Bethany Baptist Calls Paul Riggs

By VIRTIE STROUP
Staff Religion Reporter

The Rev. Paul Riggs has become pastor of Bethany Baptist Church on Winston-Salem, Rt. 7, at the intersections of N.C. 66 and German- ton Road.

He will preach his first sermon at the new pastorate Sunday.

The minister comes to the Bethany church from King where he has been pastor of First Baptist Church for the past two years. Riggs succeeds the Rev. J. Alfred Stanford who resigned in June after serving the Bethany congregation for seven months.

Stanford, who had just been released from the U.S. Army Chaplaincy Corps, was recalled to active duty. Capt. Stanford, son of Mrs. Rosa M. Stanford of 109 Vintage Avenue, was assigned to the Army Biological Laboratories at Fort Detrick, Md., as a chaplain. His last assignment was Oakland, Calif.

Riggs and his family will be honored at a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.

The minister is married to the former Helen Wright, both of Mount Airy, and they have four children: Cynthia Lee, 10; Nancy Lynne, 7; Billy, 5, and Luanne, 3.

Riggs attended Gardner Webb College at Boiling Springs and graduated from Limestone College at Gaffney, S.C., with an A.B. degree and from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest with a B.D. degree.

He has served as pastor of Double Springs Baptist Church of Shelby, Green River Baptist Church of Rutherford and Guilford Baptist Church of Greensboro.

Dr. J. William Angell of the Department of Religion at Wake Forest College has been serving as interim pastor before and after Stanford.
Church Notes

Bethany Baptist Pastor Going Abroad

By VIRTIE STROUP
Staff Religion Reporter

The Rev. and Mrs. Paul Riggs, pastoral couple at Bethany Baptist Church, will leave Thursday for a 12-day trip to the island of Guadeloupe in the French West Indies where he will conduct revival services.

The Riggs are making the trip at the invitation of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The invitation was issued by the Rev. William H. Cain, the pastor there. He formerly was pastor of Pinecroft Baptist Church in Greensboro. Cain and Riggs attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest together.

The work at Guadeloupe is extremely young, Riggs said. It was started in January, 1964, by Cain and it is his first missionary assignment. It also is Riggs' first time to preach in the mission field.

Riggs said as yet there have been no converts in the Baptist missionary effort at Guadeloupe. His services will consist of periods of morning Bible study with evangelistic services planned for the nights.

The Riggs are natives of Mount Airy. He is the son of Mrs. Nellie Riggs and the late Bill Riggs and she is the daughter of Mrs. Grover Wright and the late Mr. Wright.

Riggs is a graduate of Gardner-Webb College at Boiling Springs, Limestone College at Gaffney, S. C., and Southeastern seminary.

The Riggs will return July 5. Their missionary visit is being sponsored jointly by Bethany and the Cains.

Kindergarten Planned
First Baptist Church of Kernersville will organize and conduct a kindergarten this fall. Mrs. Bonnie Minter of Tally's Crossing will organize and direct the work. The school will be conducted from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday.

Mrs. Minter attended Emmanuel Academy and College at Franklin Springs, Ga. She also obtained a degree in early childhood education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

She is a member of an international and North Carolina Kindergarten Associations. She is a member of First Pilgrim Church of Kernersville and sings in the choir. She will be assisted in the school by Mrs. Delores LeFever.

Revival Services
Revival services will begin at 7:30 p.m. today at Sprague Street Baptist Church and will continue nightly through Sunday, June 27. The guest speaker will be the Rev. J. B. Parker Jr., who is pastor of Hanes Baptist Church here.
Shadybrook Baptist
Revival Announced

Revival services will begin Sunday at Shadybrook Baptist Church. Rev. Paul Riggs, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Winston Salem, will be the guest evangelist. Services will be held daily through October 30, at 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Riggs is a native of Mt. Airy. He is a graduate of Livingston College, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married and has three daughters and a son.

A well known pastor-evangelist, Rev. Riggs has conducted revivals in North Carolina and other states. This summer he held a crusade in the British West Indies. This crusade was under the sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Special music will be provided by the church choir, and other groups. Rev. Gilbert R. Pierce is pastor of Shadybrook, and announced that Homecoming would be held on Sunday, October 31.

Rev. Paul Riggs
A former pastor of the First Baptist Church in King, the Rev. W. Paul Riggs, will be the guest minister at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Tobaccoville for a revival series starting on May 13. The services, to be held each evening at 7:30, will come to a close on Sunday, May 19.

The Rev. Talmadge Hall, pastor of the church, said that his church felt very fortunate in securing Rev. Riggs for the revival series. He is currently pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church in the Stanleyville area on Route 7, Winston-Salem. Everyone is invited to attend any or all of the services starting next Monday evening.

While pastor of the local Baptist church in Tobaccoville, the visiting minister made many friends among the people of the community.

King: Times-News
Stanley News
Creedmoor:
Granville News
Clarkton: Times
Belmont Suburban
Lumberton:
Robeson Enterprise

MAY 9 1968
Revival Begins
April 6 At
Mayodan Church

Revival services will begin on April 6th at the evening worship hour and continue throughout the week at Mayodan First Baptist Church. Rev. Paul Riggs, pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, will be the evangelist. Rev. Riggs is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as pastor of the Guilford Baptist Church of Greensboro and the First Baptist Church of King.

Services will begin at 7:30 each evening. Special music will be provided by singing groups of the church. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.
Rev. Paul Riggs, new pastor of First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain, will preach Sunday morning as he begins his pastorate here.

Rev. Riggs comes from the Bethany Baptist church in Winston Salem, leading the church there for a period of eight years. He is a graduate of Gardner-Webb college, Limestone college, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

A "dinner-on-the-ground" is being given Sunday by the congregation of First Baptist Church in honor of Rev. Riggs and his family, which includes Mrs. Riggs (Loudene), Cindy, Nancy, Billy, and Luanne.

The Riggs family are purchasing a home in Kings Mountain, but at the present are occupying the missionary house of First Baptist church.
The Rev. Paul Riggs, pastor of Bethany Baptist at Highway 88 and Germanton Road, has resigned.

He has served the congregation for eight years. He will become pastor of First Baptist of Kings Mountain on Sept. 10. His last Sunday at Bethany will be Sept. 3.

The women of the church honored the pastor and his family last Tuesday and there will be a churchwide reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Riggs came to Bethany from King where he was pastor of First Baptist there for two years.

He is a graduate of Limestone College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has served churches in Shelby, Rutherford and Greensboro. He and his wife, the former Helen Wright, are natives of Mount Airy. They have four children.

He has served in many capacities with the Pilot Mountain Baptist Association and at present he is chairman of the nominating committee and a member of the personnel committee.

In 1965 he and his wife went to Guadeloupe at the invitation of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to conduct revival services.

North Wilkesboro

Mrs. Beulah Z. Beroth of Winston-Salem, Rt. 8, is in North Wilkesboro this weekend where she is attending the Billy Graham Crusade featuring the Rev. Lane Adams as the evangelist. The crusade began Friday and will continue through Saturday, Sept. 2.

Mrs. Beroth, who is working as a counselor with the crusade, will return Monday. She was a counselor with the Billy Graham Crusade in Kernersville featuring Adams and also worked with the Billy Glass Crusade here.
The Rev. Paul Riggs will begin his ministry as Pastor of Oaklawn Baptist Church on Sunday, April 21. Rev. Mr. Riggs comes to Oaklawn Church from the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Kings Mountain.

The Rev. and Mrs. Riggs have four children, three daughters and a son. The oldest daughter is a sophomore at Meredith College in Raleigh.

The Rev. Mr. Riggs previously served as Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, before going to Kings Mountain. Other pastorates have been First Baptist Church, King, and Guilford Baptist Church, Greensboro. They are natives of Mt. Airy.

A reception for the Riggs family will be held Sunday evening in the fellowship hall following the worship service.
Baptist Minister Is Retiring
After 40 Years In The Pulpit

By Laura Williams-Tracy
Davie County Enterprise-Record

When the Rev. Paul Riggs of the Mocksville First Baptist Church steps down from the pulpit March 28 after delivering his last sermon, he will have shared with the congregation more than eight years of fellowship.

Riggs will retire this month from full-time preaching after 40 years of ministry throughout North Carolina.

Earlier in his career, when he changed churches, he told a deacon that he was leaving because he had run out of sermons.

"Oh you run out of sermons a long time ago," the deacon responded.

But this time, Riggs said at age 63, he is ready to play golf, spend time with his grandchildren and add to his collection of more than 25 clocks.

Riggs entered the Air Force in 1948 and while in service he started visiting prisons and rest homes with a church group. It was then that he found his calling.

"I saw an opportunity to minister to people in need," he said. "So many of them had become hardened."

While other friends were turning to secular careers, Riggs decided, "If I'm going to be a minister I had to prepare. It took more than a calling."

So after earning a degree from Gardner-Webb College and Limestone College, Riggs earned a masters of divinity degree from the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Early in his ministry, Riggs went on a two week preaching mission to the French West Indies in 1964.

But Riggs, who said he wasn't much of a traveler, decided he liked the down-home feeling of a community church.

Riggs and his wife, Loudene, came to Mocksville in 1984.

And over the years, the couple has become close to the community.

"As a minister, you see people at their happiest and at their saddest," he said.

Since the early days, Riggs said the job has become more difficult. The family is in a state of transition and there is a breakdown of morals.

Riggs said he never suffered personally from bad news about televangelists like Jim Bakker, who were convicted of defrauding church members.

But he said he is sure it has hurt religion.

"Most people do tend to judge all ministers by what they see," he said. "I've never had to defend them. Most people understand that's a bad time in the life of some ministers."

But the most difficult part of being a preacher is leaving one church to go to another, he said. "We've always had good relations with the people wherever we've been."

Riggs and his wife will leave the parsonage they have in Mocksville and live in a house they have owned in Winston-Salem for several years.

He said he will miss the people he has become close to and will miss the cooperation First Baptist Church has shared with First Presbyterian and First Methodist churches in coordinating the Spiritual Enrichment Series and the Easter Sunrise services.

A pastor search committee of the church will select the next minister for First Baptist, but Riggs said no one had been chosen yet.

Each of the cars in this train represent a church where Riggs served as pastor.

Riggs: "We've always had good relations with the people wherever we've been."