Momentoes of their travels adorn the foyer of the home of Roger and Mary Ruth Crook. They have adopted the shepherd's crook as their family emblem. The two have been presented the Edwin T. Dahlberg Peace Award by the Board of National Ministries of the American Baptist Churches USA.

their meeting was

DESTINY

their service is

FATE

Roger and Mary Ruth Crook have received a national award for their work for peace and justice.
CROOKS

Church Peace and Justice Mission Number Two when they nominated the couple.

Mirmi Pritchard, a Peace and Justice Group member and longtime member of Southern Churchmen, told about the meeting of the Crooks and the Peace and Justice Mission Group in Raleigh. "We were the first Americans to accept a teaching job at Cary College and the Fellowship of North America and the Cuban Mission Group, sponsored by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America and the Alliance of Baptists."

"There sometimes is discomfort among Pullen members with issues like the Crooks and the Peace and Justice Mission Group. There has been, but there has never been a request for them to be expelled from the Community. Not only do Roger and Mary Ruth bring issues to the congregation, they offer suggestions on how to help."

In 1988 the couple traveled to Sweden for the International Baptist Peace Fellowship Conference and met residents of Cuba and the Soviet Union. "Their interest in Russia sparked further volunteering. We later volunteered Pullen's fellowship hall for a reception when the U.S. Council of Churches was looking for a place to welcome visiting Russian pastors. And they invited members of First Baptist Church in Manila to visit, beginning a Sister Church relationship between two congregations that continues 16 years later."

In the late 1980s, Mary Ruth and Roger made their first trip to Thailan, Georgia, with the Bridges Project for Peace program. "We were the first Americans allowed to stay in a private home," said Mary Ruth of the trip to the former Soviet Union. "Our group went at the invitation of the Georgia Peace Committee."

"We brought many surprises," said Roger. "We saw the Georgian's concept of peace as a cooperative trade agreement. On the second trip they found they were in the middle of the revolution which led to the establishment of Georgia's present government."

"Although the University of Georgia was closed because of the revolution, Roger taught some university teachers about religion in the United States and Mary Ruth taught writing and teaching to university students."

"In fact, Roger resigned the pastoral tasks he held for 13 years at Olivet Baptist Church near Raleigh over a racial incident. He seems to have had no problems with the Crooks wanted to attend church. But some members of the group were never a black person in church, not just a church member but also a church officer. The only time they would have one was in the early Civil Rights movement, the N.C. Council of Churches was host to the establishment of Georgia's present government."

"They are members of the Communion of Crosses of Nails and the Cuban Missions Group, support other mission groups, and have served on various church committees and councils. So busy are they that church members might think there is something wrong if Mary Ruth doesn't make an announcement at the weekly Wednesday night supers. She's also learned to carry a prayer in her pocket, just in case she's called on to pray."

"Roger has written several books - his first book was titled "No South or North" - as well as the history of Pullen's first students to be integrated into Pullen. And together they have produced volumes of memories for their grandchildren."

"I don't know anyone who has been more giving of their time," said long-time friend Hilda Highfill. "They are the epitome of hospitality."

"Her husband, Lawrence, met Roger when the men were students and then they married in June. Their involvement in church is just as active. With the Pullen Peace and Justice Mission Group, the couple has helped produce a Lenten meditation booklet, "Human Understanding to Help Carry Peace Through Art.""
ed a Sister Church relationship with a Baptist church in Cuba.

Destiny Steps in

Just how they met is a matter for debate. What they do agree on is that it was a whirlwind courtship. They met in the fall, became engaged in February and were married in June.

Roger hails from near Concord where his father was a librarian and taught at Jackson Training School. "When I came home after my first semester of college," he began, interrupted, as often happens, by his wife.

"With the wisdom of a college freshman," she said.

"Yes, with all the wisdom of a 17-year-old college freshman, I got after Dad about all the western novels that he had in the training school library - that it wasn't very good literature," Roger said. "He listened to everything I had to say and then he said, 'You know, I know it's not very good literature, it's not great stuff, but, in these novels, good is good and bad is bad and there's no problem in telling the difference, and that's the kind these boys need.'"

That clarity between what is good and what is not stuck with Roger through his undergraduate years at Mars Hill Junior and Wake Forest colleges, and during his seminary training. Early lessons also influenced Mary Ruth. She was born and raised in Kissimmee, in central Florida. Her father ran the Social Security office and her mother was a "very talented woman" in the days before women were liberated.

"Mother always told us she was preparing us for life," Mary Ruth said of the family's three girls. "When we married or graduated from college, we were on our own. She wanted us to become independent women, capable of taking care of ourselves."

Well prepared for adulthood, Mary Ruth headed to Florida State College for Women (now Florida State University) where she majored in speech and English. Influenced by the young, female campus student minister, and by her own work with the Baptist Student Union, she decided she'd

black and white students learn from one another. Among them was the former president of the student body of West Cary, which had been the black school.

Not knowing of his previous leadership role, but realizing he was bright and intelligent, she chided him about not doing his homework.

"He explained to me, 'Mrs. Crook, I have to go to meetings every night,' I said, 'Meetings, what kind of meetings?' and he said, 'Meetings of the black students. I have to keep them calm. Isn't that something?'

Those black students, she explained, had been sent to a new high school, a white high school, and had lost all their student government officers. 'They weren't anybody on our campus.'

Social action's worries

With the couple's work for racial equality came embarrassing moments, such as the time they were selected Raleigh Family of the Year - the white family of the year.

"The J.D. Lewis family was with him," said James.

The student went out to talk to the protesters.

"They saw him coming in full battle dress and left," James said with a laugh.

They also never marched in civil rights protests, but did allow their names to be included in newspaper ads supporting civil rights activities.

In fact, Roger resigned the pastorate he held for 13 years at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church near Raleigh over a racial incident. It seems a student from Ghana was staying with the Crooks and wanted to attend church. But some members declared there had never been a black person in their church, not even as an employee, and they wouldn't have one then.

The Pullen Years

From Mt. Olivet they returned to Pullen. The family's brand of social activism had always fit well with that of pastors E. McNeil Potat and W.K. Flibler, both of whom used pulpit calls to spur social action. Under the couple's leadership, church members sponsored various church committees and councils. So busy are they that church members believe there is something wrong if Mary Ruth doesn't make an announcement at the weekly Wednesday night supper. She's also learned to carry a prayer in her pocket, just in case she's called on to pray.

Roger has written several books - his first in 1939 on race relations was titled "No South or North" - as well as the history of Pullen's first 100 years and an update. And together they have produced volumes of memorabili for their sons and their families.

That, says Prichard, who was student minister at Morefith College when Roger taught religion, is characteristic of the couple's work over the years. "They have always worked as a team, offering their various competencies and skill together."
Baptists Set Special Services

Special services will be held at both 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at the First Baptist Church of Durham.

Dr. Helen G. Edmonds will be guest speaker for First Baptist Church of Durham at 11 a.m. services.

Guest soloist will be Margaret Kennedy Goodwin, and also taking part in the service of worship will be the Rev. Tailing Li. This service will be a special observance of Race Relations Day, an emphasis on this particular day throughout churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Edmonds is professor of history and former dean of the graduate school of N.C. Central University. She is currently on the Durham United Fund's board of directors, a member of the Durham Community Planning Council, a member of the Board of Directors of the College Preparatory Center Project, the Southern Fellowship Fund, Inc., and is on the Public Health Service's National Advisory Council on Regional Programs.

She has written a number of monographs and articles, and is author of the book "The Negro and Fusion Politics in North Carolina." She co-authored "Appropriate Directions for the Modern College in the Challenging New Educational Era."

Mrs. Goodwin is also a Durham resident and a member of the white Rock Baptist Church.

Li is a native of China, and is currently a candidate for the Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest.

Dr. Roger H. Crook will be guest speaker at the 7:30 p.m. service.

He will present the first of three discussions which he will bring in the next three weeks on the general subject of "Love, Courtship and Marriage."

His subject tomorrow evening will be "Youth Moving Into an Adult World." The discussions are especially for teen-agers and parents. Each evening, following the services, there will be special discussions — some for parents only, and some for the teen-agers only.

Dr. Crook is professor and chairman of the department of religion at Meredith College in Raleigh. He was educated at Mars Hill College, Wake Forest University, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he received his Th. D. degree. He has also done post-doctoral work at Duke University and at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Crook served as assistant professor at Limestone College in Gaffney, S.C., and has served numerous churches as pastor or as an interim pastor. He is a frequent writer of Sunday School materials for Southern Baptists and for N.C. Baptists.

He has written several articles and pamphlets on "family life" for the N.C. State University Agricultural Extension Service, and has taught summer sessions at Shaw University.

Dr. Crook Will Be Homecoming Speaker Sunday

Dr. Roger H. Crook, chairman of the Department of Religion of Meredith College, will speak at the 11:00 a.m. Annual Home Coming Service Sunday, October 3, at the Angier Baptist Church.

Monday evening at 7:30 Dr. Crook will speak on the "Religion In the Home; Tuesday at the same hour "Discipline In the Home;" and Wednesday "The Three Generations."


He is a frequent writer of Sunday school materials for the Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Convention and often contributes Sunday school lessons for the N. C. Baptist newspaper "The Biblical Recorder."

Dr. Crook has written several other articles and pamphlets on Family Life for the N. C. State University Agricultural Extension Service.

The public is welcome.
Dr. Roger Crook Will Be Guest Preacher At First Baptist Church

Dr. Roger Crook, professor of Religion at Meredith College in Raleigh, will be the guest preacher at the Baptist Church in Southern Pines during four special Easter services, April 12-14, as announced by the Reverend John Stone, pastor.

The services will begin Good Friday evening, April 12, at 7:30 P.M., and continue Saturday evening at 7:30 P.M., Easter Sunday morning, 11:00 A.M. and Easter Sunday evening 7:30 P.M.

Another special feature of these Easter services will be special music by three guest choirs and the host Baptist Adult choir on the following schedule:

- Friday evening, Senior Choir, West Southern Pines Missionary Baptist Church.
- Saturday evening, Adult Choir, East Southern Pines Methodist Church.
- Sunday morning, Adult Choir, First Baptist Church, East Southern Pines.
- Sunday evening, Samracand Girls Choir, Samracand Manor.

On Friday and Saturday evenings respectively, The Rev...
Dr. Crook will preach at each service. Dr. Crook was born in Concord, N. C., in 1921. He is married to the former Mary Ruth Weaver, and they have six sons. The Crooks live at 5308 West Lakeside Drive, Raleigh.

Dr. Crook was educated at Mars Hill College, Wake Forest College, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, earning the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology degrees.

He joined the Meredith faculty in 1949 as associate professor, Department of Religion, and was promoted to full professorship in 1960. During this same period he also served as full-time Pastor of Raleigh's Mount Olivet Baptist Church.


He is a frequent writer of Biblical interpretation for the Baptist Sunday School and often contributes Sunday School Lessons for The Biblical Recorder, the N. C. Baptist newspaper.

It is a fortunate opportunity for this community to hear Dr. Crook during these Easter services.
Christian Family Life Conference Set
At Fuquay Springs Baptist Church

A Christian Family Life Conference will be held at the Fuquay Springs Baptist Church Sunday through Thursday of next week. Opportunities will be provided for discussion of problems faced by the modern Christian family in a space age. The Conference will be led by Dr. Roger Crook, professor of Christian Ethics at Meredith College. Dr. Crook will be assisted by the Rev. Don Niswonger, Associate Minister and Minister to Youth of the First Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Dr. Crook has been a Professor at Meredith in the Department of Religion since 1949. He is married to the former Mary Ruth Weaver and they are the parents of six boys ranging in age from 17 to 8. He is the author of several books on family life and this past summer served as Family Relations Specialist in Agriculture Extension at the University of North Carolina in Raleigh.

The Rev. Mr. Niswonger is married to the former Eva Mae Early and they have two children, 3 years and 6 months. He has been the pastor of churches in Missouri, Texas and North Carolina. In February of this year he was selected to lead a group discussing friendship, dating, courtship, sex and interfaith marriage at a statewide Family Life Conference in Greensboro.

The conference will open with a message at the morning worship service by the pastor of the church, "The Church and The Home: Partners or Competitors." Dr. Crook's subject Sunday evening at 7:30 will be "Times Have Changed" and the Rev. Mr. Niswonger's topic will be "In The Meantime...."

Discussion groups will meet at 7:00 each evening Monday through Thursday to consider problems in family living.

At 7:45 each evening the various groups will come together to hear Dr. Crook speak on the following topics:

Monday: "Authority or Organization:" Who's Boss"
Tuesday: "Communication: In one Ear and Out the Other."
Wednesday: "Sex: Gratification or Expression"
Thursday: "Can Any Home Be Christian?"

The Rev. Mr. Niswonger will meet each evening with senior high (grades 10-12) and unmarried young people to discuss "Love, Courtship, and Marriage." Provision has been made for every member of the family, nursery to senior adult.
Dr. Roger Crook of Raleigh began his term as interim pastor of West Oxford Baptist Church last night at the Wednesday evening service. Crook, a religion professor at Meredith College, was chosen by the congregation of West Oxford Baptist Church this past Sunday. As interim pastor, Crook will carry out the duties of pastor until the Pulpit Committee, headed by Walter Hughes, finds a permanent pastor for the church.

The vacancy resulted when the former pastor, Rev. Harvey Beeler, departed in August for a new position in Tennessee. This is the second time that Crook has served as interim pastor for the church. He served the church before Beeler became pastor several years ago.

Crook was chosen over Dr. Richard Spencer, an assistant professor at Southeastern Seminary. Both were heard at the church during the month of September.

Crook will be available for church members on Wednesdays and Sundays when he will be in Oxford, as well as in any emergency.
PREACHES Here — Dr. Roger Crook, of Meredith College in Raleigh, will be preaching here at First Baptist Church, 200 E. New York Ave., Sunday, April 4, 11 a.m., and each evening at 7:30 p.m. through Wednesday, April 7. Dr. Crook's topics will be focused upon issues of youth, marriage, and family. He will also lead two open discussion seminars, the first at 3 p.m. Sunday, and the second at 8:30 p.m. Monday. Dr. Crook has been teaching the Bible and Christian Ethics at Meredith College since 1949, and since 1968 he has been Chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Meredith. Pastor John Stone invites the public to attend.
Interim Pastor Named by Church
Dr. Roger H. Crook of Faculty of Meredith College Begins Duties

Dr. Roger H. Crook, a member of the Meredith College faculty, is to serve as interim pastor of West Oxford Baptist Church, according to William Pinch, chairman of the pulpit committee.

Dr. Crook, a native of Concord, earned his doctorate in theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and was on the Limestone College faculty prior to his coming to Meredith in 1949. He has written several books and a variety of Sunday School materials, and has served as interim pastor of a number of churches and as full-time pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church, Raleigh, for several years.

A pulpit committee from West Oxford is in the process of selecting a replacement for the Rev. Donald Price, who resigned several weeks ago.