



REV. STUART WHITE

Weekend Revival Set At Sulphur Springs Baptist

Revival services will be held at the Sulphur Springs Baptist Church beginning on Wednesday, November 15 and will run through Sunday, November 19.

The pastor, Rev. Stuart White, will bring the messages each evening at 7 o'clock. Special singing is being planned for each evening.

Rev. White, who assumed pastorate duties at Sulphur Springs last October 1, invites everyone to attend these services.

Tabor City Tribune

Taylorsville Times

Trenton: Jones Journal

Troy: Montgomery Herald

Valdese News

Wadesboro: Anson Record

Wadesboro: Messenger &
Intelligencer

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Rocky Face

Minister Fulfills His Mission By Sharing Good, Bad Times

By DEANNA CHESTER
News Staff Writer

LENOIR — When the Rev. Stuart White moves to Thomasville later this month, he will be leaving home.

"It's going to be very, very different," White, pastor of First Baptist Church of Whitnel, said of the move from his native county.

As a minister, White and his wife, the former Sandra Watson, are accustomed to moving. This time, however, both will be leaving behind more family members than they have in previous moves.

In addition to leaving their parents, the Whites will have almost an empty nest when the move is completed. Three of their grown children plan to stay in the Lenoir-Taylorsville area. Only their younger son will make the move with them to Carolina Memorial Baptist Church in Thomasville.

The Whites also are leaving the church family that has been a part of their lives for the last eight years, as well as a community they have come to love. This is the longest they have ever stayed at one church.

However, despite the difficulty of leaving, White says he knows he is doing the right thing.

"It's been traumatic for us, and I love the people so much and care for them, but when I knew it was the

Profile

Lord's dealing and working in my life (to move), I've had a perfect peace about it."

During his eight years at the Whitnel church, White has been active in the Caldwell Baptist Association and has volunteered as a chaplain with Caldwell County Hospice for several years.

White says his work with Hospice has helped him live up to a goal he set years ago.

"One of my objectives in life has always been just to be a friend, and if I can be a friend, I feel like I've accomplished something," he said.

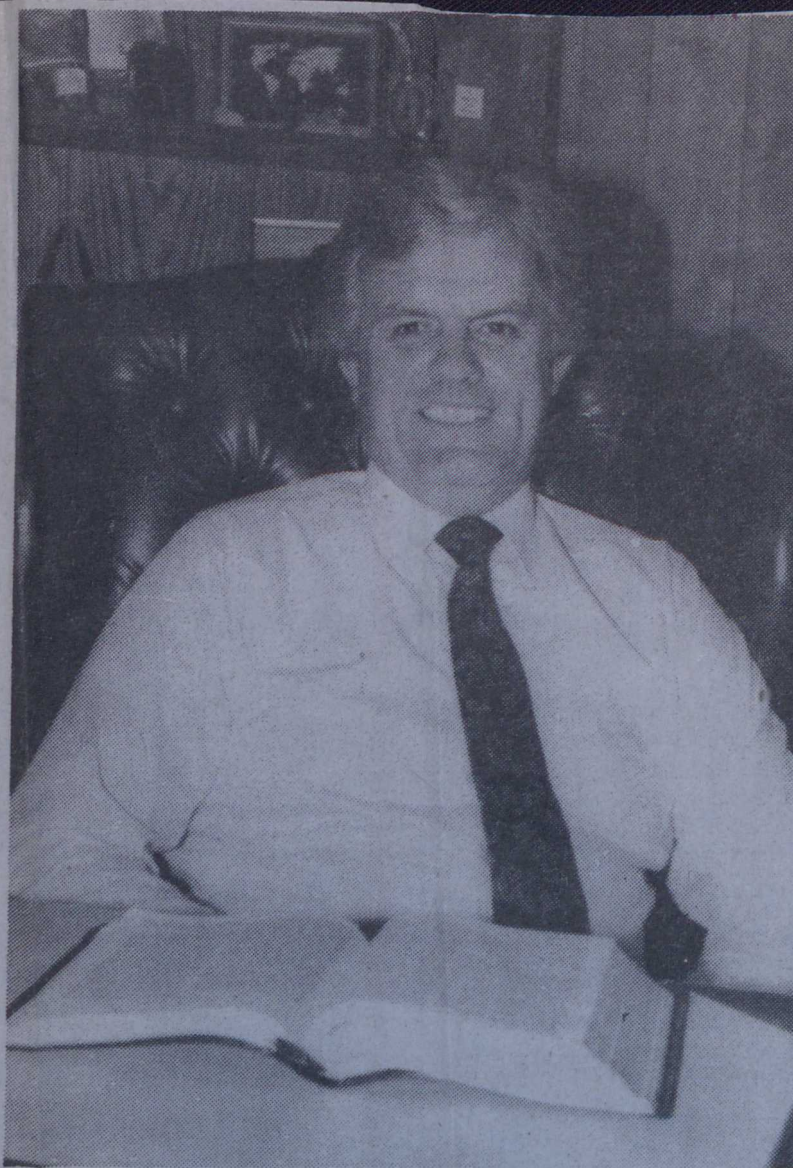
As a Hospice chaplain, White said, his main contribution is "to be there," not only for the terminally ill person, but for the family as well.

"It means a lot just to reach out to a person who is grappling with life and death," he said. "You just simply share Christ and His love with them. ... Everybody needs somebody at some point in life."

White said he has a compassion for both his church members and Hospice patients and families when they are dealing with death.

"I can't feel exactly what the

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The Rev. Stuart White

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Minister Fulfills Mission During Good, Bad Times

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family feels when they experience death, but I do feel along with that family," he said.

White believes compassion and concern for all people are essential. "How are you going to be able to share Christ with them if you don't show it in life?" he said.

Born in Caldwell County, White grew up in Alexander County, where he graduated from Taylorsville High School. White said he felt the call to the ministry in his early 20s and entered Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, where he graduated several years later. His began his first pastorate at Rocky Springs Baptist Church in Caldwell County.

Ordained in 1969, White also has served as pastor of churches in Alexander and Mitchell counties and in Columbus, Ohio.

He acknowledges that the ministry has its positives and its negatives, but says, "I love pastoring. I love preaching."

Sixteen-hour days, he said, are the norm for pastors. "Of course, you're always on call," he added.

Finding a balance between the

demands of serving a church and one's family is important to both, he said. "I have tried over the years to give quality time to my family. They may not agree with that all the time, but I have tried," he said. "If you do for everybody else and forget your own family, you've failed."

White said a minister's day often

is filled with variety and that "in a given day you can have huge swings from one emotional experience to another." He uses the example of being in a hospital room "where a new baby has just been born," then going to be with a family who has just lost a loved one in death.

Serving as a pastor also has its

rewards, such as the Sunday several years ago at First Baptist Church of Whitnel when White baptized three generations of a family, or when he married a young deaf couple with the assistance of an interpreter.

White said he also has been blessed by his church's special education ministry to mentally retarded adults.

He tells how several of them have become church members.

White says the church has been good for those people, but they also have been good for the church. "Our church has grown (because of them)," he said.

Sunday will be White's last day as pastor of Whitnel First Baptist, and

while he is saddened by the separation, he said he is certain he is following God's will for his life.

However, he also says he is not leaving empty-handed, but is taking a "closeness and affection" for and from the people of Caldwell County that will help him begin his ministry in Thomasville.