

Baptist Minister Resigns

An Alamance Baptist minister and the chairman of the Board of Deacons declined to comment on reasons for the sudden resignation this week.

Rev. Bob Latta was contacted at the First Baptist Church of Alamance yesterday which he has served for the past 19 years.

"My resignation is effective as far as I'm concerned and is not contingent on anything else," he said, when asked if the Board had accepted it.

The former Glenhope Baptist Church member said the church was "organized elsewhere and moved here" when he was still a Bible College student. It had 35 members and the property but no building when he took over as pastor. Now it has 350 members and a plant to accommodate more.

"Many want me to stay," he replied to a question.

"Really! I have no comment," he replied to another about the reason for his sudden resignation submitted to the board last week. He said he planned to occupy the parsonage through the month of October "and maybe longer."

Rev. Latta said he has not conducted services the past two Sundays, nor will he this Sunday. However, Sunday night, John Tierney, an evangelist from Greenville, S. C., who had been lined up many months ago, will conduct nightly revival services at 7:30, concluding with the Sunday morning, October 22 morning service.

Vance Vines, chairman of the Board of Deacons, confirmed the resignation effective immediately had been submitted and said "no accepting was necessary."

Asked about the rumors throughout southern Alamance Mr. Vines replied, "I don't care to discuss it. Our purpose is to serve the Lord. We don't want to hurt anybody. We hope to heal the scars that are there. The sooner we can get back to our primary purpose to work for the Lord, the better off everybody will be."

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Graham: Alamance News

Granite Falls Press

Greensboro Democrat

Greensboro Times

Grifton Times

Hamlet: News-Messenger

Havelock Progress

Hendersonville:

Western Carolina Tribune

Hertford: Perquimans Weekly

Highlands: Highlander

Hillsborough: News of Orange Co.

Jonesville: Yadkin Enterprise

Kenansville: Duplin Times

Kernersville News

King: Times-News

Kings Mountain Herald

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NEW PASTOR...Rev. Robert Latta began his ministry at Macedonia Baptist Church on Sunday, December 3. He attended Piedmont College and Wake Forest and comes to Macedonia from the First Baptist Church, Alamance, where he served as pastor for 13 years. Rev. Latta writes music and is a talented singer and Mrs. Latta is a talented singer and musician. The Lattas have three sons, ages 18, 10 and 7 years, and they plan to move into the Macedonia parsonage during the latter part of December. The public is cordially invited to come and worship at Macedonia Baptist Church, located five miles South of Monroe on the Stack Road. Sunday School, 10:00 a.m. and Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

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Monroe: Enquirer-Journal

Mooresville Tribune

Morehead City: Carteret Co.-

News-Times

Mount Airy News

Mount Airy Times

Mount Holly News

Mount Olive Tribune

Murfreesboro:

Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald

Murphy: Cherokee Scout

Nashville Graphic

Newland: Avery Journal

Newton: Observer-News-Enterprise

North Wilksboro: Journal-Patriot

Oxford Ledger

Pittsboro: Chatham Record

Plymouth: Roanoke Beacon

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Pastor's one desire: a full house

By Troy Penny
Staff Writer

Monroe

For 30 years Robert Latta has faithfully served the members of Macedonia Baptist Church and to celebrate his anniversary Sunday he wants just one thing—to fill the 300 seat



LATTA

sanctuary.

"Every preacher wants to reach as many people as he can," Latta said. "I thought it would be great to have the church filled. I do not know what to expect."

What Latta can expect is a service filled with tributes for his three decades of service. There will be special music during the 11 a.m. service and his favorite songs "Amazing Grace" and "It is Well With My Soul" will be performed in honor of Latta.

The Burlington native arrived at Macedonia Baptist in 1972 after serving 19 years as pastor of First Baptist Church of Alamance. He preached a revival service at Monroe's Oakland Baptist Church at the same time Macedonia Baptist was searching for a minister. When the pulpit search committee asked him to join their church Latta and his wife, Janice, made the move to Union County.

"I think it was God's will for me to come here," he said. "I think it is his will for me to stay here."

Just as Union County has changed in the past 30 years so has Macedonia Baptist. Those early years about 80 people attended and most of the men were farmers. Today, nearly 160 people attend regularly and the occupations have moved from farming to bankers, lawyers and other types of professionals.

The relationship between pastor and congregation has also changed. Macedonia Baptist had lost several pastors prior to Latta arriving and most of the congregation turned to the deacons for leadership since they had been at the church longer.

"They looked at the pastor to just preach and teach," Latta said. "Now that has changed."

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Pastor

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Music at Macedonia Baptist has switched from a small choir singing just hymns to a band accompanying today's choir singing contemporary songs.

With so much special music there is not much time for Latta and his wife to do any singing. They used to perform regularly during Sunday ser-

vices. To remember those times, Latta has recorded a compact disc of songs that he has performed throughout the years and will give one to each person who attends the Sunday service.

The 69-year-old Latta said it amazes him how many activities are occurring now at Macedonia Baptist which keeps the church busy almost every night.

"We ought to call us covered dish baptist church," Latta laughed. "People love to get together. We can not do

enough for the boys and girls of the church."

The 30 year milestone of service does not mean the end of Latta's preaching at Macedonia Baptist.

"I have never had any desire to retire," he said. "I dread the thought of retiring. I have plenty of energy and I am not slowing down any physically."

Everyone is invited to Macedonia Baptist's Sunday service and luncheon. The church is located at 1024 Stack Road.