Retired pastor not standing still

Jackson fulfilling as First Baptist fill-in

By Brad Deen
Daily Times Staff Writer

As a U.S. Navy chaplain and counselor, the Rev. Colon Jackson was constantly on the go — serving tours of duty in Vietnam, Japan and bases in the United States.

Now Jackson, 66, spends two days a week on the road between Winston-Salem and Wilson, where he is serving as interim pastor of First Baptist Church.

“I don’t want to settle down in one church again,” said Jackson, who has been commuting for Sunday and Wednesday services about four months. “My challenge now is to minister at Wilson’s First Church until they call a full-time pastor.”

Jackson and his wife, Doris, live in Winston-Salem to be near Wake Forest University’s Bowman Gray Hospital, where Mrs. Jackson is recovering from cancer.

The couple married while they were undergraduates at Wake Forest, although they had known each other from high school in Hertford. Before college, Jackson had completed a stint in the U.S. Air Force and was preparing for a career in the ministry.

Things didn’t go as he planned, however. “My life has had some interesting twists and turns,” he said.

In 1967, while serving as pastor of Fayetteville First Baptist Church and a chaplain in the Navy Reserve, he said he “felt the call” to be a Navy chaplain and “left to go straight to Vietnam.”

As a commander of other Navy chaplains, “I was the conscience of command,” he said. “I would look to provide the generals and admirals guidance on moral, ethical and spiritual issues.”

Besides spiritual care, he began pursuing an interest in the psychological welfare of military families. “Often the generals and admirals aren’t cognizant of the needs as (I was). It was a chance to sit down and say, ‘Admiral, we need to put together a program here to meet the needs of our families.’”

In military families, particularly during deployments, the separations often create problems not solvable simply when service personnel return home, he said. “A lot of dynamics go on when you’ve been separated six months,” he said.

The Navy agreed and paid for him to study counseling. He holds a doctorate in family counseling from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga.

Jackson said the two hats he wears — pastor and counselor — complement each other. “Counseling is a helping profession. The ministry is also about helping, but in a different way.”

He set to work planning and implementing military family life centers. “I had many people — in the service or their spouses — tell me their marriage was saved by what we were doing,” he said.

He retired from the Navy after 23 years with the rank of captain. The Jacksons settled in Charleston, S.C., where Mrs. Jackson ran a business. He went to work for a psychiatric hospital, where he supervised the counselors, directed the education of counseling students and became a liaison for the Charleston clergy.

“That was the most exciting job I’ve ever had,” he said. “There was a different challenge every day.”

The area’s psychological resilience was tested by twin calamities: Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and the more recent decision to close the Navy shipyard.

“After Hugo we set up stress management workshops in churches and schools,” he said. “There were children who were frightened whenever a cloud came up.”

After Mrs. Jackson became ill, they left Charleston for Winston-Salem. Jackson said he enjoys being back in North Carolina. It’s home, for one, and he’s closer to his son and daughter, who live in the state.

He said he doesn’t know how long he’ll remain at Wilson First Baptist. Interim work suits his and his family’s needs now.

“I find new things, meet new people and make new friends,” he said.
The Rev. Colon Jackson commutes twice a week from Winston-Salem to serve as interim pastor for Wilson First Baptist Church.

(Photo by Brad Deen)

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He set to work planning and implementing military family life centers. "I had many people — in the sense of their marriage, their work, doing," he said. "He retired from the rank of captain in Charleston, S.C., business. He was running his own business, when he directed the hospital, where he became a local hero."

"That was not what I had," he said. "That's how I would be able to every day."

The area's shipyards were tested by twin ships in 1989 and the military shipyard.

"After Hugo, workshops in the area were small. After every major war, people have a couple workshops in the area."

After Mrs. Jackson retired, they moved to Charleston for a couple of years, and he joined the Navy shipyard."

"There were moments when a couple of years ago, when we were able to do more every day."

After Mrs. Jackson retired, they moved to Charleston for a couple of years, and he joined the Navy shipyard.

He said he didn't find himself in Charleston for a couple of years, and he's enjoyed being back there, and he lives in the state."

"I find myself in Charleston for a couple of years, and he lives in the state."

He said he didn't make new friends...
THE REVEREND COLON S. JACKSON
1958-1960

Colon S. Jackson was born May 24, 1928 in Cary, North Carolina to parents Colon S. and Pearl Jackson. He was baptized in August, 1946, at a church in Hertford, North Carolina. In June, 1952, he was ordained at Burgess Baptist Church. He is married to the former Doris Allen and they are the parents of two children, Barbara Gayle Jackson and John Mark Jackson. Pastorates held by Reverend Colon Jackson are Samaria Baptist Church, Middlesex, North Carolina, First Baptist Church, Erwin, North Carolina, Sunset Park Baptist Church, Wilmington, North Carolina and First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina. He attended Wake Forest University, graduating with a B.A. Degree; Webster College, M.A. Degree (Human Relations), and Southeastern Seminary, Master of Divinity Degree. Special training includes: Pastoral Counseling Residency, Psychiatry Service, Naval Regional Medical Center, Oakland, California; Clinical Pastoral Education, (Pacific Lutheran Seminary, Berkeley, California); Death and Dying Workshop; Family Counseling Workshop; Communication Workshop; Stress Skills Workshop; and twenty-five hours of graduate study in Psychology at Pepperdine University. Special Civilian Achievements: Former Member of Chowan College Board of
Trustees; Former Member of Campbell College Board of Trustees; Former Member of Fayetteville, North Carolina Executive Club; Former Member of Fayetteville, North Carolina Lions Club; Former Representative of Southern Baptist Convention to North American Baptist Fellowship; Former Member of Nomination Committee of North Carolina Baptist Convention; Former President, Cherry Point/Havelock Ministerial Association; Member of Havelock/Cherry Point Rotary Club. Professional Organizations: Member, American Association of Pastoral Counselors; Member, College of Chaplains; Member, American Association of Marriage and Family Therapeutics; Certified Marriage and Family Therapist, North Carolina; Listed in Personalities of the South. Military Experience: Enlisted Service, United States Air Force, Active Duty Navy, holding rank of Commander. Decorations: Navy Commendation Medal, 1970, Navy Achievement Medal, 1975. Campaign and Service Medals: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Navy Unit Commendation Medal; Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Meritorious Unit Citation; Vietnam Service Medal; Humanitarian Medal. Chronological Outline of Navy Service: Staff Chaplain, Commander, Destroyer Squadron Three (Japan); Staff Chaplain, Naval Air Station (Corpus Christi, Texas); Staff Chaplain, Service Squadron Five (Pearl Harbor, Hawaii); Chief, Religious Service, Naval Regional Medical Center (Long Beach, California); Protestant Chaplain, MCAS (Cherry Point, North Carolina).

The Reverend Colon S. Jackson was called as Pastor of Erwin Baptist Church upon the resignation of Forest C. Maxwell. Mr. Jackson’s was a very effective, but brief ministry. During his ministry at Erwin, Reverend Jackson was making his decision to go into Military Service; with his special training, he felt called into this field. He believed that in this field he would have a great opportunity to better serve God, his country, and his fellow man, than in pastoral work. History has proven that he made the right decision, as he has had a wonderful career in the Naval Air Service as Staff Chaplain with the rank of Captain. He is presently (1983) stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina.
The Reverend Colon S. Jackson, Jr., Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, N. C., will lead in a one week Revival at the First Baptist Church, Kernersville, N. C. beginning with the morning service on Sunday, March 27.

Rev. Jackson is a native of Hertford, N. C.

He attended Chowan College, Wake Forest College, and Southeastern Theological Seminary.

He has led in Revivals in various cities in North Carolina and in the South. He also led a revival effort in France in 1965. "Rev. Jackson is highly commended to us," the pastor Rev. Amis Daniels, said.

"He is a sincere and forceful preacher of the Gospel and we invite you to hear every message," he added.

Services will be each night of the week at 7:30 p.m. There will be special music each night. The Pilgrim College Choir will sing on Tuesday night. Youth Choir, Choral Choir, Men's Chorus, solos, duets and trios will be featured on other nights.

Dr. Colon S. Jackson Jr. has been named an L.B. and Mabel Reavis scholar at Campbell University and received a scholarship to attend Pastors' School. He is the interim pastor at First Baptist Church in Clemmons.