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Steve Lucas

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Lucas committed to three ministries, not one

By MATT GOAD
Staff Writer

Trinity Reformed United Methodist Church *officially* installed Steve Lucas as pastor Sunday, but he has been serving as pastor since the beginning of the year.

Lucas, the son of a Charlotte Baptist minister, actually started his ministerial career as a Baptist - serving at Baptist churches in Charlotte, Raleigh and Goldsboro - but decided to join the United Christian Church.

He was attracted by the balance between personal commitment, commitment to community and commitment to social justice in the United Christian Church.

He has found many churches are very concerned with personal com-

Friendly
Faces

Steve
Lucas



mitment to Christ, at the expense of attention to social justice, and he wanted a change.

Other churches seem to be so concerned with the community and social justice they forget about per-

sonal commitment, he said.

He likes to think of the three ministries as the three legs of a stool.

Lucas had been senior minister of First Congregational Church, a United Church of Christ congregation in Longwood, Fla., when he took the job at Trinity.

Lucas and his wife Cynthia are in the process of relocating from Florida. She is studying at Stetson University and should graduate in May.

Lucas has never lived in Concord, but he is not a stranger to the area. He has several family members in the area - his great-grandfather was an overseer for Cannon Mills - and he visited here many times.

Being a minister's son had little to do with Lucas becoming a minis-

ter himself, he said. He actually fought against becoming a minister for that reason.

But when he started college at Wake Forest University he got involved with Inter-Varsity, a collegiate Christian fellowship group. What he learned and did through the group seemed to resonate with who he was.

His studies at Wake Forest, especially theology and literature, reinforced his desire to be a minister.

He graduated from Wake Forest in sociology and went on to get a master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Lucas is also about three-quarters of the way to receiving a doctor of

ministry degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

His devotion to community involvement and social justice led him to take something of a break from the ministry from 1989 to 1992 when he served as executive assistant to Henson P. Barnes, president pro tem of the North Carolina Senate.

Barnes had been a member of Lucas' congregation at First Baptist Church in Goldsboro.

But the office of senate chaplain became vacant and Lucas served as chaplain during those years.

He enjoys bicycling and playing golf, racquetball and tennis. He was a member of the tennis team at East Mecklenburg High School.