The Rev. Gerald F. Fountain of Glen Royal Baptist Church at Wake Forest will be the guest evangelist for a revival to be conducted at Parrish Memorial Baptist Church on Route 3, Selma, April 10-17.

The services will be held at 8 o'clock each night.

The revival will begin with an Easter sunrise service at 6 o'clock in the new church building. Sunday School will follow at 10 o'clock. There will be no morning service.

Singing during the revival will be under the direction of Billy W. Braswell, it was announced by the pastor, the Rev. Lawrence D. Evans.

Mr. Fountain is a native of Empire, Ga. He was graduated from Empire High School and received the A.B. degree from Mercer University and the B. D. degree from Southeastern Theological Seminary.

He has pastored churches in Georgia and North Carolina.
PASTOR GIVEN NEW CAR—John B. Cole, chairman of the board of deacons of Glen Royal Baptist Church, holds the umbrella for the pastor, Rev. Jerald Fountain, who has just been presented the keys to the 1973 Carolina Blue Chevrolet behind him. The gift was an expression from members of "their love and appreciation to the pastor and his family" in recognition of his eleven years of service as pastor. Rev. Fountain in accepting the gift stated, "Some of the finest and most thoughtful Christians in the world are members of the Glen Royal Baptist Church. Words cannot express our feeling of love and appreciation to each one who made this gift possible."

—Bob Allen photo
Fountain retiring
Pastor says he still loves the people

By Chris Hottensen
Wake Weekly Staff Writer

When Jerald Fountain came to Glen Royal Baptist Church as pastor in 1962 he told the congregation he would not leave until he quit loving them.

July 30 Fountain will be leaving as pastor of the church, but he says his love for the people has not died.

"Well, I'm leaving them, but I still love them," Fountain said.

Fountain is retiring due to health problems related to a stroke he suffered in January. He has not carried out full minister's duties since Jan. 29.

Fountain came with his wife, Jan, and their daughter, Debbie, to Wake Forest in January of 1962 to attend Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Five months later he became pastor of Glen Royal. After graduating from the seminary the church asked him to stay, and he obliged.

In the 33 years since then Fountain has enjoyed interacting with and serving the people of Glen Royal and Wake Forest.

"I love people," Fountain said.

If Will Rogers could say, "I never met a man I didn't like," Fountain might say, "I never met a man I didn't want to help."

Fountain said his greatest joy in pastoring is assisting people.

"I love to work with people, meet people, visit people, help people in daily struggles and needs," Fountain said.

"I don't think you would find a half a dozen families here that somehow I didn't help in a family crisis in my 33 years here."

When asked why he was able to stay at Glen Royal for 33 years when the average stay for a minister today is two years, Fountain said, "I think the people," Fountain said. "The people (at Glen Royal) are very loving people. They will take you into their confidence and let you be a part of their larger family.

"The vast majority of my church has always supported me. There have been times when we have had some problems through the years. But the church managed to correct and overcome those problems. I felt God's call here, and I felt God's call all through the years."

Edwin Alford, a member of Glen Royal Baptist Church, praised Fountain for his dedication.

"He was the best pastor you could have," Alford said. "He was always doing everything for the church.

"I've never known him to ever neglect anything to do with the church. I hate to see him go."

Janet Blake, also a member of Glen Royal, also praised Fountain.

"There's not another one like him."

"He never had a time, night or day, when you needed him there for you."

Fountain baptized Blake when she was 13 and performed her marriage ceremony when she was 28.

"He never had a time, night or day, when you needed him that he wouldn't be there for you."
Jerald Fountain's last sermon will be Sunday.

When Fountain was a teenager he was faced with a decision—pursue his business interests or become a minister. "When I was a teenager I felt God's calling," Fountain said. "I would not accept that call for four and a half years.

"I just couldn't get it out of my mind. I wanted to go into the business world. I come from a building family. I set my goals on that. But God has a marvelous way of changing those goals when we seek to follow him."

Has Fountain ever had second thoughts about his decision?

"There have been surprises over the years," Fountain said. "But I've never regretted it for a moment."

Fountain said he received the call from God to be a minister when he was single but did not accept it until he was married. He says his wife has responded positively to her role as a pastor's wife.

"My wife has been a marvelous wife, pastor's wife," Fountain said. "I think she adjusted to it. I don't know if she was completely ready.

"She's done marvelous through the years as my wife."

Fountain did give up his interests in full-time business, but he was still able to operate a small rental business, putting into use his enjoyment of carpentry.

"I have bought, sold, rented, repaired some houses," Fountain said. "I rent some now.

"Some people like fishing and golfing. I like carpentry work, but I can no longer do that. I cannot hold a hammer in my hand."

Fountain's stroke affected the left side of his body and made speech and motor skills more difficult.

Fountain and his wife have three children—Debbie, Jerald Jr. and David. They also have four grandchildren.

Fountain says he has no immediate plans for his retirement except to stay in Wake Forest as a member of Glen Royal.