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Baptist church hires new minister

After a search which lasted about a year and a half, the Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church has hired a new minister.

The Rev. Christopher Conner, a native of North Augusta, S.C. and pastor of the Gibsonville First Baptist Church for the past five years, preached his first sermon at the local church March 5.

Conner, 33, said he has found "a real sense of excitement in the Lord among the fellowship..." at the Fuquay-Varina church. He said he thinks that excitement has resulted from "the people praying, really praying and seeking the Lord's face."

Commenting on the rapidly growing community, Conner said, "I want the church to be a real force for Christ in the community and that will open up all kinds of areas for ministry in the community as well as among the body of believers here."

Conner replaces the Rev. Horace Hamm who retired in 1993. Dr. Thomas A. Bland has served as in-

terim pastor.

Conner said he sensed a call to the ministry when he was 17. He started his college career at Gardner Webb on football and baseball scholarships; however, he soon realized that he wasn't in the right place, doing what he should be doing, so he changed colleges and directions.

Conner received an undergraduate degree in business from Pfeiffer College. He earned a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, and a doctor of ministry degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, completing work on that degree in 1993.

Although new to Fuquay-Varina, Conner feels he has a tie to the community. Dr. Charles Page, who grew up in Fuquay-Varina while his father was pastor of the Baptist Church, was pastor of the church Conner attended as a teenager. Later, Conner worked on the staff



CHRISTOPHER CONNER

...new pastor at F-V Baptist Church

of a large Baptist Church in Charlotte where Page was pastor.

Conner is married to Elizabeth Brown Conner who is a nurse. They have three sons, Clark, 7, Cameron, 5, and Kendall, 3.