

Dec. 18, 1957

Baptist-N.C. Controversies and Episodes

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

# Deacon Wants Preacher Ordered to Keep Peace

By Jesse Poindexter

Staff Reporter

JONESVILLE, Dec. 17—A Baptist deacon asked tonight that his former pastor be placed under a continuing bond to keep the peace.

Garvey Cook, a member of the board of deacons of Island Ford Baptist Church, said the minister threatened him Oct. 22, offering to "break every bone in your body."

The minister, the Rev. Thomas E. Dyer, did not offer any evidence in a hearing before Magistrate Charles Wolfe in the

Town Hall here. The Rev. Mr. Dyer, who resigned his pastorate in October, is a native of Georgia. He was pastor at the Yadkin County church about two years.

Mr. Cook testified that he swore out a search warrant on information and belief that the pastor, who was moving to Rowan County, planned to take with him some of the church's loud-speaking equipment.

Deputy Sheriff F. E. Simmons said that he accompanied Sheriff Orville Brown when the search warrant was served. The deputy said some of the equipment was produced from the minister's car.

### Got Phone Call

Later that day, Mr. Cook said, the Rev. Mr. Dyer called him on the telephone and said:

"You low-down, stinking rascal, you. If I ever catch you out anywhere, I'll break every bone in your body."

Mr. Cook maintained that this threat put him in fear and, in fact, that he was still in fear of the tall, heavy-set Baptist minister.

More than 300 persons from two counties jammed the town hall for the hearing. Many of them are members of the Island Ford Baptist Church, which is located on Highway 67 a few miles east of Jonesville.

Mr. Cook's attorney, James Randleman of Jonesville, objected to having the hearing tonight when it was revealed that Sheriff Brown could not attend.

#### Former Pastorates

The Rev. Mr. Dyer's attorneys, W. M. Allen and J. L. Williams of Elkin, asked that the case be heard tonight in view of the long distance their client had been forced to drive.

The minister, father of five children, came to the Yadkin church from Central Baptist Church at Kannapolis. He now has a church near Salisbury in Rowan County.

Attorney Allen said the Rev. Mr. Dyer, in his two years at the Yadkin church, had held 72 revivals, received 378 professions of faith and baptized "more than 100 people."

The minister has been free on a \$500 appearance bond on a peace warrant sworn by Mr. Cook after the alleged threat over the telephone.

#### Motion Denied

At the conclusion of Mr. Cook's evidence, Mr. Allen moved for dismissal on grounds that the minister had not actually put Mr. Cook in fear of bodily harm. The magistrate denied the motion.

After attorneys on both sides had completed their arguments, Magistrate Wolfe asked these questions:

"Mr. Dyer, would you do Mr. Cook any harm?"

The minister answered, "Not in the least, your honor."

"Mr. Cook, do you still swear that you are in fear from bodily harm from this man?"

Mr. Cook replied, "I have no reason not to be."

The magistrate then said that he would "give you an answer next Saturday."

Then he noted that there would be no costs in the case in deference to the church membership, the minister and the deacon.

"Court adjourned," he said, and the overflow crowd went out to fight the traffic jam.

C. W. WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 18, 1957

SALEM JOY

## Green Creek Calls Pastor

The Green Creek Baptist Church has called the Rev. Thomas Dyar as their pastor to succeed the Rev. Robert Marchbanks who resigned to go to Holston Creek, Inman, S. C.

Mr. Dyar, who began his duties on December 30th comes to Green Creek from Garner Memorial Baptist Church, Anderson, S. C.

Thomasville Times  
Tryon Bulletin  
~~Washington Daily News~~  
Wilmington News  
Wilmington Star  
Wilmington Star-News  
Wilson Daily Times  
Winston-Salem Journal  
Winston-Salem Sentinel  
Winston-Salem-  
Journal-Sentinel

*Sandy Run*

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