

Fairview Baptist Plans Revival

Rev. Earl J. Rogers, pastor of First Baptist Church, Madison, will be the speaker at revival services at Fairview Baptist Church, Route 6, June 24-29.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday and

at 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. There will be special music.

Rev. Rogers is a native of Sampson County, where he attended public schools. He then attended Campbell College, and graduated from Wake Forest College and the Southern Baptist Seminary of Louisville, Ky.

He is married to the former Emma Dorris Matthis of Turkey, N.C. and they have three children.

Rev. Rogers has held pastorates in Madison, Ind.; Gretna, Va. Seaboard, Wendell and Washington, N.C. He has pastored the First Baptist Church of Madison since 1960.

He is former moderator of the Raleigh, South Roanoke and Dan Valley Baptist Associations of North Carolina, and has served on the boards of trustees of Chowan College and the N.C. Baptist Hospital, and is a member and past president of the Madison Rotary Club.



Rev. Earl J. Rogers
Speaker

Reidsville Review
Rockingham
Richmond Co. Journal

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The Rogers Leave Madison

By Katie Harris

His preaching days began in a little town called Madison, Indiana. Now, after 34 years as a Baptist minister, the Rev. Earle J. Rogers will be stepping down from a pulpit in Madison, N. C. to retire with his wife to Wrightsville Beach.

Rogers came to his "second Madison," as he likes to call it, in 1960.

"You don't usually find somebody who will stay that long," comments his neighbor and deacon, Clayburn Hawkins. "I don't know who can replace him."

Neither does the pulpit committee elected to find a new minister. Rahn Boyer, who heads that committee, says, "I've never heard him say an unkind thing about anybody — I don't know anyone else I can say that about."

Hawkins and lawyer Jack Webster echo that opinion. Webster is not a member of the First Baptist Church but he has worked closely with the minister in counseling clients.

"He's never refused to get involved," declares Webster. "He's been a great help, counseling people with domestic difficulties."

Webster also praises his friend's active support of the Rotary Club and their mutual alma mater, Wake Forest University.

"He shows great compassion to all types of people," sums up Webster, "I just like him."

Sampson County Natives

Rogers was born 63 years ago in Sampson County, 50 miles northwest of

Wilmington. His wife, the former Emma Dorris Matthis, grew up 20 miles away but they did not meet until Rogers' senior year at Wake Forest, when his future bride was a junior at Meredith College.

"It took me five years..." says Mrs. Rogers with a smile. They were married in 1942.

In the meantime, Rogers attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. It was during those days that he started preaching in Madison, Indiana, up river from Louisville.

After their marriage, the Rogers moved to Gretna, Virginia. "I don't know why," muses the minister, "maybe it's because it was the first work we did together, but we still have close ties there."

Rogers speaks warmly of the "very rich and very poor" who live in that Virginia town, and of an isolated community called Sycamore, five miles outside of Gretna, where his congregation founded a Sunday School mission. Rogers began preaching there on alternate Sundays. Mrs. Rogers played the organ.

In those days, she recalls, the people in Sycamore did not even have a road to their community. Now they have a road and a church.

After Gretna, the Rogers served in several North Carolina towns before moving to Madison. Strong ties grew here too as Mrs. Rogers taught in the school system and all four of their children (Emma, Sally Anne, Thomas and Earle, Jr.) graduated from the local high school.

Assessing Madison

Rogers joined the Madison Rotary Club and served as its president one year. He participated actively in the Ministerial Alliance, playing down his own role in lifting "the level of cooperation."

When recalling the changes of the past 14 years, Rogers talks about growth of old industries, a developing countryside and of course, integration.

"I think there is a finer degree of cooperation among the races in Madison than most any small southern town you can find," he says with con-

viction. "I have been told by school officials that the spirit of the churches helped greatly."

Summer youth programs were held in churches on a rotating basis so that black and white youths might have a meal, discussion and worship together. Sometimes black teenagers formed 30 to 40 per cent of the congregation, Rogers says. The community Thanksgiving service has been interracial for more than a decade.

"There is no color barrier as far as he is concerned," affirms Hawkins.

Preaching Continues

Although Rogers will preach his last sermon in Madison on June 30, he won't go into complete retirement. He's already promised to fill in as an interim preacher in a Wilmington church and will accept other temporary assignments.

He plans to play golf and do some fishing. "You can do a lot of daydreaming," the minister adds. "Both of us have talked about the fact that we want to do some study in the field of art."

But from all indications, Rogers is looking forward most to doing the handiwork on their rambling six-bedroom house in Wrightsville Beach. "It's an old barn of a place," he says with pleasure, "within sight of the ocean."

And then, a admission from Mrs. Rogers: "I want to get a Carolina rocker for the porch and wear it out myself."



The Rev. And Mrs. Earle J. Rogers

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Pastor Retires

Word has been received in Wendell that a former minister of Wendell Baptist Church is retiring.

Last January, Earl J. Rogers announced plans to retire from the pastorate of the First Baptist Church in Madison. Now he has offered his resignation effective June 30. He and his wife will move to Wrightsville Beach.

The Rev. Mr. Rogers came to Wendell Baptist Church in 1948, one member of the church reported. He was the church's pastor for five years, leaving in 1953.

"My retirement from the

regular pastorate is no way intended to be a retirement from the ministry," he said. "I hope to do interim supply work and to serve wherever needed."

He has been pastor at Madison First Baptist for nearly 14 years, and his previous pastorates besides Madison and Wendell have been Seaboard and Washington, N.C.

In addition to serving as moderator of the Raleigh, South Roanoke and Dan Valley Associations, he has been a trustee at Chowan College and the Baptist Hospital.

Warsaw: First News
Waynesville: Mountaineer
Weldon: Roanoke News
Wendell: Gold Leaf Farmer
W. Jefferson: Skyland Post
Whiteville: News-Reporter
Williamston: Enterprise
Wilmington: Journal
Windsor: Bertie Ledger-Advance
Yadkinville: Yadkin Ripple
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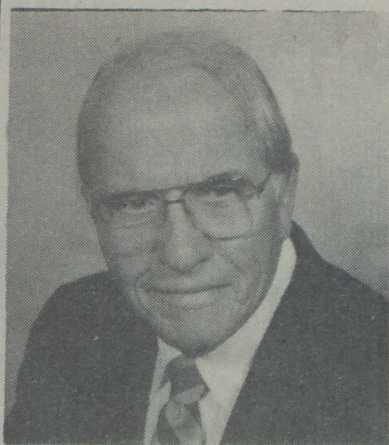
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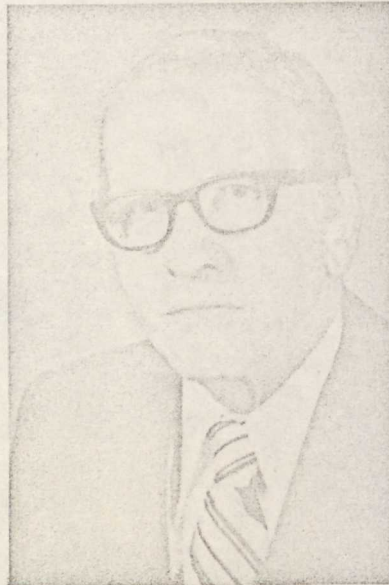
Earle J. Rogers

Former Pastor To Speak At Homecoming

First Baptist Church, Madison, will celebrate its 145th anniversary with Homecoming services on Sunday, September 28. Rev. Earle J. Rogers, pastor from 1960-1974, will preach at 11:00 A.M. A covered dish dinner on the grounds will follow. At 1:30 P.M. the church's youth choir of 1976 will reassemble to sing selections from *Celebrate Life*. Mr. Jacky Davis, Minister of Music in 1976, will direct the choir. Susan Nance will accompany the group. Rev. Willard A. Brown, pastor from 1940-1944, will also take part in the afternoon service. The 11:00 A.M. service will be broadcast live over radio station WMYN.

First Baptist Church, Madison, was organized in the fall of 1841. Its first meetings were in Baughn's School in the Dan Valley area. The present church grounds were purchased in 1849. Over the years First Baptist has established five other churches in western Rockingham County. Dr. Larry J. Bennett has served as pastor since 1975. Rev. Terry P. Williams became Minister of Music and Youth in 1982. Members, former members and friends of the church are invited to attend the services. The nursery will be open 9:45 - 12:00, and 1:00 P.M. until close of the afternoon service.

Dan Valley Baptist Assn. Minutes, 1973



Rev. Earle J. Rogers



Rev. H. Fletcher Lambert

IN HONOR OF THEIR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE LORD'S WORK AND IN PARTICULAR THEIR SERVICE IN THE DAN VALLEY MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, THIS ANNUAL IS DEDICATED JOINTLY TO THE REVEREND EARLE J. ROGERS AND THE REVEREND H. FLETCHER LAMBERT.

Reverend Rogers has served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Madison since 1960 and plans to retire in 1974. He has served as Moderator of the Dan Valley Association as well as serving on various committees. He has served on the Board of Trustees of Chowan College and of the North Carolina Baptist Hospital and as chairman of the Baptist State Convention Committee on Nominations. Before coming to Madison, N. C., he held pastorates in Madison, Indiana; Gretna, Va.; and Seaboard, Wendell, and Washington, North Carolina.

Reverend Lambert has held pastorates in the Dan Valley Association since 1946. He served the Spray Baptist Church from 1946 until September, 1964. Following a short retirement and interim pastorate at Mount Hermon, he began as pastor of the Sharon Baptist Church in March 1966 and continues in that position. He began his ministry in 1928 at Bethlehem and Lockport churches in Kentucky. He then became pastor of the Front Street Church in Statesville, N. C. and went from there to Raleigh where he served as Associational Missionary before he came to Spray. He has served as Moderator and Sunday School Superintendent of the Dan Valley Association and as President of the Associational Pastor's Conference. He served two terms on the Baptist State Convention General Board and has been on several committees both in the State and the Association.