The Rev. Russel Talley, new pastor of Barnesville Baptist Church, is shown with Mrs. Talley and their sons, Paul and Curtis.

Russel Talley
new pastor
at Barnesville

The Rev. Russel L. Talley is the new pastor of the Barnesville Baptist Church.

He succeeds the Rev. J. N. Beatty, who has accepted a pastorate at Gainsville, Ga.

Mr. Talley assumed the Barnesville pastorate August 1, and he and his family moved to the area August 13.

Mr. Talley, a native of Greensboro, served 24 years in the Navy as a Medical Service Corps officer and retired in 1964 as a lieutenant commander.

He attended Southeastern Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, and was graduated in 1967.

He served as pastor of the First Baptist Church at Havelock for six and a half years; and for the past three years has been general manager of Raleigh Apartments, Inc., in Raleigh.

Mr. Talley is married to the former Lynn Baker of Jacksonville, Fla., and they have four children, Russel Jr., 23, who is married and lives in Winston-Salem; Dianna, 23, who is married and lives in Decatur, Ga.; Paul, 13, an 8th grader at Orrum School; and Curtis, 11 a 6th grader at Proctorville School.
First Baptist’s Minister And Family

The Rev. Russell Talley and his wife are shown above with their two teenage children, Dianne and Russell, Jr., in the new home purchased this month by First Baptist church at 113 Bryan street. Mr. Talley, a retired Lieutenant Commander in the Navy in 1940 as an apprentice seaman and was commissioned in 1955. During World War II he served with the Atlantic fleet and then participated in the Okinawan landing with the Second Wing, operating on the beach with the Air Defense command. He later served with MAG-24 in Peiping, China and then oversaw the first time with MAG-61 from Cherry Point.

What motivates a middle-aged man to turn his back on a promising and lucrative business opportunity after 20 years in military service to enter the less financially rewarding field of the ministry?

“There was a question of contentment and inner happiness. I had been at loose ends and not too satisfied with myself most of my life.

Bright Future

“I had already decided when I retired from the Navy, I would become associated with a denominational church. It offered me a bright future.

First Baptist’s new minister became associated with a denominational church after he and his wife felt their two children needed to be raised in a Sunday school. denominational church rather than the non-denominational atmosphere of military chapels. “We were stationed at Pensacola at the time and was baptized into the Baptist church in 1957. I had personal and family problems which had to be settled but after I made my decision in 1961 I knew I had done the right thing.

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The Greensboro native entered the Navy in 1940 as an apprentice seaman and was commissioned in 1955. During World War II he served with the Atlantic fleet and then participated in the Okinawan landing with the Second Wing, operating on the beach with the Air Defense command. He later served with MAG-24 in Peiping, China and then oversaw the first time with MAG-61 from Cherry Point.

Spurns A Lucrative Career
To Become Baptist Minister

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Plan Reception For New Pastor

The Rev. Russell Talley, who became pastor of First Baptist Church March 26, will be honored by his congregation with a reception welcoming him and his family from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday in the church fellowship hall.

Standing in the receiving line with the new pastor will be his wife, Joyce, his daughter, Diana, and his son, Russell Jr.

Arrangements for the reception and refreshments of cake, coffee and punch are being provided by a ladies' committee headed by Mrs. J. C. Mahoney, Women’s Missionary Union president. Her assistants are Mrs. Edward Godwin, church secretary, and Mrs. George Griffin. The public is invited.

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Russel Talley Resigns First Baptist Pulpit

The Rev. Russel Talley has announced he is leaving First Baptist church effective the end of April. The Rev. Mr. Talley said he was moving to Raleigh and would begin new non-church duties there the first of May.

He had advised the congregation and church board of his intention to resign at the end of May but said Tuesday he had changed his original relocation plans. He told church officials this week he would return during the month of May to conduct Sunday services.

He said he had accepted management duties of a 137 unit apartment complex in Raleigh. Earlier he had planned to go to Florida in late May-early June and accept a non-church position in Orlando. "But the Raleigh offer was much better and I could not wait until the end of May to accept it," he said Tuesday.

"My decision which was made and announced to the church in March was a very difficult one to make," he said. "It was difficult not only to leave First Baptist church but it was also difficult for me to leave Havelock. I have been here six full years and it is just like home to me."

"It was the hardest decision I have ever had to make and I will miss my church, my congregation and my many friends in the community."

Mr. Talley said that while he was leaving the church in a full-time employment status he was not planning on relinquishing his ministerial duties. "I plan to serve the association in a supply pastor role. I hope to be effective as an interim pastor for those emergency situations or as a substitute for pastors on vacation."

He became pastor of First Baptist in February, 1967.

He completed his seminary training at Wake Forest following retirement from the Navy in 1964. He concluded his military service with the rank of lieutenant commander, 24 years service, and was in the Medical Corps when he retired.

The native of Greensboro said he made his decision to enter the ministry before retiring from the Navy and then completed the seminary and was ordained as a Baptist minister.

During his tenure at First Baptist the church began and completed a total renovation program of the main sanctuary including central air conditioning and heating plant, purchased a custom-designed mobile home nursery and increased its membership. "It was debt free when I came and we are leaving the church the same way," he said Tuesday.

George Griffin has been named chairman of the pulpit committee to select a new pastor.