REV. JOHN H. PACE, SR.

Born on January 13, 1926, and reared in Pickens, South Carolina, Rev. John H. Pace, Sr. was educated in the local schools there. Following duty in the United States Army during World War II, Rev. Pace attended and graduated from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, in 1950 with a B.A. degree in Business Administration. He worked for the United States Postal Service for five years and then completed his theological education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, North Carolina, in 1959. After pastoring several churches in North and South Carolina, he and his family were called to Reeds Baptist Church on June 22, 1969, where he has continued his ministry to present day. His family consists of his wife Bobbie, also from Pickens, South Carolina, and their four children—Pamela, Carolyn, Johnny and Stephen. He and Bobbie have four grandchildren. Johnny, his oldest son, has recently accepted the call into the ministry and will begin his theological studies in the fall of 1990.

Rev. Pace’s twenty-year ministry at Reeds Baptist Church has been one of great Bible teaching and preaching. Using patience, kindness, understanding and sternness, when needed, Rev. Pace has guided and directed the congregational families of Reeds Baptist Church along the pathway God has chosen for him and them. In twenty years, there have been, as much be, many changes. Upholding and adhering to the will of God has been the ultimate goal of Rev. Pace.

From the very beginning of his ministry here, Rev. Pace realized the importance of the past, present and future history of Reeds Baptist Church. This book reflects not only the dreams of George Reed and the people of the Community of Reeds Cross Roads, but also Rev. Pace’s dream to have it recorded in such a way that the dream will be carried on and live for generations to come. His sense of the realization of the importance of such a book will be greatly appreciated and treasured by all of us who are connected by even the tiniest thread to Reeds Baptist Church.

The 150th Anniversary Historical Committee
Reeds Baptist Church
October, 1989
Roanoke Baptist Church Begins Revival Sunday

Rev. John H. Pace of Lexington will be guest minister for the revival services at Roanoke Baptist Church. The services begin Sunday night at 7:30 and will continue each night through April 16.

In preparation for the revival services, the Youth of the Church will conduct Prayer Meeting on Friday night at 7:30 at the Church Recreation Center which will be for people of all ages. Following the prayer service the youth will sponsor a “Recreation and Fun Clinic.”

On Saturday night, beginning at 8 p.m. the deacons will sponsor a floating prayer meeting in preparation for the revival. Individuals may attend and leave at their own convenience.

On Sunday morning the pastor will speak during the worship hour which will be broadcast over Radio Station WSMY.

Rev. Pace, pastor of the Reed’s Baptist Church, was born and lived most of his early life around Greenville, S. C. He is a graduate of Furman University, Greenville, S. C. and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest. He has served as music director of Arlington Street Baptist Church of Rocky Mount and also as pastor of Blandwood Baptist Church of the same city.

Other pastorates include Fork Shoals Baptist Church, Pelzer, S. C.; Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Greer, S. C.; and the First Baptist Church, Marietta, S. C. Rev. Pace is now president of the Liberty Baptist Association Pastors Conference; Associational Sunday School Director and Adult Vacation Bible School worker.

“As an accomplished singer, a great treat is in store for the listeners in addition to the Gospel messages,” says Rev. J. C. Brooks, pastor.

Rev. Pace will be speaking daily on devotions at 11:20 a.m. over WCBT and at 6:40 p.m. over WSMY.

A nursery will be provided each night.

The public is invited.
Revival Is Planned
At Baptist Church

Revival services will begin Monday night at First Baptist Church with the Rev. John Pace, pastor of Reeds Baptist Church, as visiting preacher.

Service will be held at 7 p.m. each night through Friday, and the revival will conclude Sunday morning, November 23, with homecoming. Plans are being made for dinner at the church following the Sunday morning service.

Mrs. Steve Smith, minister of music at the local church, has planned for special music at each of the evening services. The church choirs will be singing each evening. On Thursday night Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hill will be guest singers. Hill, who is minister of music at Reeds Baptist Church, and his wife have been invited by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to help in an evangelistic crusade in Africa.

Pace is a native of Pickens, S.C. He graduated from Pickens Hill School and has degrees from Furman University and Southeastern Baptist Seminary.

Pace has also served as a minister of music, and will be putting his musical talents to work during the week of preaching here.

Through the years it has been customary for the visiting minister to be a guest in a different home for dinner each evening. This year, however, there will be a fellowship meal at the church before the evening services, giving more members of the congregation a chance to be with the guest speaker.

The Blanche Roach Circle will be responsible for the meal Monday evening, Lottie Moone Circle on Tuesday, the Golden Circle Sunday School Class on Wednesday, Dailie Harris and Catherine Grant circles on Thursday evening, and the deacons of the church on Friday.
By JULIE BRASWELL
Staff Reporter

It's been 22 years since the Rev. John Pace came to Reeds to be the minister at Reeds Crossroads Baptist Church.

In January, Pace, 64, will retire from that position, leaving a community, a church and a parsonage that have all become home for him. Pace said it's been a "good relationship between pastor and people." He even wrote a book in 1989 about the church and its history, from 1795 to the present.

In that amount of time, Pace has a part of many families' lives in the small community, which he says is much like his hometown of Pickens, S.C., near Greenville. He said many of the people in Pickens farmed the land. While there are still farmers in Reeds, Pace said he doesn't know many people who farm full-time there now.

"I am marrying the children of people who I married when I first came here," said Pace. "I've baptized them, married them, sat with them while babies or born or there is sickness, and given the funerals."

He remembers four years ago when he buried 16 people, mostly elderly members, from the church. Most of them died from that January to that June. He said that was a high number for a church its size. He said it was also unusual when he performed two funerals in the same day.

He has once had to vary from the way Baptists perform a baptism one time in his career. A man joined the church who was from the Church of the Brethren.

"Baptists normally baptize by leaning the head back and immersing that way," Pace said. "I had to baptize this man face down. That's the way he wanted it to be done."

The church has an enrollment of 585, and average attendance is 205 in Sunday school.

Pace and his wife, Bobbie, will probably move to Lexington and live in an apartment. Their four children are not living at home now. He said it's possible they will attend First Baptist Church.

Being in a pew and not behind the pulpit is not something Pace wants to become used to.

"I can't envision not preaching," he said. "I might serve as interim pastor of a small church, or fill in on a week by week basis for ministers."

Pace preaches directly from the Bible, and feels like his sermons have been well-received by his congregation.

"The first thing everyone else would say is that 'he's long-winded,'" Pace said of his sermons. "That's the only complaint really. They probably wanted to put a trap door under the pulpit."

Pace didn't start out as a minister, in fact, he went to college and majored in business administration and economics. A native of Pickens, S.C., near Greenville, served in World War II and was rewarded the Purple Heart.

Please see Page 14
Continued from Page 13

After the war, he went to Furman University from 1946-1950.

He worked for the post office in Pickens for five years, before returning to seminary at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. His oldest son, John Pace Jr., is now in seminary there.

Pace then transferred back to Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, and received his bachelor of divinity there, after three years in seminary. His degree is now referred to as a master of divinity.

During the final year of seminary, he served as director of music at Arlington Street Baptist Church in Rocky Mount. At Griffin Baptist Church he was the music director and his wife, Bobbie, whom he met there, was the pianist. They married in 1951.

He served in Rocky Mount, Fork Shoals and Pleasant Hill in Greer, S.C., and then at Marietta Baptist Church, also in South Carolina. His stays became longer at each church, and the church membership was larger at each.

"Then, I came here and found a home," he said of Reeds. "We've gotten along real well. This is my kind of people."

The Paces have four children: Pamela Hines, 37, Caroline Smith, 33, John Jr., 26, and Stephen Pace, 22.