Rev. Ingram Is Honor Graduate

The Rev. Gerald F. Ingram, pastor of Sedge Garden Baptist Church, graduated magna cum laude from Piedmont Bible College on May 16. He was one of 19 men who completed the 5-year requirements leading to the Bachelor of Theology degree. The college is located at 716 Franklin St., Winston-Salem, N. C.

Ingram is a native of the Kernersville area, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ray Ingram. He was a 1965 graduate of East Forsyth Senior High School and a 1966 graduate of Forsyth Tech.

He is married to the former Sandra Jane Hawks, who is also from Forsyth County. They, along with their six-year-old son Brad, reside at 4807 Kernersville Road, Kernersville.

Rev. Ingram was listed in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" in 1979 and will be recognized in "The National Register of Outstanding College Graduates" for 1980. Also, he has been selected for inclusion in "The National Dean's List" for the past two years. This publication is devoted exclusively to recognizing academically gifted college students for their achievements and is made up of less than one half of one percent of America's college students.

Ingram has served the Sedge Garden Baptist Church as their pastor for the past 12 months. The church is located at the corner of Highway 150 and Linville Road.
Flimflam Arrest at Church
Altered Preacher's Sermon

By MICHAEL WADE
Sentinel Staff-Reporter

Rev. Gerald F. Ingram abruptly decided to change the topic of his sermon at Sedge Garden Baptist Church last night, several hours after deputies charged a man with trying to bilk the church out of $44 with a phony hard-luck story.

Churchgoers heard Ingram speak on hypocrisy at the evening service. A man who deputies said is suspected of flimflamming several area churches provided the inspiration — and, Ingram said, also got the sort of help he really needs.

Benny Carlton Kimbro, 46, of Edinburg, Va., was arrested at the church yesterday. He was in the Forsyth County Jail this morning with bond set at $15,000 on two charges of false pretense.

He was charged with trying to steal money from the Sedge Garden Baptist Church yesterday and with taking $67 from Grace Baptist Church in Stanleyville Oct. 31. Deputies said he is a suspect in flimflams at several other area churches.

"He's got some meals now, and some time to think," Ingram said of the man arrested during his morning worship service. "He's getting the help that he really needs right now."

Ingram said an article in The Sentinel on Wednesday led church officials to be suspicious of a man who approached them a few minutes before the 10 a.m. Sunday school classes started yesterday. The article described a man who had told officials at other churches that he had trouble with his 1973 Lincoln Continental while en route from Selma, Ala., to Edinburg, and had run out of money. The story also quoted parts of a letter the man had written to other churches.

Both the car and a handwritten letter the man presented to church officials yesterday closely resembled those described in the article, as did the man's description, Ingram said. Ingram said he suggested that the deacons set up a meeting with the man and call the sheriff's department, and invited the man to attend a Sunday school class.

Ingram said three deputies who posed as church members, two church deacons and the chairman of the church's trustees met with the man as the morning worship service began. The deputies questioned the man for a few minutes in a meeting room before identifying themselves and arresting him.

Ingram said he saw the deputies escort the man from the room from the pulpit. He interrupted the service briefly to instruct an usher to give the deputies the letter the man had written.

"I sure would like to read this letter to you," he told the congregation at the time. "Maybe I can share some of the details with you tonight." He did.

Ingram said he found the man's demeanor and the neatly penned letter convincing. "He'd look you straight in the eye, and he had a letter that I thought was pretty well-written for a man of his attire," he said.

The man also carried a well-worn Bible, Ingram said.