Melissa Courtney.

Born again in September of 1959, he was called to preach the Gospel ministry in May of 1961. The Reverend Courtney's first ministry was to the Kentucky State Home for the Elderly, Lexington, Kentucky. He then served two years in mission work in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky establishing a Baptist Mission which has become the only Baptist church in the area.

Moving to Leland in 1970, the Reverend Courtney, as a member of the Elah Baptist Church, was licensed to preach the Gospel on February 10, 1971. During this period, we were without a regular pastor. He functioned as supply pastor until the Reverend William Herman Lewis was extended and accepted the call as pastor.

Later, the Reverend William B. Courtney was ordained by Cape Fear Baptist Church, Columbus County, North Carolina, and became the pastor of Cape Fear and then Prosper Baptist Church, Delco. Both churches being independent Baptist.

Presently, the Reverend Courtney is serving in the prison ministry on a will call basis and as a supply preacher.

FRANCIS WILLIAM GAINEY, JR.

The Reverend Francis William (Bill) Gainey, Jr. was born on September 30, 1940. A native of the Elah community, he is married to the former Ann Herring. They are the parents of Lisa Allison Gainey. His parents are F.W., Sr. and Lucile M. Gainey.

Licensed by Elah Baptist Church on April 5, 1961, one of his first deeds was the involvement in the early days of the work at the Calabash Mission, Shallotte, North Carolina. This mission is now the Calabash FBC. He has conducted supply work at the Pine View Baptist Church, the Wilmington Baptist Association.

A previous member of several of the local Baptist churches, the Reverend Gainey and his family are now members of Calvary Baptist Church, Wilmington Baptist Association.

GEORGE ELMER PRICE

The Reverend George Elmer Price was born on February 9, 1949, the son of Julian M. and Odessa M. Price. Married on September 29, 1968 to the former Ann Trunage, they are the parents of Anne Michelle, David George and Stephen Wayne Price.

A native of the Elah community and a life long member of Elah Baptist Church, the Reverend Price was licensed by the church to preach the Gospel on December 8, 1976. In addition, he was ordained as a deacon in 1975 and subsequently served as the Chairman of Deacons during 1975-76.

HOVIE WILKINS POPE, SR.

The Reverend Hovie Wilkins Pope, Sr. was licensed by Buies Creek Baptist Church in 1947. He has served Baptist churches at Oak Grove, Angier; Pleasant