

Ministers In Special Series

Two local ministers, J. A. Bracey of the First Baptist Church and Robert W. Morgan of Gibson Memorial Methodist, are taking the series of courses being held each Monday from October 4th through November 8th under sponsorship of the Methodist Church and the Duke Endowment.

Lecturer for the series, set for Englewood Methodist Church in Rocky Mount, is Dr. Thor Hall, assistant professor of preaching and theology at Duke Divinity School. A native of Norway, Dr. Hall has received degrees from Oslo University, Scandinavian Methodist Seminary and Duke University. Prior to coming to his present post, he was assistant to the minister of First Presbyterian Church in Durham.

Attending the Monday classes will be ministers of the various denominations in this general area.

And here are these comments about blood-giving:

Jack Bracey, the local Baptist preacher, said he's already gotten his gallon pin and wants to get his second, which shows how easy it is to give blood.

And he said, too, that he'd been given blood and he knows "how good that is," which makes it all the more important that he donate as often as he can.

Another preacher, Reuel Westbrook of Peachtree, says he has a rare type so his name is kept on file as various hospitals where he is available on call. He's all worked-up on our meeting our goal tomorrow.

Spring Hope Enterprise
Spruce Pine: Tri-Co. News
Saint Pauls Review
Swansboro: White Oak Scene
Sylva Herald
Tabor City Tribune
Taylorsville Times
Trenton: Jones Journal
Troy: Montgomery Herald
Valdese News
Wadesboro: Anson Record
Wadesboro: Messenger & Intelligencer
Wake Forest: Wake Weekly
Wallace Enterprise
Walnut Cove: Stokes Record
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JAN 21 1965

Bracey Submits Resignation

Baptists Lose Minister

The Rev. J. A. Bracey, who has served the First Baptist Church in Spring Hope for the last six years, leaves at the end of this month for new duties in Winston-Salem.

The minister informed his congregation Sunday that he was answering a call from Emmanuel Chapel, a mission of the First Baptist Church in that city.

Emmanuel Chapel presents "a challenge," states the Rev. Mr. Bracey. It is in the Old-town section, about 10 miles north of Winston-Salem, and is the only church serving an area which includes three housing developments.

Due to its mission status, Emmanuel Chapel's new preacher will remain on the staff of First Baptist in Winston-Salem until the church is

officially organized.

The congregation of the new church fellowship has its own two-story building in which it holds its services. This is the first phase of a building program planned for the congregation, the local man says.

The Bracey family came here from Double Springs near Shelby, which followed a pastorate in Maxton.

The Rev. Mr. Bracey, who served in the European Theatre of Operations during War II, received his education from Wake Forest College and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kv.

He and his wife, the former Wilhelmina Wallace of Rocky Mount, are the parents of three sons and two daughters, all of whom are students at Spring Hope School.

Spindale Sun
Spring Hope Enterprise
Spruce Pine: Tri-Co. News
Saint Pauls Review
Swansboro: White Oak Scene
Sylva Herald
Tabor City Tribune
Taylorsville Times
Trenton: Jones Journal
Troy: Montgomery Herald
Valdese News
Wadesboro: Anson Record
Wadesboro: Messenger & Intelligencer
Wake Forest: Wake Weekly
Wallace Enterprise
Walnut Cove: Stokes Record

A. Roanoke

JAN 11 1968
San River

Immanuel Chapel

By VIRTIE STROUP
Staff Religion Reporter

Immanuel Chapel Baptist Church in Old Town has a new pastor. He is the Rev. Jack Bracey, who will move here Feb. 1 to begin his work on Feb. 4.

Bracey, who has served as pastor of Spring Hope Baptist Church in Eastern North Carolina, for six years, will succeed the Rev. Roger Bolton. He resigned in



REV. JACK BRACEY
Wake Forest grad...

August to take a year of clinical internship at the Georgia Mental Health Institute at Atlanta, Ga.

Bolton was Immanuel's first fulltime pastor. He served there for more than three years. The congregation was organized in 1961 under the leadership of the Rev. Ronald Rice, missions pastor of First Baptist Church of West Fifth Street. Immanuel is sponsored by First Baptist.

After his clinical training, Bolton plans to counsel college students.

Bracey, 42, is a native of Dillon County, S. C., but grew up in Winter Garden, Fla. He served in the infantry in World War II. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University, A.B., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., B. D.

After graduation he was pastor of First Baptist Church at Maxton for three and a half years. From there he went to Double Springs Baptist Church on Shelby, Rt. 4, where he was the pastor for six years. He then took his present work.

He is married to the former Wilhelmina Wallace of Rocky Mount. They have five children: Alice, 14; John, 12; Bill, 11; David, 9, and Mary, 7. The Braceys were in town yesterday seeking a place to live.

Bracey, who says he likes to raise roses, play golf and tennis and likes sports, had been trying for a week to come here to see about housing. He lives in the section of the state which has been ice-bound.

He is the Tar River Baptist Association's representative on the General Board of the Baptist State Convention. He has served as a trustee of Gardner Webb College.

Baptist Wives Will Meet

The Pilot Mountain Baptist Ministers' Wives will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday at the home of the president, Mrs. George Shore, 4566 Ogburn Avenue.

A cosmetic demonstration will be given and some of the members will act as models. All wives of Baptist ministers in the Pilot Mountain Baptist Association are invited to the meeting.

Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem Sentinel
Norfolk: Va. Pilot

JAN 17 1968

Pilot-Mtn.

Weldon Baptist Names Pastor

North
Roanoke

WELDON—Rev. John A. Bracey from Emanuel Chapel at Pfafftown, a mission church of the First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, has answered a call to pastor at Weldon Baptist Church here.

A native of South Carolina, Bracey and his wife, Wilhelmina have five children. He is a

graduate of Wake Forest University and Southern Baptist Seminary of Louisville, Ky.

Bracey is scheduled to fill the pulpit here for the first time on March 3. His family will join him here after the close of the school year.

DAILY TABS R-Z

~~Roanoke Rapids Herald~~
Rocky Mount Telegram
Salisbury Post
Sanford Herald
Shelby Star
Statesville Record & Landmark
Tarboro Southerner
Thomasville Times
Tryon Bulletin
Washington Daily News
Wilmington News
Wilmington Star
Wilmington Star-News
Wilson Daily Times
Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem Sentinel
Winston-Salem-
Journal-Sentinel

JAN 25 1974

Church Notes

Old Town Pastor Resigns

By VIRTIE STROUP
Staff Religion Reporter

The Rev. Jack Bracey, pastor of Immanuel Chapel Baptist Church in Old Town for six years, has resigned effective Feb. 24.

He will become pastor of Weldon Baptist Church in Weldon on March 1.

Bracey came to Immanuel from Spring Hope where he had served as pastor for six years. A native of Dillon County, S.C., he grew up in Winter Garden, Fla. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His other previous pastorates have been in Maxton and Shelby.

He and his wife, the former Wilhelmina Wallace of Rocky Mount, have five children.

Bracey has been active here in the Forsyth Clergymen's Association, serving as its treasurer; has been a member of the Christian Life Committee of the Pilot Mountain Baptist Association and is president of the pastors' group of the Northwest Ministry.

Weldon Baptist To Install Minister

WELDON—Rev. John A. Bracey will be installed as pastor of The Weldon Baptist Church in a formal service Sunday at 11 a.m.

Dr. John W. Carlton, who has served the church as interim minister for the past seven months, will preside.

Others participating in the

service of installation will be John A. James, chairman of the Diaconate, Marvin L. Lassiter, chairman of the Pulpit Committee, and Mrs. H. R. Hargrove Jr., president of Baptist Women.

Bracey comes to the 109 year old church from Pfafftown where for the past six years he has served as pastor of the Emmanuel Chapel, a mission of the First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem.

A native of South Carolina, Bracey is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Southern Baptist Seminary. He has also studied at Emory University, University of Georgia, Meredith College and the Virginia Theological Seminary. He has served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Maxton, the Double Springs Baptist Church of Shelby and the First Baptist Church of Spring Hope.

Mrs. Bracey is the former Wilhelmina Wallace of Rocky Mount. The Braceys have five children, Alice, a student at Wake Forest University, John, Bill, David and Mary. Mrs. Bracey and the younger children will move to Weldon at the end of the school year. In the meantime Bracey will be at home at the Baptist Parsonage at 608 Sycamore Street.

Roanoke Rapids Herald
Rocky Mount Telegram
Salisbury Post
Sanford Herald
Shelby Star
Statesville Record & Landmark
Tarboro Southerner
Thomasville Times
Tryon Bulletin
Washington Daily News
Wilmington News
Wilmington Star
Wilmington Star-News
Wilson Daily Times
Winston-Salem Journal
Winston-Salem Sentinel
Winston-Salem
Journal-Sentinel

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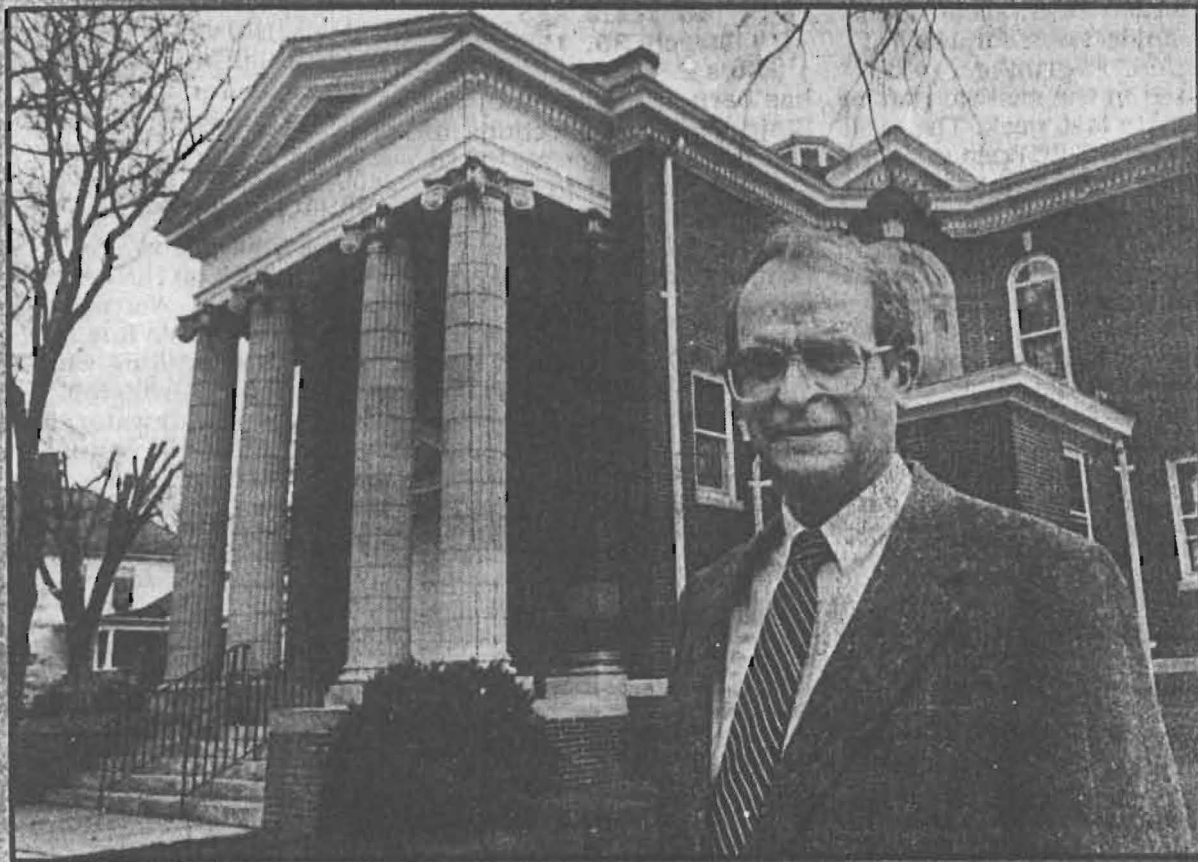


Ministers

The Roanoke Rapids/Weldon Ministerial Fellowship recently elected new officers for 1984. Shown from left to right are Rev. Jack Bracey of Weldon Baptist Church, secretary/treasurer; Rev. Chuck Cook of Weldon United Methodist Church, president; and Rev. Adris Bhuya of White Hill Baptist Church in Weldon, vice president.

(Photo by Pat Eager)

Parting words. . .



REV. JACK BRACEY

Sunday Herald/TIM FRATES

Bracey's last at Weldon today

SCOTT SCHWEBKE

Herald Staff Writer

WELDON—When the Rev. Jack Bracey steps behind the pulpit today to deliver his final sermon at Weldon Baptist Church his words will focus on the virtues of worship.

But the 65-year-old minister's thoughts will likely be with the congregation.

"It's never easy to leave a group of people after a long time," Bracey said matter-of-factly recalling his 10 years at the church.

But Bracey, who has been a pastor for 38 years, admits by looking forward to sitting in the pews.

The church needs new devotion, a new face and a new voice, said Bracey explaining his reasons for retiring.

Next week he and his wife Wilhelmina will move to Ellin, a town located near the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway. The move will enable him to be near friends and pursue his passion of photographing wild flowers.

Bracey developed an appreciation for both the outdoors and hard work growing up in Winter Garden, Fla., during the depression.

One of his first jobs was working in a lumber yard owned by his uncle.

The minister recalled sweltering summers toiling in the Florida heat.

"When I was twelve-years-old I was taking the place of a grown man," says Bracey. "But these kind of things were expected in those days."

Military service was also expected of able bodied young men after the outbreak of World War II. In late 1943, Bracey was drafted into the U.S. Army.

A little more than a year later Bracey found himself on a battlefield in southern Germany. However, his military career was cut short when enemy gun fire tore off his left thumb and penetrated his hip dur-

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BRACEY — From Page 1A

ing the Battle of the Bulge.

The injury earned Bracey a Purple Heart and soured his views on military intervention.

"I don't call myself a total pacifist but I am very close," said Bracey who spent six months in the hospital recuperating from his injuries. "I think we can do many things through negotiation without fighting."

After the war, Bracey enrolled at Wake Forest where he earned a bachelor's degree in English, received a call to the ministry and met his wife.

"She has been a big part of the team and is very creative," Bracey said of his bride of 40 years. "She is not one who sits back."

The couple are the parents of five children.

Following his graduation from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Bracey served for 3½ years as pastor of a church in Maxton.

"People in the early days were extremely tolerant and good about putting up with me," Bracey chuckled recalling his beginnings as a preacher.

Bracey also served six years each at churches in Double Springs, Spring Hope and Pfafftown before moving to Weldon in 1974.

The minister said a highlight of his career occurred in 1984, when he was selected to travel to the Soviet Union as part of a Baptist peace fellowship.

Bracey said the trip confirmed and dispelled some beliefs he had about the communist country.

"It's not all evil," he said. "A number (of Russians) are quite devoted. There are

some parts of their culture that can be admired and envied."

Reflecting on his tenure at Weldon Baptist, Bracey is especially proud of the church's participation in the annual area CropWalk to battle hunger.

He is also pleased with the success of its dial-a-prayer service which has provided more than 4,000 daily devotionals via telephone since 1977.

However, in spite of its popularity the future of the service remains unclear.

The last message is scheduled to end today and Bracey said it will be up to the church's interim minister Rev. Ernest Glass, whether or not it will continue. Glass will begin his duties next week.

Bracey also considers it a blessing to have served as a member of many civic organizations including, the Roanoke Canal Commission, the Weldon Memorial Library Board and Weldon Town Board of Commissioners.

"It was an eye opening experience," Bracey said recalling his year as a town commissioner. "It made me aware of some of the problems that exist and how to solve them."

Bracey is also aware of some of the problems that exist within organized religion.

He said most are caused by bitter power struggles between religious fundamentalist and moderates over "smoke screen" issues.

"Ugliness is rampant," Bracey said. "It's contrary to the Christian faith."

However, the difficulties haven't shaken Bracey's faith.

"If I had to do it all over again I would be a minister," he said. "That's my calling."

Bracey, J. A.

NCCF Maxton First Baptist Church

ROBESON

First Baptist Church 1891-1966. Photograph
of J. A. Bracey.

LABORERS TOGETHER: A HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SPRING HOPE, NC,
1889-1989

By: Lena Waller Morgan

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to the Pulpit Committee to contact.
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Spring Hope, Rev. Blackmore was
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bology in 1975, and did a Study Tour
more became Associate Director of
ivinity Studies from 1980-1984. He
pastor, and guest speaker in many
in Germany in 1984.

ne following honors: he was named
intern at Calvary Baptist Church,
President of the Wilmington, N.C.
1951. As Dr. Blackmore he was
association in 1960-61, was Secretary
ecorder from 1959-1962, Chairman
State Convention of North Carolina,
Baptist Church from 1965-1967 and
outh and Southwest since 1973.

His first manuscript was *The Cullom*
published in 1963. Since 1963 he has
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and in 1978 another novel entitled *A*
blication in 1984 was *Second Acts*, a

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John A. Bracey, 1962-1967

John A. Bracey, Junior (Jack) was born March 9, 1925, in Little Rock, South Carolina. He attended public school in Winter Garden, Florida. At the age of 18 he entered the U.S. Army and served in the Infantry from 1943-1945, and saw overseas duty in Germany during World War II. After his tour of duty in the Army, he enrolled in Wake Forest College where he graduated with a B.A. Degree in 1949. The following year he married Miss Wilhelmina Wallace of Rocky Mount, North Carolina. Rev. Bracey then attended Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. There he graduated in 1952 with a B.D. Degree. The Braceys were the parents of five children: Alice, John, Bill, David and Mary Bracey.

Rev. Bracey served the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro in the summer of 1950. When he finished the work at the Seminary he served First Baptist at Maxton, N.C., 1952-1955; Double Springs Baptist, Shelby, 1955-1961, after which he came to First Baptist at Spring Hope and pastored 1962-1968. Upon leaving Spring Hope the Braceys moved to a community near Winston-Salem. Rev. Bracey was pastor there at Immanuel Baptist Church (now Pfafftown Baptist) 1968-1974. In 1974 he accepted the pulpit at Weldon Baptist Church in Weldon and is the present minister there.

Information supplied by Rev. Jack Bracey.

John Reinhardt Link, 1968-1973

John Reinhardt Link was born in Lincoln County, North Carolina, to John Robert Link and his wife, Lecky-Lawing Link in 1907. He was one of eight children, having five brothers and two sisters. As a child he attended Reeves two-room school on the side of Little Mountain. This was a grammar school. He was graduated from Maiden High School at Maiden, N.C. Following graduation he attended Duke University for one year, then transferred to Wake Forest College. He graduated from Wake Forest College in 1931 with a B.A. Degree, cum laude, majoring in English and Greek. In 1935 he received the B.D. Degree at Crozer Theological Seminary, Chester, Pennsylvania. Rev. Link studied post graduate courses at Southeastern Theological Seminary in 1966-1967.

After receiving the B.D. from Crozer in 1935, Rev. Link married Miss Clarice Elizabeth Pritchard of Elizabeth City, N.C. in 1937. They have two children: Jane Elizabeth Link Fleming, born in 1941, and John Pritchard Link, born in 1944. They are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren.

The pastorates held by Rev. Link were all in North Carolina. He served in Camden County, Cashie Baptist of Windsor, Apex Baptist, Mars Hill College, Mount Gilead Baptist and Warrenton Baptist. He came to Spring