He ‘Clears It With Headquarters’ First

BY HARVEY HARRIS
Daily News Staff Writer

His 30 years at the corner of East Market and Clinton streets have been "inspiring, meaningful and thrilling," says Dr. Charles W. Anderson Sr., pastor of Greensboro's United Institutional Baptist Church.

The church is observing today the 25th anniversary of Dr. Anderson's pastorate there and its 80th anniversary.

He jokes about coming to the church "on the backs of the Depression," explaining, "On my first Sunday as pastor, we got $18 in the offering and I recall of the church's buildings even still for my services."

MEMORIES OF many hardships bring a smile. Dr. Anderson says, "We've come through hardships and never had much money, but our work has been rewarding."

His church came into being when two Market Street churches, East Market Street Baptist Church and Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, merged. The united church's first pastor, the late Rev. E. G. Melton, served them a year and a half years. Then the church was without a pastor for 13 months before Dr. Anderson became its minister in 1939.

"There was a real lack for unity after the churches merged," says Dr. Anderson. "Troublemakers from both churches tried to run things for years, but — by then I became minister — Rev. Melton had gone there were most of the rough stuff, started the church toward real unity, and only a few tariffs were left."

He HAS BEEN minister in all of the church's buildings, and says, "We're always growing and always in a building campaign," and credits the church's growth to "loyal, dedicated church members and their leadership."

He married the former Lois Anna Jones of New York City six months after becoming pastor of the Greensboro church and says she has been a "real moving force" in the church's life ever since.

Mrs. Anderson is in charge of the church's unique weekly early morning service, known as the "Hour Of Power," that has been meeting at 7:27 a.m. every Sunday since 1926. The minister describes these services as "informal get-togethers with people from throughout the community, people of many faiths and backgrounds, who gain emotional, mental and spiritual understanding for the struggles of life in a meaningful spiritual fellowship."

"WE DON'T COUNT numbers; we number those that count," says Dr. Anderson. The church had about 200 members when he came and he estimates that it has "added about 3,000 in the 36 years."

Some of his fondest memories are of church members "sailing through ice, plucking

Through snow" to worship and support the church. He has been pastor in three buildings, starting with a white frame structure, and is helping the church plan for a chapel and religious education building that will soon be added.

The busy pastor, who looks as if he could play middle guard for the Green Bay Packers, considers prayer life important. "Our church's ministry concentrates on dynamic, meaningful Christianity," he says.

"WE NEVER DO anything without undergirding it with prayer; we never do anything without first clearing it with headquarters," says the minister, setting a forceful nod emphasizing his faith in prayer.

He begins, with a broad grin e' joyful in accomplishment, as he recounts the community missions involvement of his church. "We are concerned," he says, "with the whole person."

Dr. and Mrs. Anderson are parents of two sons: 18-year-old Charles W. Anderson Jr., a second minister — studying to follow in his father's footsteps at Shaw University; and Norman Bruce Anderson, 14-year-old Lincoln Junior High student who sings in the church's youth choir and helps the church's road troop, but is mostly "all boy" and whose "main interest is football."
The Reverend Dr. Charles W. Anderson, Jr. Passes

Special to the Peacemaker by Richard E. Moore

The Rev. Dr. Lois Anderson, best summed up the life of her late husband, Dr. Charles W. Anderson, Jr.

"He lived preaching. He breathed it. He slept it, walked with it. It was his work, his life. He was preaching when he got ill. He was associated with many other organizations, but the church was his life."

Anderson, the venerable pastor of East Market Street’s United Institutional Baptist Church, was funeralized on Wednesday, September 14 from his church. He passed on Friday, September 9 in the Starmount Villa Nursing Home after a long illness.

There is no doubt what Anderson’s calling was, and he had a zeal for that calling for the 49 years he pastored the Greensboro church, longer than any current pastor.

He told a reporter in an interview: “I always wanted to enter the ministry; there was never a time when I didn’t want to be a minister. If I had my life to live over again, I couldn’t ask for a better life.”

Much honored during his ministry, Anderson was one of the most outstanding black preachers in America. The black preachers referred to him as “a minister’s minister.”

“Charles Anderson loved preaching and he loved preachers,” said Dr. Howard A. Chubb, minister of Providence Baptist Church and one of Anderson’s neighbors. “He was a man with a remarkably sharp mind, and a master of Baptist policy. He knew all of the great preachers of our denomination and was respected by all of them.”

Another colleague, Dr. Otis Hairston, pastor of Greensboro’s Shiloh Baptist Church, remembered the involvement of Anderson in the civil rights demonstrations of the 1960s. He spearheaded efforts of the churches to hold mass meetings to raise funds for the demonstrations.

“He was the senior minister of this area,” said Hairston, “and his church was widely attended over the years by the college students. He was widely known in national Baptist circles, and he preached at the National Baptist Convention.”

Anderson assumed the pastorate of the United Institutional Baptist Church in 1939, when it was a tiny rundown white frame building on East Market Street, with a congregation of about 60 and an annual budget of $3,000. The church’s budget today is more than $200,000, 4,000 persons joined the church under Anderson. He led the congregation in the building of a $300,000 sanctuary in 1952 and a $300,000 educational annex in 1975.

He was the first black elected president of the Greensboro Ministerial Fellowship, a bi-racial group. He served on the Executive Committee of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the Lost Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention and the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention USA.

He formerly pastored the Gethsemane Baptist Church in Greensboro, and held pastorates in Belmont, Dallas and Asheboro, North Carolina.

He was a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Masons, the Elks, the Shriners and the Odd Fellows. Anderson, a native of Anderson, S.C., earned the B.A. degree from Johnson C. Smith University and studied theology at the Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta. He studied law at North Carolina Central University. He traveled in 13 foreign countries. He was awarded honorary doctorates from Shaw University and Morris College.

He is survived by his wife, the Rev. Dr. Lois Anna Jones, co-pastor of Anderson’s church, two sons, the Rev. Charles W. Anderson, Jr., Greensboro, and Dr. Norman Bruce Anderson, a member of the faculty at Duke University.