

Ministers Reelect Connell

The Rev. Claude Connell, pastor of Unity Baptist Church, has been re-elected president of the Belmont Ministerial Association.

Connell was named to head the local organization at its regular quarterly meeting held at the First Baptist Church.

Also re-elected to serve with Connell for the coming year are the Rev. Boyd Stokes, pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church, vice president;

the Rev. Tyson Hope, pastor of East Belmont Presbyterian Church, secretary-treasurer.

Special guests at the quarterly meeting were Mrs. J. Paul Ford and Mrs. R. C. Copedge of the Belmont Community Organization.

The ladies asked the cooperation of the ministers in helping the needy of the community during the Christmas season. They also gave the ministers an insight into the work they perform among the less fortunate of the community. They told the ministers of problems they encountered in the work with the BCO and in helping the welfare cases acquire food.

Feeling a great need in this area, the ministers called a special meeting in January, at which Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Copedge will attend as well as other concerned citizens, to work out a program to help in these matters.

Ayden Tribune
Belmont Banner
Bessemer City Record
Benson Review
Black Mountain News
Brevard: Transylvania Times
Bryson City: Smoky Mt. Times
Boone: Watauga Democrat
Burgaw: Pender Chronicle
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BT.

12-17-69



REV. CONNELL

NAME: Connell, Claude, b9-26-20, 52 B.A., 56 B.D. SEBTS,
min., 207 Cedar Street, Concord.

SOURCE: WAKE FOREST ALUMNI DIRECTORY, p. 55 (378/W13Td)

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The work, fellowship, and Christian love of the good people at Bethlehem has been a source of inspiration to George and Dorothy Cooke through the years.

✓ REV. MARVIN HONEYCUTT

1963-1974



Rev. Marvin & Jewel Honeycutt

Among my fondest memories of my eleven years of service at Bethlehem has to be first of all the 131 precious souls who came to Jesus and the privilege of baptising them into the fellowship of the church.

Secondly I consider the Christian friends I made at Bethlehem to be among the finest in the whole world.

REV. CLAUDE CONNELL

1975-1982

It was a joy and a privilege to be the pastor at Bethlehem for seven years & three months. My primary concern was to preach the gospel & lead the people to higher spiritual grounds. There were other responsibilities also, both spiritual & physical. Working with the people in these areas provided many memories. When we arrived on the scene the church was in the midst of building a new pastorium. We came through those days in good shape. It was a special privilege to move into a new house.

Then we began to look at the physical needs of the church building. The first of those was a painting job

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH, 1938-1988 (50th anniversary)
(Cabarrus Baptist Association) (NCCF)

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Rev. Claude & Rachel Connell

inside. We bought fifty gallons of paint. It was wonderful working together.

Next came the windows in the sanctuary. Two of them were about to fall out. All of them were donated in memory or honor of someone. When the project was completed all were paid for.

The parking lot was next. This was a big undertaking, but six months after it was paved all the debt was paid. There were many other projects & through all of these the people dedicated themselves to the task. It was such a joy to see the enthusiasm of the people in action. Harmony was displayed in every decision.

The highlight of any ministry is to see your boys and girls, young people and adults accept Christ as a personal Saviour.

All of these things working together produced a wonderful ministry at Bethlehem. The days there will always remain in our thoughts. We continue to pray God's leadership upon you as you continue to serve the Lord.

REV. RANDAL DOCKINS, INTERIM

1982-1983

I thank God for the privilege of serving Bethlehem Baptist Church from October, 1982 to June, 1983 as your Interim Pastor.

As I look back things God has allowed that brings to my mind comments of many and lovely fellow Baptist Church. since I felt such people are so lovely so welcome."

This I believe "By this shall all ye have love one love!"

On this fiftieth keep your eyes fixed the night, our safe harbor at the

REV. A.G. "ABE" F

I served Bethlehem eight months. My