

Rev. Templeton Celebrates Anniversary At Hopewell

On January 22, 1944, Hopewell Baptist Church of Davidson issued a call to the Rev. R. R. Templeton to be pastor of the church. For his first sermon he used the latter part of Genesis 24:27, which reads, "I being in the way". There were 27 persons in the congregation to hear his first sermon. On January 17, the third Sunday of this month, Mr. Templeton celebrated his 21st anniversary as minister of Hopewell Baptist Church. Six of the original 27, which heard his first message, were present in the congregation Sunday.

When Mr. Templeton came to Hopewell, there were six deacons. All of these first officers have departed. Some have moved to other areas. But eight deacons now serve the church.

During his ministry at Hopewell, Mr. Templeton has performed the wedding ceremony for 54 couples. The first wedding vows he heard were from Miss Ila Poston and Edgar Black at the home of Mr. D. D. Covington in Davidson. The first couple married in the church by Mr. Templeton were Miss Evelyn Templeton and Elmer Howard.

The youngest children in the church membership when Mr. Templeton began his ministry were Brenda Karriker and Melvin Nance. They were eight and a half months old. The first children to be born into the congregation during his service at Hopewell were Tony Kennerly, Leonard Nance and Elaine Woods. Late in November, Mr. Templeton was officiating minister when Elaine was married.

When Mr. Templeton began his work at Hopewell there were fifty members on the church roll. During his 21 years' service, he has baptised 240 and has seen the church membership grow to 342. Many of the church's members have died during the past twenty years, and Mr. Templeton has officiated at funeral rites for almost 35 of the Hopewell flock.

In 1948 the congregation be-

gan to build a new church with all members helping the new sanctuary was erected and paid for. In 1958 a fellowship building was constructed, and in 1962 the congregation purchased a parsonage. In the summer of 1964, a playground area was cleared for recreational activities. Both the young people and adults enjoy the softball games held each summer.

Said one member of Hopewell, "We are thankful for the ministry of Rev. Templeton during these 21 years. He has led us in the spirit of Christ, and because of him we feel we are better servants of our Lord."

Danbury Reporter
Davidson: Gazette
Denton: Davidson Record
Dunn Dispatch
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