaging.

Causby, his son Robert and grandson Stephen joined Kelly, Bill Horn and others to make plywood skids for shipping, with plywood provided by Lowe’s of Shelby.

The volunteer labor is nothing unusual for the group, said Causby.

“Well, we’re Christians,” he said. “We do prison ministry; we do recreation; we do disaster relief and disaster cleanup projects. We build churches — we helped build Christopher Road.”

The medical mission project’s next phase is shipment from Brunswick, Ga., the home of MAP International. The nonprofit, Christian global health organization assists in arranging transport of donated supplies and medicines to Africa, Asia and Latin America.
The North Carolina Baptist Singers, a group of more than 100 ministers of music, their spouses and instrumentalists, will perform at First Baptist Church, Shelby, Monday, January 26 at 7:20 p.m.

Dr. Mary Alice Seals, assistant dean of the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity, is co-director of the group. Several GWU alumni are also members of the Baptist Singers.

The performance is open to the public.
N.C. Baptist singers in church performance

The North Carolina Baptist Singers, directed by Neal P. Eller Jr. of the Baptist State Convention and Mary Alice Seals, a professor at Gardner-Webb University, sang Monday night at the First Baptist Church in Shelby.

The group consists of full-time North Carolina Baptist ministers of music and their spouses, at this time including over 130 members. There is also an instrumental ensemble led by James Davidson, minister of music from Viewmont Baptist Church in Hickory.

The program offered songs by Handel to Aaron Copland, all with the common theme of praising God and spreading the Gospel.

A highlight of the evening was a song, "Bethlehem," arranged by Wendell Whalum, which the men sang in an African dialect complete with choreographed moves and African drumming. This particular piece was in preparation for a mission trip to South Africa the group has scheduled for the fall of 1999. In the past, the group has performed and ministered in Brazil.

Local members of the group include: Donald Almond of First Baptist, Hudson; Phil Campbell of First Baptist, Lincolnton; Brian Childers of New Hope Baptist, Hickory; Rosemary and Jim Davidson of Viewmont Baptist, Hickory; Phil Duncan of Mount Zion Baptist in Hudson along with his son, Mitch Duncan, of Hickory Grove Baptist in Gastonia; Thomas Hinton of First Baptist, Lenoir; Tim Little of First Baptist, Valdese; Karla Lowman of Kings Creek Baptist, Lenoir; and Roger Worley of Penelope Baptist, Hickory.

The group will next perform on March 16 at First Baptist in Clinton followed by an April 20 date at Haywood Community College in Waynesville sponsored by the Allens Creek Baptist Church and a May 18 performance in Asheboro at First Baptist.
First Baptist teacher tops in the state

Steve L. Grimes
Star Staff Writer

SHELBY — The No. 1 Baptist day care teacher in the state is a Presbyterian.

Ann Lampley Pharr, kindergarten teacher at the day care center at First Baptist Church of Shelby, was honored by the N.C. Baptist Church Weekday Education Association with its Teacher of the Year award July 25.

She’s a member of Shelby Presbyterian Church, but she’s been a teacher at First Baptist for 22 years. In fact, she’s one of three teachers who helped start the program. And she was raised in First Baptist Church.

“I keep coming back to being here,” she reminisced recently. "Precisely; it's a Christian environment. That's important to me."

A 1962 graduate of Queens College with majors in sociology and elementary education, Mrs. Pharr says she could have earned more and perhaps gone farther in the public school system. But after one year in the day care program at Elizabeth Baptist Church, she helped start the program in Shelby.

“If I had it to do over again, I'd do the same thing,” she says.

She waited until the youngest of her three children was in school before she went to work. She said she'd like for her grandchildren to have at least one parent at home, but she understands that’s not always possible.

"I think a lot of parents sometimes feel guilty that they have to work," she said. "They need to be helped to feel not so guilty. Sometimes they need more money just to live."

Divorced when her children were teen-agers, she knows what it's like to be a single mother. So she says she sees no contradiction between her making it possible for mothers to work outside the home in a day care sponsored by a denomination that wants to promote traditional family values.

"They want what's best for their children just like those of us who stayed home with our children," she says of her students' parents. In fact, given the number of two-income households, Ms. Pharr believes the church would miss an opportunity if it didn't provide day care services.

"Somebody's got to be there for the children when the parent's can't," she says. "I think where there's a need, should be filled by the churches."

Debi Harrill, director of the day care program at First Baptist, says she nominated Ms. Pharr for the award.

"She exemplifies a Christian life by using teaching as her ministry," said Ms. Harrill. "She has always conveyed this attitude to her children, to parents and to other members of the staff as well."

Mrs. Harrill pointed to scrapbooks Ms. Pharr has kept over the years. They contain pictures of her former students as they've gone through school.

"My children are having babies now," Ms. Pharr muses as she flips through the pages. "I keep up with them as far as I can. They're my kids."

And that’s one thing she likes about being at First Baptist day care. She doesn’t think she could keep track of her students in the public school system.

"You become a part of the family in a sense. You know the siblings. You know the pets."

Along with the scrapbooks, Mrs. Harrill keeps a record of some of the children’s comments. Mrs. Harrill says she encouraged Ms. Pharr to put them together in book form because her former students would treasure it.

"The view of the world from a child’s viewpoint is hilarious," says Ms. Pharr. "I'm feeling pretty bad sometimes I'll go through them as they pick me up."

Mrs. Harrill says a little differently. A sign in her office reads, "The faces of children are proof enough of God."
Santa Claus and Paige Morton, 3, give the sign for “I love you” Tuesday at Cleveland Mall.

Sign of the times

Santa brings touch of Christmas to hearing-impaired children

Bruce Buchanan
Star Staff Writer

SHELBY — The sight is familiar to everyone: a long white beard cascading down onto a red wool coat. White hair under a red stocking cap.

And a line of children, waiting for their private audience with this jolly old elf.

But the Santa Claus who held court at the Cleveland Mall on Tuesday night seemed quieter than normal. For hearing-impaired children like Katey Mayhue, though, the conversation couldn’t have been livelier.

“Look at his boots!” Katey, 6, signed to her parents, pointing at John Hamrick’s regulation Santa footwear.

Santa answered each of her questions about his clothing, reindeer and plans for Christmas, nimble fingers under white gloves dancing in the air.

Hamrick himself is hearing-impaired. His wife, Martha, is a teacher at First Baptist Church’s program for hearing-impaired children, and she was on hand Tuesday night to help with any translations.

Tuesday was the third year in a row that the mall and Hamrick have teamed up to bring a touch of Christmas to local hearing-impaired children.

“I feel like sometimes, they are left out,” said Pam Sharts, marketing director for the Cleveland Mall. “When that Santa starts signing to them, their faces just light up.”

Case in point is Paige Morton. The lively 3-year-old, who is partially deaf, told Hamrick she wants a teddy bear for Christmas.

At least that’s what she said the first time around. She made two return trips through the line that evening, remembering something else she wanted to tell Santa.

Hamrick, who volunteers his time to act as Santa, patiently listened to each request.

“Do you want something else? OK.”
Santa spreads Christmas cheer

SANTA FROM 1A
he signed.

"She can relate to (sign language). She sees that every day," Paige's mother, Margaret Morton, said. "It gives her some normalcy; Santa Claus is just like she is."

Ms. Sharts said the “signing Santa” has been well-received, even by people outside of Cleveland County.

"There was a school up in Elkin that called," she said. "They said, 'If it wasn't two hours away, we'd come, but we think it's great.'"

Gardener-Webb University will host its own signing Santa on Thursday morning at 9 a.m. for children from the First Baptist program.

Sharon Jennings and Holly Nelson from the university's Noel Program for the disabled were at the mall Tuesday night to help out with sign language translation if needed.

Hamrick said donning the Santa suit was as much fun for him as it was for the children who visit.

"I love children," he explained. "I love to give joy and happiness, and I enjoy Christmas myself."

And as the children scooted down off his lap and ran back to their parents, Christmas visions dancing in their heads, Hamrick patted his chest and held his right hand in the shape of a "C," waving it from left to right.

It means "Merry Christmas."
First Baptist hosts new concert series

Jackie Bridges  
Lifestyles Editor

SHELBY — In a new concert and sing-a-long series, First Baptist Church is offering a variety of local and national talent.

The series, says coordinator Ed Minor, is in response to a survey First Baptist presented to its members late last year.

"The survey asked what kind of concerts they'd like to have and what type of music they'd like to hear," said Minor, who is also a member at First Baptist.

"We even asked them who they'd like to see in concert."

The first concert, which features Poet Voices, will be March 3 at 7 p.m. in the church's main auditorium.

Poet Voices is one of the most talented groups in gospel music today, Minor says.

They have received Dove Award nominations for Southern Gospel Song and Album of the Year, Instrumental Album of the Year and Song of the Year.

The group has had three singles to reach No. 1: "Jesus Built a Bridge," "Grace and Glory" and "I Am Redeemed."

The leader of Poet Voices, Phil Cross, was awarded the Favorite Songwriter of the Year by the Southern Gospel Music Association. The group has also received the Singing News Fan Awards Song of the Year for "When I Get Carried Away."

Poet Voices has appeared in the Bill Gaither Concert and Video Series and has been featured at the National Quartet Convention.

From traditional quartet sounds, to upbeat numbers and heart-moving ballads — the variety is endless. Within the diversity of the songs, the message of encouragement and faith stays the same.

"We should all let God set the pace — the rhythm of our lives," says Phil Cross in a

WANT TO GO?

What: Poet Voices in concert
Where: First Baptist Church
When: March 3, 7 p.m.
Cost: Free. A love offering will be taken.
For Information: Call 482-3467.
First Baptist holding new concert series

CONCERT FROM 9A

Press release about the group's sixth recording "Rhythm & Rhyme."

"God is our purpose, our hope, our joy and our peace. He is what makes sense in our life. He is the rhyme of life."

In addition to the concert series, First Baptist is also sponsoring a Fifth Saturday Night Concert and Sing-a-long. Local artists are featured, and the schedule includes:

- April 29: New Creation from Calvary Baptist Church.
- July 29: Trinity from Bethel Baptist Church.
- Sept. 30: Gina McWhirter Reeves of First Baptist Church.

Each concert also features a mini-concert by pianist Jeff Renn, and during each sing-a-long, requests will be taken from the audience for favorite hymns or old gospel songs.

All of the concerts are free, but a love offering will be taken for the artists.

For more information about the concerts and sing-a-long series, call First Baptist Church at 482-3467.
first Baptist deacon, Lion will be missed

Heather Barr
Star Staff Writer

SHELBY—Shelby lost one of its good Samaritans Tuesday when John Ed Davis, Jr. died.

Family and friends said he helped anyone from the sick to the blind during his lifetime of community service.

"He was happiest when he was helping others," said his daughter, Pat Whatley of Shelby.

Mrs. Whatley said her father was a dedicated, honest and hardworking Christian.

He was a deacon who was involved in nearly every cause at First Baptist Church.

Church member and friend Fred Flowers remembers Davis as being one of the most diligent people he has ever met.

“He came over to visit once and noticed my hedges needed cutting and did it for me. He helped sick people, widows and neighbors with anything from cutting their grass to giving them excess vegetables he had from his garden,” said Flowers.

Aside from church and friends, he was said to be instrumental in helping farmers in the area when he was acting county supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration in Cleveland County. He helped to make the first recreational loan in the nation, helping a farmer build a golf course and assisting farmers by increasing their income in establishing many small non-farm businesses on their land.

The blind was another group he helped. He served as chairman of the Pre-school Eye Clinic and helped to establish the Cleveland County Eye Examination Clinic.

The elderly, handicapped and homeless were also affected by his work. He helped to provide housing for many in need by helping create The Cleveland County Housing, Inc. which helped provide more senior housing. He was also co-supervisor for the construction for the Homeless Shelter and was a Chairman of the Board of Directors that secured and operated the "Lions Senior Village."

In addition to giving people his helping hand, he gave people his spirit, by providing entertainment as an after-dinner speaker and entertainer to community civic clubs and church groups. He was said to dress up in costume as a woman, a clown or a back-woods preacher when entertaining.
First Baptist brings famous painting to life

From Staff Reports

SHELBY — In a unique Easter celebration, Leonardo da Vinci's painting of "The Last Supper" will come to life at First Baptist Church April 21 at 7:30 p.m. and April 23 at 10:45 a.m.

The dramatization of "The Last Supper" opens with the disciples seated at the table with Jesus as they appear in da Vinci's painting.

The scene is the night of the Passover supper. In a small room in a house in Jerusalem, Jesus, surrounded by his disciples, is breaking the bread of their farewell meal. Christ is the center of interest. He has just said, "One of you will betray me." Love, terror, grief and amazement find expression in the cry of his disciples, "Lord is it I?"

Each disciple emerges from the painting to talk to the audience about what he has just heard Jesus say. As the disciples think through their own responses, the sanctuary choir, under the direction of the Rev. Bob Dills, will lead worshippers to consider for themselves the impact of that crucial moment in the life of Jesus.

Nearly 500 years ago, in 1498, da Vinci completed the 30-by-14-foot painting for the refectory in the convent church of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, Italy. "The Last Supper," which took three years to paint, has captured the drama and emotion of the moment when Jesus announced his betrayal at the hand of one of the apostles. The passage is found in the Bible in March 14:18.

For information about the performance, call 482-3467.

Camps Creek Baptist Church in Mooresboro will also present "The Last Supper" April 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. For information, call the church at 434-2354.
The Rev. Tony Tench, new pastor of First Baptist Church, talks to Herman Best during a Wednesday night fellowship meal.

Equipping the saints

New pastor of First Baptist encouraged by heritage of faith

Jackie Bridges
Lifestyles Editor

SHELBY — In the hallway outside the church offices, pictures of the former pastors of First Baptist Church are displayed in two rows.

“It’s that kind of attitude that this congregation exhibits,” Tench said. “We can depend on his strength for today and in the future.”

Tench, who came to First Baptist in 1998 to serve as the Minister of Education and Missions, was called by the membership to serve as the church’s pastor in November.

Because he already knew the people, the transition has been easier than if he were starting out in a new community.

Before he came to Shelby, Tench

bers of First Baptist.

“I have worked with many pastors,” said Wilder, who joined First Baptist in 1952. “He is one of the most dedicated and humble pastors we have had. We are fortunate that God has sent him to us.”

Tench said that living and working in Malawi taught him the importance of reaching out to “people groups.” When a missionary focuses on a certain “people group,” he learns the culture and language and puts the Gospel into their language.
The Rev. Tench served prayer service. The Rev. Tony Tench leads Wednesday night congregation through services of pastor, Tench has led the congregation to do all he can imagine. He doesn't expect more than he can do to praise him. He has been a stable part of the community. "Our church has a heritage of faith and that's an important component," Tench said. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." "In Ephesians 4:11-12, Paul talks about equipping the saints for works of service. That's the pastor's job to equip members to be servants of God wherever they go every day.

Rev. Tony Tench Pastor, First Baptist Church

The church, he said, has held to the promise found in Proverbs 18:10: "There's a real heritage of faith in this church God has been working through the years in the area of theological education. Tench, 41, was pastoring a church in Kentucky before he was called to the mission field. The Tenches have a 12-year-old daughter, Erin, who is a student at Shelby Middle School.

The Tenches came to the states for medical reasons.

"We were praying for God's direction and he appointed us here to Shelby," Tench said.

Ralph Sullivan, a member of First Baptist since 1968, was on the search committee that interviewed Tench for the minister of education and missions position. "I was impressed by his sincerity, his humbleness, his dedication and his warmth," Sullivan said. "Along with all that he is extremely knowledgeable and intelligent."

As assistant director of the Sunday school, Sullivan has worked closely with Tench. "He has a lot of unique and original ideas to key your interest," he said. "He is one of the most warm and caring people I have met. His wife, Janet, is smart and intelligent and a very hardworking, dedicated Christian worker."

Bill Wilder, who has served as the Sunday school director for 31 years, said Tench is much loved by the members. "He is one of the most warm and caring people I have met. His wife, Janet, is smart and intelligent and a very hardworking, dedicated Christian worker."

Bill Wilder, who has served as the Sunday school director for 31 years, said Tench is very hardworking, dedicated Christian worker. "He is one of the most warm and caring people I have met. His wife, Janet, is smart and intelligent and a very hardworking, dedicated Christian worker."

First Baptist is reaching out to the Hispanic community in Cleveland County by helping with the Kings Mountain Baptist Association's Hispanic church. Several members work with the English as a second language classes.

The church also plans a mission trip to Mexico this summer. The trip is through the International World Changers, a youth program of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. A group of 18 youth and 12 adults from First Baptist will work alongside Mexican young people in community development projects, Tench said.

Tench is going with the mission team, and his willingness to work alongside the members of the congregation has impressed longtime members. "He is one of the most warm and caring people I have met. His wife, Janet, is smart and intelligent and a very hardworking, dedicated Christian worker."

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Rev. Tony Tench Pastor, First Baptist Church

"In Ephesians 4:11-12, Paul talks about equipping the saints for works of service. That's the pastor's job to equip members to be servants of God wherever they go every day."

The church's former pastors did their job well, Tench said, because the church continues to be a vital part of the community.

"They (former pastors) have been the equippers — to equip the congregation to carry forth the name of the Lord in the community."
First Baptist Church of Shelby is an imposing structure on Lafayette Street, lower right, in uptown Shelby.

‘Ready to work’
First Baptist’s members reach out to their community

Jeremy Shields
Star Staff Writer

SHELBY — First Baptist Church of Shelby is “engaging the community.” It’s engaging the neighborhood where the church sits on Lafayette Street in uptown Shelby. It’s engaging members who can no longer physically attend church services. The church is engaging its youth to become shining examples of the Christian faith among their peers. And it’s engaging a younger membership.

The more than 1,200-member church holds block parties with a live band to attract the people living around the building. It holds Vacation Bible School where many people from
The sanctuary of First Baptist Church stands ready. Far right, the parlor, which is used on Sunday mornings for prayer, boasts an old fireplace.

Pastor: First Baptist’s people ‘ready to work’

First Baptist Church of Shelby is also highly involved with Kings Mountain Baptist Association, which works with several local charities. Every Friday, church members feed the homeless population of Shelby out of the church’s kitchen.

Tench said the congregation of First Baptist reaches out to its membership just as well as they reach out to non-members.

“We have a wonderful extension ministry,” said Tench.

The extension ministry services those members who are no longer physically able to attend church services. Services at First Baptist are televised every Sunday and allow those members to still be a part of what goes on at the church.

“It’s been a real blessing,” Tench said.

The church also has a first touch ministry. Tench said caregivers are assigned different members of the church.

“The caregivers encourage our members and minister to them in times of need,” said Tench. “They make themselves available in all kinds of ways.”

In all, First Baptist Church has six full-time ministers on staff to service the needs of the congregation.

One of those ministers devotes his time to the youth of the church.

“We have a good group of kids. They are really looking to be servants and are looking for God to use them,” said Tench.

The youth group of First Baptist recently went to Charleston, S.C., on spring break on a mission trip in addition to making trips to Mexico to share testimony.

Tench said First Baptist has churned out its fair share of missionaries over the years.

“I continue to be amazed at how our members are serving in a number of capacities in the community,” said Tench.

The Rev. Tony Tench pastor of First Baptist Church of Shelby

J.A. West, who joined First Baptist in 1950, said, “We are in a state of flux. The congregation has gotten older.”

West said those older members of the congregation have been more than willing to make necessary changes to attract a younger group of people to the church.

“It hasn’t been that tough. You would think the older folks would be against change, but we want the young folks to come in,” said West.

That is being accomplished through more modern music, drama and other things West says he and many other members of the congregation aren’t used to.

At least one member of the church agreed that the changes are only on the surface and the message remains the same.

“The church remains traditional in the things it does,” said Van Horne. “We’re mission oriented.”

“We’re very concerned about our church family. Anything happens to someone in the church we rally around them, and we know that if something happens to us they will rally around us,” said West.
Shelby had several visitors from Rhodesia this week, some of them taking part in series of revivals at area Baptist churches. From left to right are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Davies of Gwelo, the Rev. and Mrs. John Broom of Salisbury and the Rev. Errol Wesson of Gwelo.
Church reaches out to deaf members

SIGN FROM FLINT HILL

Ms. Ledbetter, who is hearing impaired, assists Mrs. Wacaster in teaching the choir sign language. "She provides a lot of insight to the performers," Mrs. Wacaster said. But as far as Ms. Ledbetter is concerned, she's the one getting all the benefits.

"To be involved with a group of friends with a lot of support and encouragement and love is important," she said.

"It helps me feel closer to God and feel His presence."

Though the choir is new at Flint Hill, interacting more closely with its hearing impaired members is something Mrs. Hawes said the church has always known for.

In fact, many other churches throughout Cleveland County have been known for the same kind of dedication over the years, she said. "It's a must for them," she said. "It's the only way they can participate in what goes on."

Since then, the hearing impaired who attend have always had a way to understand the sermons and music of First Baptist's services.

Barbara Gibson, director of the church's deaf ministry, said without interpreters, most hearing impaired individuals would be at a tremendous loss for religious instruction.

"I don't know that many ministers on TV programs even have interpreters," she said.

Having a daughter who is hearing impaired, Mrs. Gibson said she is especially devoted to the deaf ministry.

"It's a must for them," she said. "It's the only way they can be a part of what goes on."

"And everyone needs that opportunity."

American sign language from George Web University has added help of Mary Boll on the director role. April 18, under the leadership of Kimberly Ledbetter, is one of those.

This month, the church will celebrate the 30th anniversary of its deaf ministry, which began in 1969 when a mother saw to it that her son was able to participate in worship there.

Since then, the hearing impaired who attend have always had a way to understand
Rhodesians See Hope For Country

The Rev. Etrol C. Wesson, pastor of the Lundu Park Baptist Church in Gwelo, tells of a farm family driving 50 miles to that midlands town for the weekend. When family members got back home, they found it burned down. The farmer stayed and rebuilt his ranch, Wesson says. "This is an example of the character, spirit of the people."

Fred Davies, also of Gwelo, has farmed in Rhodesia for 23 years. He plans to continue. He doesn't know what the future holds. "If one could depend on what the politicians say, there'd be no problems," Davies says. "I do believe in prayer. Much prayer has gone up in Rhodesia. I believe God's hand is in the country."

War didn't break the spirit of Rhodesians, black or white, says Broom. Tourists still visited Victoria Falls, even though gunfire raged nearby. "My brother has one of the largest safari concerns in the country and he continued his business even though every day he was in fear for his life."

Broom, 37, met his wife while he was attending Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa, her native land. All their children were born in South Africa so Broom took out a citizenship in that country "to keep us all together."

In 1890, Broom's grandfather was among the original pioneers who explored the country that would one day be named after Cecil John Rhodes. Broom grew up in the bush country where his father was a miner.

Development in Rhodesia accelerated after World War II. The country's progress has been "quite remarkable" compared to other nations, "particularly those in Africa," says Broom. Rhodesia is one of the "most nominally Christian countries in the world," he adds.

Rhodesians knew changes were coming. They expected things to happen "gradually" in the nation with 200,000 whites and nearly seven million blacks.

With the mineral resources of the country and potential for agriculture, Rhodesia could be one of the finest little countries in the world — we've always thought of it that way," Broom says. "The air of freedom and liberty is something we've all cherished."

Broom says that most of us, living there in the war situation, were prepared to die if we had to. Our fear now is not for our lives but that religious freedom will be taken from our country."

Tribal blacks in rural areas suffered terribly, Broom says. Not wanting to side with either the establishment or the terrorists, "they were caught in a crossfire."

Each day terrorists armed with Russian-made weapons "would go into a kraal (village) and speak to the people, trying to get them to join," Brooms says. "If they refused, terrorists called them sell-outs. Women were raped, other people were tortured. A common thing was herding whole families into a hut, tying them together and burning them all alive."

There was very little urban terrorism, says Broom. Still, the first thing he did every morning at church was search for bombs. The times were "trying but exciting. Faith became a lot more vital," Broom says. After services Sunday, he never knew if all his congregation would "be in church again next week. Sometimes they weren't."

Broom remembers the family that came to his church from their bush country residence one Sunday. That afternoon, they were all murdered at home.
CHURCHES IN NORTH CAROLINA
As named by Morgan Edwards, John Asplund, G. W. Paschal or others

1. Name***
   Shelley First
   Druvy Dallux, J. M. Webb &  Tesser Wm. Roberts
   1846

2. Name
   J. R. Logan, David Warlick
   Cleveland
   1841

3. Location. Name of County when Constituted

4. Location. Name of County at present time
   "
   "

5. Name of Association with which originally affiliated
   "
   "

6. Type of Church; General Baptist,
   Particular,

   Separate,
   Regular,
   Other,

7. Is the church by either name listed in Convention Annual in 1959 or 1960?

(See Notes Other Side)
SHELBY - 1847
19 June

1850 -
1851 -
1852 -
1853 -
1854 -
1855 -
1856 - Admit. to assoc. from BROAD RIVER
1857 -
1858 - Letter rejected. (1)
1859 - Dism. from assoc.
1860 -
1861 -
1862 -
1863 - Admit. to BROAD RIVER
1864 -
1865 - No record
1866 -
1867 -
1868 -
1869 -
1870 -
1871 - Dism. from BROAD RIVER. (2) Admit. to Kings Mountain
1872 -
1873 -
1874 -
1875 -
1876 -
1877 -
1878 -
1879 -
1880 -
1881 -
1882 -
1883 -
1884 -
1885 -
1886 -
1887 -
1888 -
1889 -
1890 -
1891 -
1892 -
1893 -
1894 - assoc met with
1895 -
1896 -
1897 -
1898 -
1899 -
Shelby First - 1847 Cleveland KINGS MOUNTAIN

1847 - Const. 19 Je. Admit. to BROAD RIVER(SC)
1856 - Admit. to KINGS MT. from BROAD RIVER(SC).
1859 - Dism. from KINGS MT.
1863 - Admit. to BROAD RIVER(SC)
1871 - Dism. from BROAD RIVER(SC). Admit. to KINGS MT.
1909 - Became Shelby First.
Shelby First.

1900 -
1901 -
1902 -
1903 -
1904 -
1905 -
1906 -
1907 -
1908 -
1909 -
1910 -
1911 -
1912 -
1913 -
1914 -
1915 -
1916 -
1917 -
1918 -
1919 -
1920 -
1921 -
1922 -
1923 -
1924 -
1925 - Assc met unit
1926 -
1927 -
1928 -
1929 -
1930 -
1931 -
1932 -
1933 -
1934 -
1935 -
1936 -
1937 -
1938 -
1939 -
1940 -
1941 -
1942 -
1943 - Assc met unit
1944 -
1945 -
1946 -
1947 -
1948 -
1949 -
1950 -
1951 -
1952 -
1953 -
1954 -
1955 -
1956 -
1957 -
1958 -
1959 -
1960 -
1961 -
1962 -
1963 -
1964 -
1965 -
1966 -
1967 -
1968 -
1969 -
1970 -
1971 -
1972 -
1973 -
1974 -

Shelby 1846
Lowe

Kings Mountain
1851-

1953 - unsure what unit 9 ago dates 9-8

1967 - unsure met with police of church dynasty 2-3