

J. Carrol Trotter

Dr. J. Carroll Trotter was another Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary professor who served First Baptist Mebane as interim pastor.

A native of Prattville, Alabama, where he was born December 20, 1917, Trotter grew up in Birmingham, Alabama. His wife, the former Ruth Mims Oliver, is also from Birmingham. The couple have two children.

Trotter was educated at Samford University in Birmingham (B.A. 1943) and at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky (Th.M., 1946; Th.D., 1951).

After serving as pastor of churches in Kentucky and Alabama, Trotter came to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest as Professor of Preaching and Speech in 1953. He held this position until his retirement in 1983, at which time he became Emeritus Professor of Preaching and Speech.

Dr. Trotter recently told the writer that he had been interim pastor of literally dozens of churches in North Carolina and Virginia during his career at the seminary, including nearly a year with First Baptist Church Mebane. He and his wife still reside in Wake Forest.

STATE N. C.**BAPTIST BIOGRAPHY DATA FORM**

Please read carefully the *Instruction Sheet* and then list the appropriate information as it directs.

1. NAME Trotter Julius Carroll, Jr.
(Last) (First) (Second)

Give full names. For a married woman please put maiden name in parentheses.

[EXAMPLE: Cole, Mary Ann (Smith).]

2. BIRTH Prattville Autauga Alabama 12/20/1917
(Place) (County) (State) (Date)

DEATH _____

3. PARENTS Julius Carroll Trotter, Sr., and Thomas Ella (Fallon) Trotter
[EXAMPLE: Alec Joe Doaks and Lucy Mae (Brown) Doaks]
Father's occupation Barber (Retired) Mother's occupation Housewife (Deceased)

4. BROTHERS (2) List full names and year of birth _____
(Living or deceased) Number
Thomas Fallon Trotter January 27, 1920
Donald Kirby Trotter June 2, 1929

5. SISTERS (0) List full names and year of birth _____
(Living or deceased) Number

6. CHILDHOOD RESIDENCE: (Please list each residence of 3 years duration or more, up to the time of the 18th birthday)

Type of Community	Post Office	County	State	Dates
Rural (R); town under 2500 pop. (T); city 2500 or more pop. (C). Check one.				
R ☐ T ☒ C ☐	<u>Prattville</u>	<u>Autauga</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>1917 - 1924</u>
R ☐ T ☐ C ☒	<u>Birmingham</u>	<u>Jefferson</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>1924 - 1935</u>
R ☐ T ☐ C ☐	_____	_____	_____	_____
R ☐ T ☐ C ☐	_____	_____	_____	_____

7. EDUCATION:

Grammar school: Graduate? Yes (☒) No () Year graduated 1930

High school: Graduate? Yes (☒) No () Year graduated 1934

School attended: West End High School Birmingham Alabama
(Name) (Place) (State)

(Whether graduate or not; if more than one was attended, show the last one.)

College: Years attended: None () One () 2-3 () Graduate (☒)

Whether graduated or not, list college(s) attended: (EXAMPLE: 1935-'38)

(Name)	(Place)	(State)	(Years attended)	(Degree)
<u>Samford University</u>	<u>Birmingham</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>1934-'43</u>	<u>A. B.</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Graduate-level: List college(s), seminary(ies), etc. attended; *earned degrees*

(Name)	(Place)	(State)	(Years attended)	(Degree)
<u>Southern Bapt. Seminary</u>	<u>Louisville</u>	<u>Ky.</u>	<u>1943-'51</u>	<u>Th.M., Th.D.</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

8. SPECIAL AWARDS OR RECOGNITION RECEIVED: (Honorary degrees, such as: D.D., Howard College, 1948; citations, such as: *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*, 1939; honorary positions, such as: "Man of the Year"—Pryor, Okla., 1943; etc.) Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, 1943

Citizenship Award, Wake Forest, N. C., 1973

9. MARITAL INFORMATION:

Spouse	Birthdate of Spouse	Place of Marriage (Town and State)	Date of Marriage
(1) Ruth Mims (Oliver) Trotter	3/14/1919	Birmingham, Ala.	8/27/42
(2)			

Number of children (2). List their full names and birthdates: (an example of a married daughter would be: Mrs. John Alan (Mary Lou) Ross, 3-7-1918)

Mrs. Thomas Welborn (Betty Ann) Bouldin, 2-26-1948

John Carroll Trotter, Jr. 4-16-1952

10. VOCATIONAL HISTORY (List all vocations, occupations, trades, or professions engaged in for two or more years) Pastor of Baptist Churches, 1942-1955

Faculty Member (Prof. of Preaching and Speech), Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1955 -

11. RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE:

Conversion 1929 11 Baptism 1929 Central Park Birmingham, Ala.
(Date) (Age) (Date) (Church) (Location of Church)

List any church, other than Baptist, with which formerly affiliated

Ordained as: Minister (X) Deacon () Other

9-21-41 West End Baptist Church Birmingham Alabama
(Date ordained) (Church) (Place) (State)

12. LOCAL CHURCH ACTIVITY, *UNSALARIED* (Place the number of years service, in the space provided, for each office ever held.)

Gen. Supt., Director, President	Dept. Supt., Director, Circle Chm.	Teacher, Counselor, Sponsor, Leader	List below other offices or service, such as: Sec., Assoc. Supt., etc.	Other Offices (give number of years service)
				Deacon <u>3</u> Ch. Treas. <u> </u>
				Trustee <u> </u> Ch. Library <u> </u>
				Usher <u> </u> Ch. Recreation <u> </u>
				Ch. Clerk <u> </u> Choir Mem. <u>2</u>
				Other <u> </u> Choir Direc. <u> </u>
				Ch. Committee Chm. <u>5</u>
				List completed Study Course diplomas (Indicate related organizations, such as: S.S., T.U., etc.) <u> </u>
				<u> </u>
				<u> </u>
				<u> </u>
S.S. <u> </u>		<u>3</u>		
T.U. <u> </u>				
V.B.S. <u> </u>				
Broth. <u> </u>				
W.M.U. <u> </u>				

13. DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE, *UNSALARIED*. (Please list positions held in Baptist associations, conventions (state or Southern), national and world-wide organizations, such as; moderator, president, clerk, trustee, board, commission or committee members; etc.)

Example: S.S. Superintendent	Bethel Association	Kentucky	1942-1944
(Position)	(Organization, board, agency, etc.)	(State)	(Date)
Assistant Moderator	Franklin Association	Kentucky	1946, 47, 49
Moderator	Franklin Association	Kentucky	1950
Chmn., Coop. Program Comm.	Bigbee Association	Alabama	1951
Moderator	Clarke County Association	Alabama	1954

14. TO BE FILLED OUT ONLY BY THOSE WHO ARE, OR HAVE BEEN, IN SALARIED CHURCH-RELATED VOCATIONS. (Including pastors, denominational workers, missionaries, ministers of education and music, church secretaries, faculty members or employees of Baptist institutions, agencies, etc.)

TYPE AND LENGTH OF SERVICE: List all positions of such service with one or more years of duration; check F (full-time) or P (part-time). Examples:

(Position)	(Church, agency, area, institution, place of service)	(Date of service)
F ☐ P ☒ 1. pastor	County Line Baptist Church, Turkey Creek, La.	1925-1929
F ☒ P ☐ 2. missionary	Ogbomosho, Nigeria, W. Africa	1930-1952
F ☒ P ☐ Pastor	Giles Memorial Bapt. Ch., B'Ham, Ala.	1941-1943
F ☒ P ☐ Pastor	Brodhead Baptist Church, Brodhead, Ky.	1943-1945
F ☒ P ☐ Pastor	Forks of Elkhorn Bapt. Ch., Duckers, Ky.	1945-1951
F ☒ P ☐ Pastor	Eutaw Baptist Church Eutaw, Alabama	1951-1953
F ☒ P ☐ Pastor	Thomasville Bapt. Ch., Thomasville, Ala.	1953-1955
F ☒ P ☐ Faculty Member	Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, NC	1955-

15. OTHER TYPES OF RELIGIOUS SERVICE: (In associations, assemblies, colleges, conventions (state or Southern), national or world-wide meetings, such as: speaker, music director, committee chairman, etc.)

(Position)	(Place of Service)	(Date of Service)
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16. AUTHORSHIP (Include books, booklets, lesson courses or curriculum material, and tracts) (Book, item, etc.) (Publisher) (Date published)

17. CLUB OR GROUP MEMBERSHIP: (Service organizations, fraternal, P.T.A., Civic, etc.) List important positions of leadership held Alpha Phi Omega; Lambda Chi Alpha; Masons; Rotary (President).

18. HOBBIES AND LEISURE INTERESTS:

Favorite Hunting and shooting Others Fishing; woodworking; reading.

19. PUBLIC SERVICE: (Military, educational, political, etc. not previously listed)

Member, Board of Commissioners, Town of Wake Forest, NC, 1969-1973

Chairman, Recreation Commission, " " " " 1968-1974

The information for items #1-19 has been filled in by J. Carroll Trotter, Jr.

Mailing address P. O. Box 283, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Sources used in compiling the information are: (Example: personal knowledge; minutes, Calvary Baptist Church, Wisner, La.; Court Records, Copiah County, Miss.; etc.)

Interim Pastor Is Named At First Baptist

Dr. J. C. Trotter Of Wake Forest Accepts Position

First Baptist church, in a called conference Sunday, voted to extend a call to Dr. J. Carroll Trotter to serve as interim pastor.

He will serve the post left vacant by the retirement of Dr. W. W. Leathers, Jr., whose 19-year pastorate there ended in August.

To begin his ministry immediately, he will be preaching two services each Sunday and will be available during the week for special services and other needs of the congregation.

Dr. Trotter is a native of Alabama and a graduate of Samford University. He completed his theological education at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Theology. He currently serves on the faculty of Southeastern Seminary as Professor of Preaching and Speech, and will continue his teaching duties during his ministry here. Dr. and Mrs. Trotter live in Wake Forest and have two children.

Greenville Reflector
Henderson Dispatch

Hendersonville: Times-News
Hickory Daily Record
High Point Enterprise
Jacksonville Daily News
Kannapolis Independent
Kinston Free Press
Lenoir News Topic
Lexington Dispatch
Lumberton: Robesonian
Morganton News-Herald
New Bern: Sun-Journal
Raleigh: News & Observer
Raleigh Times
Reidsville Review
Rockingham:
Richmond Co. Journal

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20. DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERIZATION (Please read special instruction sheet carefully and sample biographies before proceeding.)

Name of person writing the above characterization _____

P. O. Address _____

Return to:

Name _____

P. O. Address _____

Community Makers

GENTLEMAN PROFESSOR & PASTOR

Dr. J. Carroll Trotter settles in as a professor and rides the circuit as an interim pastor

By Einar Bohlin
Wake Weekly Special Writer

Forty-five seconds. That's how long it takes to get the feeling that Carroll Trotter thinks of you as a longtime friend. Ever the courtly and gracious host, his soothing manner and trained voice quickly remind you of the qualities of the quintessential southern gentleman, and the reasons why those qualities are so admired.

Even so, odds are that when you meet Carroll Trotter, he's just been fired. Again.

"John Wooten, one of my friends from Rotary, tells me I'm the most dismissed preacher he's ever known," Trotter said.

On the other hand, there are church congregations, from Winston-Salem to Hamlet, from local churches (Forestville, Pearce, a few in Raleigh) to southern Virginia, more than 55 churches, that can report they've had the pleasure of having Carroll Trotter as their interim pastor.

"When I came to the seminary in 1955, it was understood that I could serve as an interim pastor. An interim pastor serves while the congregation conducts the search for a new permanent pastor."

Virginia Tull, next-door neighbor and friend for 40 years, says that Carroll Trotter is popular as an interim pastor. "Even more a mark of the man is that he is so well-liked by people who are not connected with the seminary or members of the church," Tull said.

Early years

Dealing with changing surroundings is old stuff for a man who attended almost a dozen schools through high school while growing up in Birmingham, Alabama.

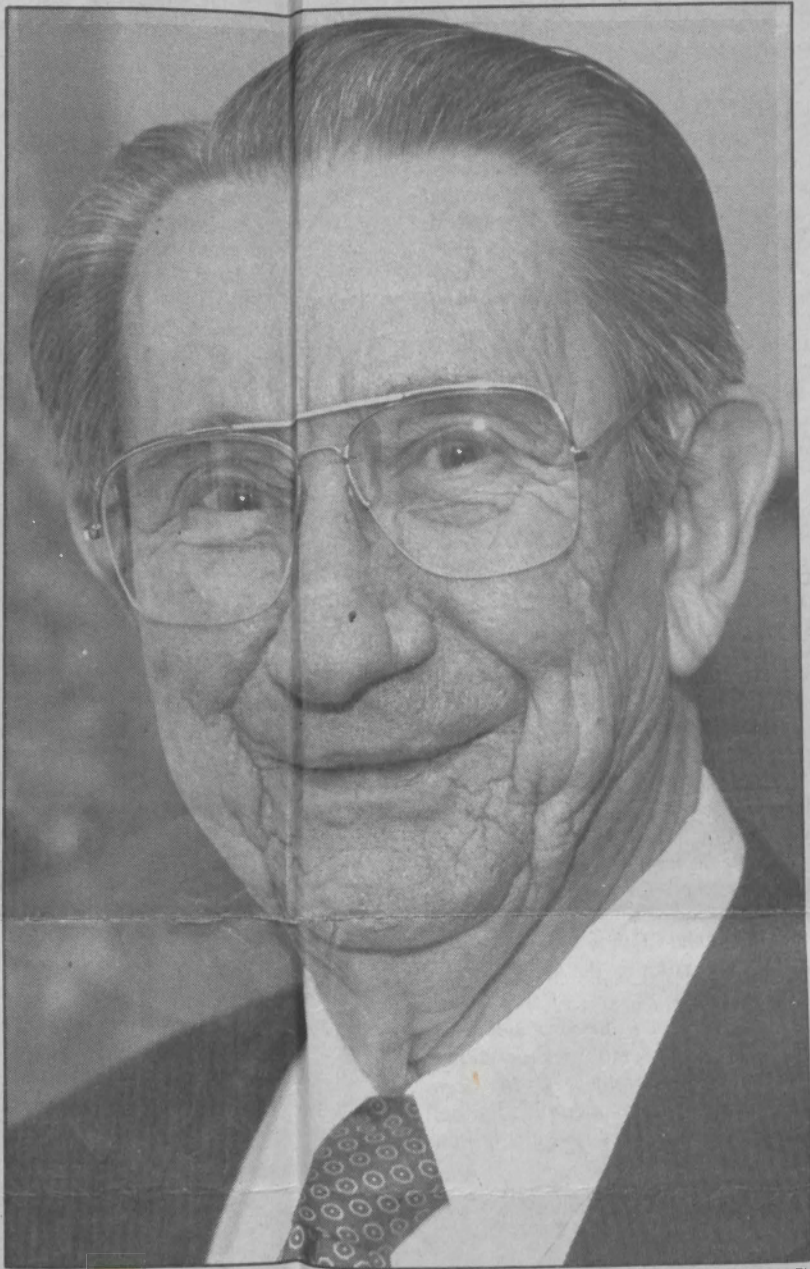
"My dad, J. C. Trotter, Sr., grew up as an orphan, so he was on the tightfisted side. We changed houses whenever he found a better house for the same rent, or a house that was just as good as the one we were in for less rent."

Trotter's father was a barber. His mother, Ella Fallon Trotter, was a milliner for a time, then devoted herself to her family. Carroll is the oldest of three brothers: Thomas Fallon Trotter lives in Mobile, Alabama, and Donald K. Trotter in Sulphur, Louisiana.

Trotter graduated from high school in 1934, the middle of the Great Depression.

"We knew times were tough, but we always had enough food. When I graduated from high school, mama took me down to one of the fancy department stores in Birmingham. She bought me a suit for \$9.98 in the bargain basement."

After high school, he began his college studies as a liberal arts



The Wake Weekly/JIMMY ALLEN

Dr. Carroll Trotter is a veteran at helping churches while they search for a pastor.

major at Howard College, now Samford University, in Birmingham. In Trotter's first year, one of his younger brothers became ill, and his dad moved the family to a small farm in central Alabama to get the boy away from the grime of industrial Birmingham. Carroll Jr. had to drop out of school.

"I had to move with them. I needed the support. Dad had a small farm — peaches, strawberries, some cotton and corn — just a truck farm. When the house burned down in 1937, he moved us back to the city and went back to barbering."

"I worked in a grocery store and a veneer mill, did garment work in overalls and pants factories, and sold shoes and vacuum cleaners."

"I did embarrass myself one day in the grocery store. The store was a corner A&P Tea Company store on a hill. There was a church across the street, and one day a funeral coach pulled up in front of the church. The driver got out and went into the church. I noticed the coach start rolling down the hill. I charged out, jerked the door open, and got it stopped. When I went

back in the store, I thought the only other person in the store was the fellow that I worked with. I was young and pretty excited, and I told the fellow that I got that SOB stopped. Just then a lady stood up behind one of the rows of shelves. All I could do was say excuse me and go back to work."

Family

Trotter met his wife, the late Ruth Oliver Trotter, when she was in 1st grade and he was 9 years old. They began dating in 1939, and were married in 1942. They raised two children: Betty Ann Trotter, married to Dr. Thomas W. Bouldin, a neuropathologist at UNC Hospital, and Dr. John Carroll, married to Debbie Branch Trotter. John practices family medicine in Monroe. There are three grandchildren: Elizabeth Jane and Katherine Ann Bouldin, 15 and 10, and Ross Whitfield ("Whit") Trotter, 7.

Led to the ministry

From the time he had to drop out of Howard College, it would be five years before Trotter resumed his studies.

"I had no set goal until I was 22.

It was my wife's father, who taught me in Sunday School, another Sunday School teacher, and my pastor — they all helped me to realize that I had a calling to be a preacher. Working in the factories and as a salesman also had something to do with my decision."

Licensed in the ministry in 1939, Carroll Trotter was ordained in 1941, three months before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"In a Southern Baptist congregation, if a man feels he's been led to the ministry, he testifies before his local church. The local church licenses, then he is qualified to preach and perform ordinances such as Baptism and the Lord's Supper. You become ordained after training, and then you have the full imprimatur of the church, recognized by the state, able to perform marriages and carry out the other duties of a minister. The ministry is the reason I went back to college."

Carroll finished his undergraduate work at Howard College in 1943 with a degree in English. From there he went to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, earning a Master's in Theology in 1946 and a Doctorate in 1951.

After finishing at Louisville, Trotter went on to pastor at Eutaw Baptist Church and Thomasville Baptist Church, both in Alabama.

In 1955, Carroll Trotter came to Wake Forest as a professor of public communications at Southeastern Seminary, which was sharing a campus at the time with Wake Forest College. Sydnor Stealey and Olin Binkley were already at the seminary, and Trotter knew both men from his graduate study days at Louisville.

"I taught preaching and speech — preparation, delivery, voice control."

Jim Blackmore, a colleague and fellow professor at the seminary, said about Carroll Trotter: "I've known him since we came to Wake Forest, and he's tops. He's a people man, easy to know and talk to. He's a conservative, biblical preacher, neither left nor right." I can't say enough good things about him, he said.

Carroll Trotter retired after 28 years with the seminary.

Community activities

Trotter served on the Wake Forest Board of Commissioners in the late 60's and early 70's. During the time he served, the board hired the town's first city manager and built the reservoir and water plant on Wait Avenue.

He recently went off the board of directors for the Trentini Foundation, a board that he chaired for several years.

"Tony Trentini graduated from

Dr. J. Carroll Trotter

Birthplace: Prattville, Alabama, Dec. 20, 1917.

Family: married 49 years to the late Ruth Oliver Trotter; children Betty Ann Bouldin of Chapel Hill and Dr. John Carroll Trotter of Monroe. Grandchildren Elizabeth Jane and Katherine Ann Bouldin, and Ross Whitfield ("Whit") Trotter.

Career: retired professor of public communications at SEBTS; interim pastor to more than 55 Baptist churches in North Carolina and southern Virginia.

Community activities: former town commissioners, former district chairman of the Boy Scouts of America, former director of the Trentini Foundation, member of the Wake Forest Rotary Club.

Wake Forest College the year the College moved. He became the first football coach at the high school. When he died of a heart attack at 46, his former players and friends established the foundation, which annually awards a four-year scholarship to a deserving high school senior."

Trotter also served as district chairman for the Boy Scouts of America, and has been a member of the Wake Forest Rotary Club since he came to Wake Forest in 1955.

Leisure activities

"I love to fish and hunt. I'm proud of that bass over there on the wall. He's almost nine pounds."

Trotter enjoys classical music and is a supporter of the local classical FM stations, WUNC and WCPE. He also enjoys reading "whodunits," especially Agatha Christie.

He gets plenty of exercise at the Raleigh YMCA several times a week.

"Ruth and I used to walk around Wake Forest regularly. We had a two-mile route all laid out."

Reflections

The day is dreary. A week into spring, the temperature won't get out of the low 40's and rain is a guest that has long overstayed its welcome. As we finish with the photographs, Trotter notices the camelia blossoms in his front yard.

"My neighbor says I have a gift for growing these. I tell him I just plant them; God grows them."

"I think it's important for young people to find a faith, a trust in something worthwhile. It takes discipline and hard work, but you need goals."

"And self respect is important. If a person doesn't respect himself, chances are he'll be lacking in respect for others."