

Thomas W. Fryer
pf obit

1908-1997

Page 10 - The Daily Record, Dunn, N.C., Tuesday, April 22, 1997

OBITUARIES

For updated funeral service information, call

RECORD ON CALL at 891-4444

Skinner Funeral Home.....ext. 2006
Cromartie-Miller & Lee Funeral Home.....ext. 2008

Dr. Thomas W. Fryer, 89

Dr. Thomas W. Fryer, 89, former pastor of Dunn's First Baptist Church, died from complications of pneumonia Sunday in Vacaville, Calif.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete and will be announced later.

He was born in Chadbourn, N.C. Jan. 14, 1908, the son of Matthew Alexander and Frances Etta Parker Fryer.

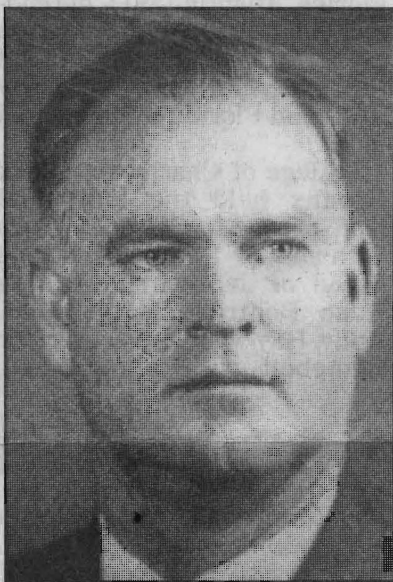
For over 40 years, Dr. Fryer followed his calling to the Southern Baptist Ministry. He was a powerful preacher and a particularly able church builder, completing building programs in several of the churches he served. Dr. Fryer began his ministry as a circuit preacher in the coal fields of southwest Virginia. He pastored churches in Scottsburg, Va.; Martinsville, Va.; New Bern, N.C.; Suffolk, Va.; Danville, Va.; Miami, Fla.; and Florence, S.C. in addition to Dunn. Following his retirement, he undertook several interim pastorates in the Orlando, Fla. area.

In 1947 Dr. Fryer was commissioned Ambassador of Good Will by the City of New Bern, N.C. to the City of Bern, Switzerland. He was subsequently invited to the White House by Pres. Harry Truman to brief the president on this post-World War II good will mission. In November of 1948, on the Sunday following Pres. Truman's defeat of Thomas Dewey, the president visited New Bern to worship at Dr. Fryer's church.

Dr. Fryer studied in Roanoke College in Salem, Va. and at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ken. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Roanoke College in 1954.

Survivors include his wife, Pauline Harp Fryer of Vacaville; a son, Thomas W. Fryer Jr. of Jacksonville, Fla.; a daughter, Mary Ann Young of Vacaville; a sister, Mary Parker Williams of Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Dr. Fryer was preceded in death by a daughter, Laura Frances Skipper of Murrell's Inlet, S.C.

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church, 309 W. Broad St., Dunn, N.C. 28334.



Dr. Thomas W. Fryer

291 A10

FORMER DUNN PASTOR ENDING DISTINGUISHED
CAREER

Dr. Fryer is Retiring

Florence, S.C. -- Dr. Thomas W. Fryer, one of the best known and most colorful ministers in the Southern Baptist Convention, announced his retirement Sunday morning as pastor of the College Park Baptist Church in Florence.

Dr. Fryer is a former pastor of Dunn's First Baptist Church, served as a member of the State Baptist Board, is a former trustee of the State Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

The popular Florence minister, who founded the College Park Church as a mission and then let its growth to a membership of over 350, made the announcement at the Sunday morning church service.

Leaders of the church promptly expressed the hope that Dr. Fryer would reconsider, but the minister said in a formal statement he read to the church that his decision is "irrevocable" and that the effective date of his retirement would be no later than December 31, the final day of this year.

He told the church he would be willing to stay until a successor can be secured, but expressed the hope that it would move rapidly, so he can retire even before the December 31 date if possible.

Announcement of his retirement brought an outpouring of expressions of deep regret, even though Dr. Fryer reminded that he had been considering retirement for several years.

He did not announce any plans for the future after retirement.

Retirement of Dr. Fryer will close an outstanding career of 41 years of service as an active minister and pastor. He took his first pastorate at Clintwood, Va. in November of 1931.

During his long and distinguished career, Dr. Fryer has preached at home and abroad, in tiny churches and great cathedrals alike, and his congregations have included people from every walk of life, including the President of the United States.

Dr. Fryer is perhaps the only minister in America who has had the President and his staff fly to the city in which he lived to attend church. In 1948, President Harry S. Truman and his aides flew to the First Baptist Church in New Bern to hear Dr. Fryer. The event occurred the Sunday after Truman upset Thomas Dewey in a presidential election. A crowd of 40,000 turned out for the affair.

On a number of occasions, Dr. Fryer was a guest at the White House.

After World War II, Dr. Fryer was sent to Europe as a good will ambassador. He has traveled extensively in Eastern and Western Europe, the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, the Mediterranean and the Green Islands.

On one trip to Europe, he was elected president of a group of Rotarians who formed a club aboard the Queen Mary. He was president of the New Bern Rotary Club.

Dr. Fryer has held pastorates in several of the fastest growing and most progressive churches in the huge Southern Baptist Convention. His speaking engagements include primarily the South, but he has also spoken many times in the large northern cities and states as well as in Europe. He also was one of the national sponsors for the Protestant Pavillion in New York in 1965.

Among churches served by Dr. Fryer as pastor are: Clinton, Va., First Baptist in Dunn and Second Baptist in New Bern, N. C., Stuanton Memorial in
(Continued next page)

DR. THOMAS W. FRYER - continued

Miami, Fla., Moffett in Danville, Va. and Starling Avenue in Martinsville.

He came to Florence as pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church and later established the present College Park Church as a mission. The church continues to show rapid growth and progress.

Three years ago, the church secured an \$85,000 recreational facility which includes a junior-size Olympic swimming pool, family picnic shelter, and all sorts of other recreation facilities.

Dr. Fryer is listed in the following American publications: Marquis' Who's Who in the South and Southwest and Who's Who In The Protestant Clergy by Nyard, and the National Social Directory.

The following International Publications list him: The Dictionary of International Biography Published in London, England, the Royal Blue Book Published in London and The Two Thousand Men of Achievement, also published in London.

Dr. Fryer has also played an important role in civic and other public affairs in the Florence area.

Mrs. Fryer is the former Pauline Harp of Galax, Va. Dr. and Mrs. Fryer have three children, Dr. Thomas W. Fryer, Jr. of Mountain View, California, Mrs. Richard Compton of Johnson City, Tenn., and Mrs. Milton Skipper of Marion, S. C. They also have six grandchildren.

Reprinted from:

THE DAILY RECORD, Dunn, N. C.

FRYER, THOMAS WAITT: P. Stanton Mem. Bapt. Chur., Miamia, Fla: B. Jan. 14, 1908, Chadbourn, N. C.: son of M. A. Fryer and Frances E. Parker: M. Pauline Harp, July 8, 1931: Ch. Thomas W., Jr., Mary Ann, Laura Frances: Ed. So. Bapt. Theol. Semin., Louisville, Ky., Roanoke Coll., Salem, Va., D.D.: P. Bapt. Churches in Clintwood, Va.; Scottsburg, Va.; Starling Ave., Martinsville, Va.; Moffett Mem., Danville, Va.; West End, Suffolk, Va.; 1st Bapt. Chur., Dunn, N. C.; 1st Bapt. Chur., New Bern, N. C.; D. So. Bapt.: Ambassador of Good Will, New Bern, N. C. to Berne Switzerland, 1948: Rotary; Mason, Scottish Rite, 32°: R. 100 N. W. 47th Terr., Miami, Fla.

WHO'S WHO IN ^{the} PROTESTANT CLERGY, p. 87

Pub. by: Nygaard Associates, 1957
Encino, Calif.

Fryer, Thomas Waitt

NCCF New Bern First Baptist Church

ATLANTIC

Dedication services. Photograph of
Thomas Waitt Fryer, p. 2.

Dr. Fryer To Return To Conduct Baptist Revival

Dr. Thomas W. Fryer, pastor of the College Park Baptist Church in Florence, South Carolina, will begin a series of revival services in the Dunn First Baptist Church on Sunday. A native of Chadbourn, he was educated in Roanoke College and Southern Baptist Seminary.

He will preach at the 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. services on Sunday, and twice a day Monday through Friday of next week, with the morning services at 10:30 a.m. and the evening services at 7:30 p.m. The Revival Choir will be directed by George Earnshaw III, as will the congregational singing. Special music will be rendered each night. The Church Nursery will be provided for babies and pre-school aged children.

Dr. Fryer is perhaps the only minister in America who has had the President of the United States and his entire staff fly to the city in which he lived and worship in his

church. It was in 1948 that President Truman did this, and it happened on the Sunday after he had upset Thomas Dewey in the presidential election. A crowd of 40,000 turned out for this occasion.

After World War II, Dr. Fryer was sent to Europe as a Good-Will Ambassador. He has traveled extensively in Europe and the Middle East, in Africa and in Latin America. He has held pastorates in several strong churches in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, but he has spoken many times in the larger northern cities and in Europe. He was one of the national sponsors of the Protestant Pavilion at the World's Fair in New York in 1965.

Dr. Fryer is listed in Who's Who in the South and Southwest, and Who's Who in the Protestant Clergy. He is also listed in the Dictionary of International Biography, and his name will be in the Two



Dr. Thomas W. Fryer

Thousand Men of Achievement of 1969 to be published in London next year.

He served as pastor of the Dunn First Baptist Church 1939-1942, going from Dunn to New Bern to become pastor of the First Baptist Church there. Local Baptists feel very fortunate to have his ministry among them again.

Davidson: Gazette
Denton: Davidson Record
Dunn Dispatch

OCT 10 1968

BF

erson, N. C., First Baptist
tired and moved back to

School, Thomasville, N. C.

College - Six Years (While

g Union

Two Years) N. C. State

ren

blical Recorder

North Carolina Conference

(Dunn, Henderson, Laurin-

uity Board, the Hospital
ission Board (All Southern

t State Convention of North
at time of his death) and
s with the Convention.

"Old Testament Charact-
'Magnifying The Church',
The Ten Commandments",
Programs", "Ruth"

Carver December 30, 1920
Carver). To this union two
Norfleet) Hathoway, Rich-
L. (Alice Ruth) Wilson,

Macon White July 16, 1944



November 1, 1939 - September 15, 1942

Dr. Thomas W. Fryer

Born January 14, 1905 - Chadbourn, North Carolina

Still Living (retired) Ocoee, Florida

Education: Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Th.M.

Roanoke College, Salem, Va., D. D.

Pastorates: Clintwood, Va., Scottsboro, Va., Martinsville,
Va., Danville, Va., Suffolk, Va., First Baptist Church, Dunn,
North Carolina, Second Baptist Church, New Bern, North
Carolina, Stuanton Memorial Baptist Church, Miami, Fla.,
College Park Baptist Church, Florence, South Carolina

Married to the former Miss Pauline Harp, of Galax, Va.

Three Children: Dr. Thomas W. Fryer, Jr., Mountain View,
Cal., Mrs. Richard Compton, Johnson City, Tenn. and Mrs.
Milton Skipper, Marion, S. C.