

Obedience Is Urged By Pastor

Rev. Joe Coltrane, pastor of Abbotts Creek Baptist Church, last night opened a series of revival meetings at Conrad Memorial Baptist Church.

His topic for the evening was Christian Enthusiasm.

Rev. Mr. Coltrane emphasized that a drab Christian is a contradiction of God's intention for His people. "Many Christians have forgotten or have failed to realize the graciousness of God in salvation. Enthusiasm is contagious, and Christians need to share their enthusiasm," the minister stated, "because of the influence it will exert on the society about us."

"Christians," he added, "need to be obedient to the little commandments of Christ, such as regular church attendance, the singing of gospel hymns, and consistent living by the teachings of Christ."

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
Reidsville Review
Rockingham: Richmond Co. Journal

APR 18 1966

day, October 24, 1970 7A



Joe Coltrane

Coltrane Is Guest Evangelist

TRINITY — The Rev. Joe Coltrane, pastor of Abbotts Creek Baptist, is to be guest evangelist at Trinity Baptist Church for a series of meetings Sunday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. daily.

He also will preach Sunday, Nov. 1, at 10:30 a. m.

Pat Taylor, minister of music at Mount Calvary Baptist in High Point, is to be guest song leader for the services.

The Rev. Mr. Coltrane is a native of Randolph County and a graduate of Trinity High School, where he was president of the student body. He is also a graduate of Gardner-Webb and High Point Colleges and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was a member of the Carolinians Quartet, 1954-58.

High Point Enterprise
Jacksonville Daily News
Kannapolis Independent
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Lumberton Robesonian
Morganton News-Herald
New Bern Sun-Journal
Raleigh News & Observer
Reidsville Review
Rockingham: Richmond Co. Journal

New Minister



The Rev. Joseph DeWitt Coltrane Jr., new minister at the Newport Baptist Church, will conduct his first service there at 11 a.m. Sunday. Mr. Coltrane replaces the Rev. Gerald Harris who has been called to a church in Gastonia.

Mr. Coltrane was born in Randolph County. He received his education there and at Stamps Quartet School of Music, Dallas, Tex., Gardner-Webb College, High Point College where he received an AB degree in history and political science, the NC Baptist Hospital and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary where he received his Master or Divinity degree in May 1970.

He has been with churches in Marion, Lowell and High Point.

Mr. Coltrane has written for the Church Administration Magazine and recorded a long playing album entitled Gospel Favorites.

He is married to the former Zemma Lu Fortner, Belmont. They have two children, Rebecca Jo and Debra Elaine.

6.
Morehead City: Carteret Co. News-Times
Mount Airy News
Mount Airy Times
Mount Holly News
Mount Olive Tribune
Murfreesboro: Roanoke-Chowan News
Murphy: Cherokee Scout
Nashville Graphic
Newland: Avery Journal
Newton Observer & News-Enterprise
North Wilkesboro: Journal Patriot
Oxford Ledger
Pilot Mountain News
Pittsboro: Chatham Record
Plymouth: Roanoke Beacon
Rae: News-Journal
Raleigh: Carolinian

1-21-71

10-24-70

New Pastor Conducting Service

The Rev. Joe D. Coltrane, newly installed pastor of East Hickory Baptist Church, is leading a series of spiritual renewal services this week at the church.

The Rev. Mr. Coltrane came to East Hickory Baptist from Newport Baptist Church in Newport, and has also pastored a church in High Point.

Woodrow Funderburke of Matthews is serving as song-leader and soloist for the services, held at 7:30 o'clock nightly through Sunday and at the 11 a.m. worship hour Sunday. A nursery is available.

The church is at 130 Sixteenth Street, SE, Hickory.

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

OCT 1 1973

Doctorate

The Rev. Joe D. Coltrane, pastor of Lewisville Baptist Church, has received the doctor of ministry degree from Union Theological Seminary.

He has been pastor at Lewisville since 1977. He has also pastored churches in the High Point, Morehead City and Hickory areas. He has served as vice moderator and chairman of the executive committee of the Pilot Mountain Baptist Association and is now associational moderator.

He attended Gardner-Webb College and received a bachelor's degree from High Point College. He received his clinical pastoral education from the School of Pastoral Care at Baptist Hospital and earned the master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, where he was resident of the student body.

He and his wife, the former Emma Fortner of Belmont, have two daughters, Rebecca, and Debra Elaine.

Winston-Salem Sentinel

JUN 19 1980

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Degree

The Rev. Joe D. Coltrane of High Point has received the doctor of ministry degree in the 168th commencement exercise of the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va.

A graduate of Trinity High School, where he was student body president his senior year, Coltrane is an alumnus of Gardner-Webb College and received the A.B. degree in history and political science from High Point College. His clinical pastoral education was received in the School of Pastoral Care of the N.C. Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. He earned the master of divinity degree from the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, where he was elected president of the student body his senior year.



Joe D.
Coltrane

Dr. Coltrane has also served pastorates in the Hickory and Morehead City areas of North Carolina. He has served as vice moderator and chairman of the executive committee of the Pilot Mountain Baptist Assn.

New Lewisville Baptist Pastor Begins Duties

The Rev. Joe D. Coltrane is the new pastor at Lewisville Baptist Church, having begun his work there on Oct. 1.

Coltrane is a native North Carolinian and has served churches in the High Point and Morehead City areas, and comes to Lewisville from a Hickory pastorate.

He was graduated from Gardner-Webb and High Point Colleges,

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and the School of Pastoral Care of N.C. Baptist Hospital.

He and Mrs. Coltrane are the parents of two daughters, Debbie, 14, and Becky, who is a sophomore at Appalachian State University.

Coltrane succeeds the Rev. Dwight Watts, who served as pastor at Lewisville Baptist for nine years.

Clarkton: Southeastern Times
Clayton News
Clemmons Courier

OCT 6 1977



Rev. Joe D. Coltrane

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SEP 14 90

All Southern Baptists believe Bible

Letter box

The letter from Woodrow Robbins (Aug. 30) was both amusing and appalling.

I attended the Atlanta meeting of moderate-conservative Southern Baptists. It is obvious Robbins is ignorant of the purpose of that meeting. He implies it was to "form their own convention." That meeting was for fellowship and worship. It was also a time to look at what has happened in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and to consider ways moderates could support missions and ministries without funding the reckless administration of the fundamentalists (ultraconservatives) who now control the SBC. The meeting of more than 3,000 from all across our nation was characterized by a warm spirit, openness and harmony. It was like the SBC annual meetings used to be.

Robbins writes of the SBC statistics as if only the fundamentalists (he calls them conservatives) had accomplished this. He failed to make clear that the moderates' efforts account for much of these statistical gains. But, his is the mind-set of the fundamentalists: Rely on the support of the moderates, but pretend they don't exist.

He defines the difference between the two views in the SBC as: "We believe the Bible is truth without any mixture of error. The moderate-liberals believe the Bible has truth mixed with error." How ridiculous! Either he is ignorant of the facts or is deliberately distorting them. That statement is pure and simple falsehood.

The SBC is a theologically conservative

denomination. There are the ultraconservatives or fundamentalists (whom Robbins insists on calling conservatives) and the moderate-conservatives (to whom he refers as liberals). A valid theological liberal cannot be found in the SBC. Woodrow should know that, or maybe he is not familiar with the classic definition of that term. There is not a valid moderate-conservative who believes the Bible "has truth mixed with error." The issue is interpretation. Moderates allow for varying interpretations, which are guided by sound principles of interpretation and by the SBC statement of beliefs. The problem is: For many fundamentalists, if you do not accept their interpretation, you don't believe the Bible.

Robbins makes much ado of the progress of Southeastern Seminary. He "found applications were 30 percent above last year at this point." He is manipulating figures. The registrar on Sept. 6 was unable to give me an enrollment figure, as enrollment would continue for several more days. But let's look at the record. Enrollment at Southeastern was 1,099 in 1986; 1,003 in 1987 (the year the turmoil began); 826 in 1988 (the year after fundamentalists took over); and 649 in 1989. So, even if enrollment this year should be as Robbins implied, that would not recover the losses of earlier years. If moderate-

conservative churches should withhold their funds from the SBC, Robbins might change his tune about the negative impact this would have upon the convention.

Robbins' attitude is typical of those who never bothered to pursue a Southern Baptist theological education, but chose the independent way. Then, without understanding the true spirit (historically and theologically) of Southern Baptists, they propose to tell others what Southern Baptists should be and do.

In spite of Robbins' rantings, I assure you the fundamentalists are not the guys in the white hats.

JOE D. COLTRANE
Lewisville

Joe D. Coltrane is pastor of Lewisville Baptist Church.

JOURNAL
WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

SEP 25 94



JOURNAL PHOTO BY ALLEN AYCOCK

The Rev. Joe Coltrane stands in front of Mt. Zion United Church of Christ.

*Joe D. Coltrane spent 35 years as a
political fighting and s*

Baptist pastor now t

By Amy Andrews
JOURNAL REPORTER

THOMASVILLE

Joe D. Coltrane grew up and was baptized, licensed and ordained in a Baptist church. And, until late May, he had spent his 35-year ministry as a Baptist pastor.

But Coltrane, 59, tired of the power struggle in the nation's largest Protestant denomination, the 15.2 million-member Southern Baptist Convention.

So he left it and the church he had led for 17 years, Lewisville Baptist, for membership in the United Church of Christ and a pulpit in northeastern Davidson County.

"The controversy over the past 15 years had just, for me, become unacceptable," he said in his sanctuary at Zion United Church of Christ. "I was weary of the fighting.

"Since I have responded to the call of God . . . all I have wanted to do is be a good preacher."

The ugly politics in the Southern Baptist Convention, he said, would not allow him the freedom to do that.

He said he started thinking seriously about leaving the denomination nearly five years ago. It was at the Convention's annual meeting in 1993 that Coltrane made up his mind.

"It was like a circus," he said. "I told my wife I had to do something."

No one knows how many Baptist pastors have left the denomination because of the political turmoil. The denomination doesn't ordain pastors, individual churches do, so numbers-keeping can be difficult.

"There are so many Baptists that it's

*Baptist pastor, but he grew weary of
witched denominations*

tends different flock

hard to get a handle on it," said David L. Odom, the director of the Center for Congregational Health in the School of Pastoral Care at Baptist Hospital.

He said that he doesn't see a trend among pastors toward joining other denominations. "I see more ministers leaving the ordained ministry more often than I see them switching denominations," he said.

But Nancy Ammerman, a sociologist at Emory University in Atlanta and a Baptist, said that the controversy in the Convention has led many pastors, especially young ones, to other denominations.

"From the stories that I've heard, probably the most common destinations are the Methodist church, the United Church of Christ and the Episcopal denomination," she said.

The Rev. Alan Miller, the associate Southern Conference minister for the UCC's Western N.C. Association, said that he has seen an increase in the number of applicants to the UCC from other denominations.

"There seems to be a trend, particularly in the last two or three years," he said. "The majority came from the Southern Baptist Convention."

Not all have come because of the controversy over who will control the Convention, but for many it has been a factor, Miller said. Coltrane is the most recent, he said.

Shortly after Thanksgiving, Coltrane had lunch with some friends who were members of Zion United Church of Christ, a

See JOE COLTRANE, Page 28

JOE COLTRANE

Continued From Page E1

460-member church at Hasty School Road and N.C. 109 about three miles outside of Thomasville.

The church was looking for a pastor, and Coltrane's friends asked him if he knew of any who were looking for a church.

He said he didn't. Only later would he begin thinking about the job for himself.

After thinking, praying and talking with his family for several months, the 59-year-old Coltrane, a native of High Point, decided that the United Church of Christ would give him the freedom he yearned. He left the 600-member Lewisville Baptist in late May.

The Rev. Scott Pond, the associate pastor under Coltrane at Lewisville, said that Coltrane's resignation surprised many in the congregation.

Reaction was mixed when Coltrane told church members that he was changing denominations, Pond said, but he hadn't heard anyone express hard feelings against Coltrane for it.

"I think it was that they wished him Godspeed and that they thought he was doing what God had called him to do," Pond said.

Coltrane said that more people have supported his decision than have been bitter about it, but some people have thought he was crazy for changing denominations, especially since he is just a few years shy of retirement.

But he said that he's "not one to hang on" just until he could retire. "I didn't want to spend the rest of my

life fighting," he said. "I wanted to spend the rest of my life in a positive way."

He was allowed to start work at his new church, provided he was already in the process of being accepted by the UCC conference. He applied for consideration, met with conference executives, wrote a paper about himself and his calling to the ministry, met with a committee on ministry and recently completed a 13-week course of study on church history, polity, doctrines and programs.

In addition, he has to write a paper, provide five letters of reference and meet again with the committee on ministry.

"The history, the doctrine of the United Church of Christ are so close to traditional Baptist beliefs and doctrines that I felt more comfortable asking for admission to this denomination," Coltrane said.

Often the UCC is confused with the Church of Christ, another Protestant denomination with different beliefs.

The Church of Christ, in general, believes that baptism by immersion is essential to salvation, and some do not use instrumental music in services.

The UCC believes baptism is an important act of faith and confession but is not essential to salvation, Coltrane said. Baptism in the UCC comes by three different modes — sprinkling, pouring or immersing — and the person being baptized can choose the method.

That's a difference from the Baptist church, where baptism generally is by immersion. But in Baptist churches, baptism also isn't considered essential to salvation.

"It's probably been the clearest call to a work that I have had all these years," he said.