NORTH CAROLINIANS WIN HONORS AT YALE

New Haven, Conn., June 12.—(AP)—Two North Carolina students at the Yale Divinity School were awarded special honors today at the school’s 111th anniversary exercises.

Percy B. Upchurch, of Apex, was awarded the Two Brothers’ fellowship, offered annually for Biblical study abroad.

Alan D. Fiers, of Charlotte, was awarded first prize for proficiency in public reading of scriptures and hymns. Fiers, a junior, also was awarded first prize scholarship in his class for work done in the first year.
Pastor Retiring
On December 31

After 15 years as pastor of Memorial Baptist Church here, the Rev. Percy Upchurch is retiring effective December 31. Rev. Upchurch said he announced his retirement plans to

REV. PERCY UPCHURCH

his congregation last Sunday, exactly 15 years after he took over the pastorate. He has been in Greenville longer than any other minister who now has a church here and longer than any other minister his church has had before.

The 62-year-old Rev. Upchurch said he feels his church members need a new pastor to lead them into an enlargement program they are now contemplating. He said he announced his plans some four months before they became actuality in order to allow the church to form a committee to seek a new pastor. Hopefully a new one will be called by the first of the new year, he said.

Rev. Upchurch said he is not sure yet whether he and his wife will continue to live in Greenville. They have two children, Mrs. Robert Browning Jr. of Dallas, Tex. and Navy Lt. Joseph B. Upchurch of West Palm Beach, Fla.

The pastor said he hopes to do interim and supply church work after the end of his full-time ministry.
RECEIVING GUESTS . . . at Sunday reception were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Alford, Mrs. Upchurch and the Rev. Percy B. Upchurch.

‘Upchurch Day’ Sunday Honors Retiring Minister And Wife

"Upchurch Day" was observed yesterday at Memorial Baptist Church honoring the Rev. and Mrs. Percy B. Upchurch. Rev. Upchurch retired as pastor of the church on Dec. 31, after serving in this capacity for 15 years.

A series of activities was scheduled during the day which culminated with a reception honoring the couple being held in the church parlor at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Receiving with the minister and his wife were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Alford, Jack Whichard chairman of the Board of Deacons, and Gene Prescott, vice chairman of the Board, and Mrs. Prescott.

R. E. Pittman invited guests to the refreshment table which was centered with a five branch silver candelabrum decorated with spring flowers. Punch was poured by Mrs. T. H. Boykin, Mrs. Frank Bendall and Mrs. C. T. Mallison. Special music for the reception was rendered by J. P. DiStefano and Ralph Verrastro.

In other activities of the day, the Upchurch couple were guests of the Adult Sunday School departments and honored with a special program "Memories of Memorial".

At the close of the morning worship service an engraved silver bowl was presented to Mrs. Upchurch and an inscribed plaque was given to the Rev. Upchurch.

These presentations were made by Melody Daniels, Beth Hignite, Frances Salisbury, Jackie Warren and Terry Warren. These young ladies are the five most recent members to be received into the church by baptism.

On behalf of the congregation of the church, Jack Whichard presented a check to the pastor and his wife to be used for landscaping the couple's new home which is now under construction in Williamston.

The Board of Deacons and their wives entertained the Rev. and Mrs. Upchurch at a luncheon at the Greenville Golf and Country Club following the morning worship service. Mrs. Upchurch was given a white orchid for the occasion.

All of the activities for the day were arranged by committees under the leadership of Herbert Paschal, Bob Allen and Mrs. Ruth Garner.
Retired Pastor
To Supply Here

Rev. Percy B. Upchurch of Williamston has accepted the invitation to preach at the Edenton Baptist Church Sunday during both the 11 o'clock morning service and the 7:30 o'clock evening service.

Mr. Upchurch, over a span of 35 years, has held pastorates in Monroe, Mullins, S. C., and Greenville, as well as having served for three years as an U. S. Navy chaplain. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and has completed post-graduate study at other institutions.

In recent months Mr. Upchurch has retired from the active pastorate after serving the past 15 years as pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church in Greenville. He now lives in Williamston and devotes his time to pulpit supply, interim supply and evangelism.

The morning service will be broadcast over the local radio station WCDJ for the benefit of those unable to attend and the supervised church nursery will be available to those parents with small children.

Durham: Public Appeal
Edenton: Chowan Herald
Elizabethtown: Bladen Journal
Elkin Tribune
Enfield Progress
Farmville Enterprise
Fairmont: Times-Messenger
Forest City Courier
Franklin Press
Franklinton Post
Fuquay Springs: Independent
Gatesville: Gates Co. Index
Gibsonville: News
Graham: Alamance News
Granite Falls Press
Greensboro: Democrat

MAY 14 1970
Rev. Percy B. Upchurch of Williamston has been called by the Edenton Baptist Church as interim pastor and will assume his duties with the church on Sunday.

Mr. Upchurch recently retired from the active pastorate after serving the Memorial Baptist Church in Greenville for 15 years. Over a span of 35 years he has served churches in Monroe, N. C. and Mullins, S. C., having just recently closed his last pastorate in Greenville. His background also includes a three year period of service as Chaplain in the U. S. Navy.

The church has called Mr. Upchurch to serve until a permanent pastor is called. He plans to spend three days on the field and he will be very convenient to the congregation for emergency needs being only 30 miles away.

As usual, the morning service will be broadcast over WCDJ for the benefit of those unable to attend and the supervised church nursery will be available to those with small children.
Former Memorial Baptist Church pastor Percy B. Upchurch will be the guest minister Sunday for the 11 a.m. service at Memorial.

Upchurch, who served as pastor here from 1954 until 1970 when he retired, now lives in Williamston.

The Rev. Norman Bennett Jr., pastor of Memorial Baptist, is attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, Tex.
Revival services will be held at the First Baptist Church in Jamesville, beginning Monday evening at 8:00 and continuing through Sunday, September 1, it was announced this week. The revival speaker will be the Rev. Percy B. Upchurch of Williamston, a retired minister. The public is invited to all services at the church.
Upchurch Will Hold a Revival

Following Easter Sunday morning services in Riddick’s Grove Baptist Church, a revival service will start that night and continue through the morning worship service on April 6 it was announced Wednesday. Special music is being planned for the services which begin at 7:30 each evening.

The Rev. Percy B. Upchurch, a native of Wake County now living in retirement in Williamston, will be the evangelist. Before his retirement in 1970 he served Baptist churches in North and South Carolina for 35 years. He last served as pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Greenville for 15 years. Since retirement he has served various churches in an interim capacity.

The pastor, Rev. Thermon Griffin, issued an invitation Wednesday to the public to attend the services.
The Rev. Percy Bryant Upchurch, 80, of 302 Woodlawn Drive, Williamston, died Wednesday at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. His funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday in the Memorial Baptist Church by the Rev. E.T. Vinson and Dr. Jim Drake. Entombment will be in the Pinewood Mausoleum.

A native of Apex, Mr. Upchurch was the longtime pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Greenville. He held degrees from Wake Forest, Brown and Yale universities and had studied at the American School of Oriental Research in Palestine. In addition to Memorial, he had held pastorates in Monroe and in Mullins, S.C., and had served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Since his retirement in 1970, he had been interim pastor in several communities throughout this area.

He held several posts in the Baptist State Convention, among them the chairmanship of the board of trustees of Wingate College, membership on the board of trustees of Wake Forest University, and membership on the General Board of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

Surviving are his wife, Mildred Stewart Upchurch; a son, Joseph B.