Bethlehem Gets New Minister

Bethlehem Baptist Church near Carthage has a new pastor, the Rev. Ernest L. Johnson, Jr., who began his ministry there Sunday, Sept. 23, when he delivered his first sermon.

He has moved into the parsonage with his wife, Linda.

Dr. and Mrs. Johnson have three children, Ernest, 28, John W., 23, and Patricia, 18. Ernest is a graduate of Gardner-Webb, John is a student at Wingate College, and Patricia is a student at Campbell University.
Before coming to Bethlehem, Pastor Johnson was minister at Dobson Baptist Chapel Baptist Church for a period of seven years. That church is located at Magnolia. Pastor Johnson has been active in denominational and community affairs and is interested in the chaplaincy and Seminary Extension work.

Johnson was born in Guilford County and began his service as a minister in 1983 as pastor at Dobson Chapel Church, Magnolia. From June 1982 to Sept. '82 he was chaplain (CPE) at Wake Medical Center, Raleigh. He also served as chaplain, Crabtree Valley Mall, in Raleigh. He also was chaplain trainee, C.A. Dillon Training school for Juveniles at Camp Butner. From 1980 to August of that same year he was interim pastor, Piney Grove Baptist Church, Swansboro. He has also served as interim pastor, College Park Baptist Church, Jacksonville, was interim pastor of Tar Landing Church, and interim at Kellum Church, both at Jacksonville.

He has also served on the Associational and community levels in various capacities.

Johnson is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1983 with a Master of Divinity. He has been active in Christian service as a layman.

He has a Bachelor of Arts in psychology with emphasis in human development and counseling from UNC-Wilmington.