

H. G. BRYANT

H. G. Bryant was a native son of Pleasant Hill community. Pleasant Hill Church was the church of his youth. He accepted Christ here at the age of eighteen. When the minister baptized him, he made the statement that he felt he was baptizing a minister to be. Soon the Lord called him.

He was first elected church clerk in November 1902. He was ordained a deacon in June 1903. He was licensed to preach the same year and elected by the church as pastor for the next year. He was ordained to the full ministry of the gospel May 29, 1904, during his pastorate. He was ordained by Reverend R. H. James, Reverend A. C. Davis, and T. P. Little.

Reverend Bryant began a Bible School in this church in September, 1921, running for five days.

PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, 1868-1938, p. 10

286.9756755/P71

BRYANT, HAMPTON GEROME, b6-16-82, 16 B.A., min., Townville,
S. C. d5-5-60.

WAKE FOREST ALUMNI DIRECTORY, 1961.

Page:36

(Listed in catalog of Southern Seminary for 1921/22 as being
a student)

NAME

H. G. Bryant

b.
d.

Ancestry

Married

b.

d.

Ancestry

Record

Mount Pleasant - Union -

See *Brown Creek History p. 247*

File No.

(Over)

ORDINATION OF H. G. BRYANT

May 29, 1904

We having decided to ordain our pastor, Rev. H. G. Bryant, to the full work of the Ministry elected as a Presbytery; Elders, R. H. James, A. C. Davis and T. P. Little. Owing to the absence of Bro. Davis the work was carried on by Bros. James and Little at Ten o'clock A.M. The ordination sermon was preached by Rev. T. P. Little. A short intermission was given, after which the congregation reassembled for the ordination. The Christian experience of the candidate being satisfactory, they proceeded with examination, which was conducted by Rev. R. H. James.

The Presbytery being satisfied with the stand which the brother had taken on the Bible, and considering him orthodox in every respect, and competent to fulfill his calling. After prayer by Rev. T. P. Little, proceeded with the "Laying-on of Hands" conferring upon him the full authority of a Minister.

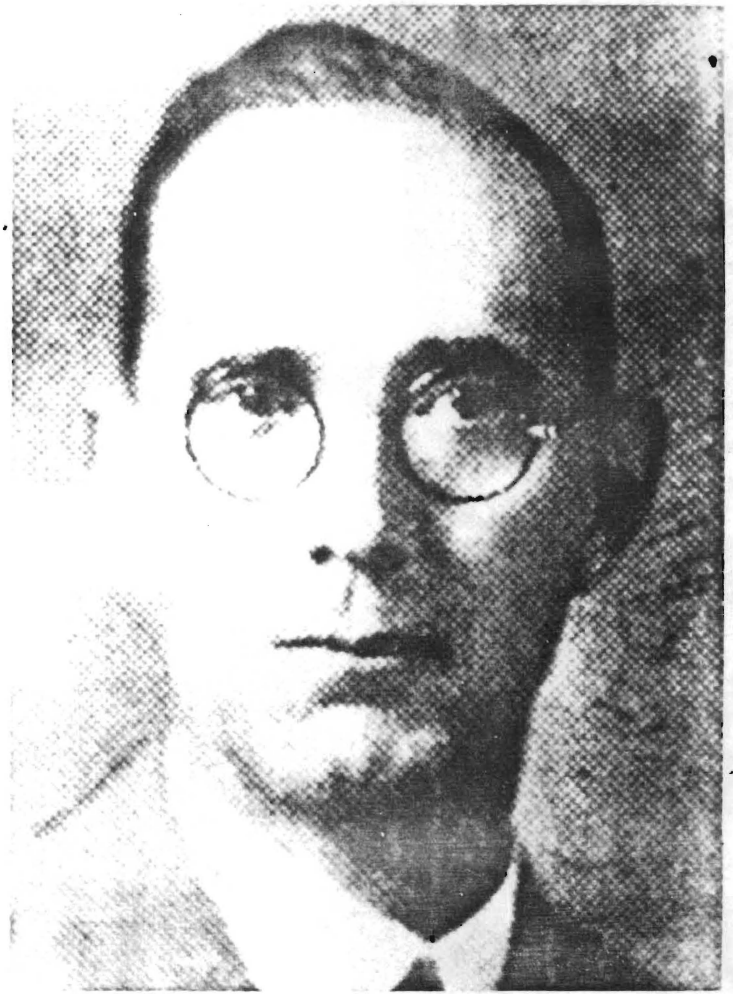
The Bible was presented by Rev. R. H. James, after the delivery of the charge, the choir sang a hymn and the congregation proceeded to extend the right-hand of Christian welcome as a Minister of the Gospel. After the benediction by Rev. T. P. Little the congregation adjourned.

M. L. JAMES, Sec.

PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, 1868-1938, p. 14-15.



Rev. J. H. Broom



✓ Rev. H. G. Bryant

We Added Depth

With the trauma of World War I overcome and Kannapolis in a growth trend, the Baptist Church began in the 1920's to add depth to its ministry.

While continuing its primary mission, seeking lost souls, it recognized that the converts must be trained and challenged so that they might grow in the Christian faith. This brought on a determination to enlarge the Baptist influence in shaping the town's future.

The Rev. H.G. Bryant, who had come here in the fall of 1919 from the historic Meherrin Baptist Church at Murfreesboro, placed teaching and leadership development on the same plane with preaching. Expanded leadership emerged in our church during the year that he was our minister.

He became very active — and very influential — in the Kannapolis Ministers Association. The minutes of meetings show that he frequently spoke out against "gambling and all games of chance." He expressed deep concern about businesses operating on Sunday, which, he contended, was set aside as God's day. When the association learned that dancing was beginning at Mary Ella Hall (a large dormitory between our church and the YMCA), the Rev. Mr. Bryant was named to a committee to meet with "Miss Maud Reid, the superintendent, and thereby use our influence to help her in suppressing this evil."

First Baptist Church, Kannapolis, N. C. — Our First 75 Years

BY: Bill Workman

(286.17567/W89)

The October 9, 1920 issue of the *Concord Tribune* reported that the Rev. Mr. Bryant had moved to Louisville. In the same paragraph, it said that Miss Winona Chaney had assumed her duties as the Baptist Church's city missionary.

Development of leadership continued under the direction of Miss Chaney, who remained with us until January 1923, when she accepted a call to Temple Baptist Church in Durham as a home mission worker.

The January 11, 1923 issue of the *Concord Times* reported that during her stay in our church Miss Chaney "organized the Missionary Society into circles, reorganized the BYPU (Baptist Young People's Union), ministered to the sick and suffering, scattering sunshine and cheer." It also said that she had been active in the Federated Missionary Society in Kannapolis and the Woman's Club.

The *Biblical Recorder* reported in the August 31, 1921 issue that the Rev. J.H. Broom had arrived from Bethune, S.C. to be pastor of our church. "He is already on the field and is delighting the congregation with splendid sermons and his pleasing personality," the article said.

The Rev. Mr. Broom immediately became a leader of the Kannapolis Pastors Association. The minutes of the association's February 13, 1922 meeting listed him as president. The main concern at that session was "bootlegging and gambling" in the community.

The year 1922 was destined to be a banner period for our church, and the leadership — having grown in Christian service — was ready for all challenges. Teachers who had been busy from the founding of the congregation were more mature and better trained. New teachers were developed.

Miss Donie Norville was in her classroom early every Sunday morning, getting ready for the children to arrive. There are few adults in our church today who do not cherish the memory of sitting at Miss Donie's knee and hearing her tell stories from the Bible. She taught more than the lessons on the cards in the earliest years, the little books that came along later, and the quarterlies that guided her in the Junior Department in her later life. She taught from her own Christian experiences.

A senior citizen in our congregation recalls that when she was old enough to leave her mother she went to Miss Donie's class. She remembers the cards with pictures on one side and stories on the back, and the Bible verses that Miss Donie encouraged the little boys and girls to memorize. Miss Donie always called the roll and then passed the rollbook around for the children to put their pennies on.

One Sunday, one of the boys decided it was more blessed to receive than to give. Instead of putting pennies on the book, he took pennies off the book. His sister, sitting next to him, tapped the boy's hand and he dropped the pennies back on the book. The sister went home and reported the little boy's misbehavior. Their mother held her own Sunday School session and drilled him on the verse, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Another old-timer remembers a card that Miss Donie gave him one Christmas. It was a simple gift and probably didn't cost more than a penny or two, but he held onto it for years. When the card accidentally slipped behind the mantel-piece at his home he wanted his father to tear the fireplace out to get it.

Miss Donie "graduated" to the Junior Department, where she remained as long as she could come to church. She died in 1966.

By the year 1922, Zettie Walters was well established as the teacher of the boys' class. His service, and his influence, spanned half a century. As "my boys" moved up, Zettie moved up with them. He was their teacher when they were teens, when they were young men, and when they were senior citizens. He also served our church as a deacon, as volunteer choir director, and was first president of the Keen-Age Fellowship. He served as superintendent of the

Long-time members of our congregation remembered the Rev. Mr. Turner as a powerful preacher. Other pastors in town admired his preaching ability. Minutes of the Kannapolis Ministers Association meetings during the two years he was here mention that he was called upon to give outlines for sermons. One that received special mention was his sermon on "God's Blockades on the Road to Hell."

He believed in cooperation with other churches, and joined in a program of ministers exchanging pulpits with each other.

He led the Baptists in participating in community-wide evangelistic crusades, including one conducted by Mel Trotter at the YMCA.

The Rev. Mr. Turner also had a good rapport with young people. He and Mrs. Turner entertained members of the Kannapolis High School's Senior Class of 1924 at a Valentine party. Their daughter, Helen, was a member of the class.

He delivered the baccalaureate sermon to the Class of 1924, and it made such an impression upon Superintendent of Schools J.W. Sloan that he recommended that the sermon be published and each member obtain a copy.

When the Rev. Mr. Turner left late in 1925, the Rev. H.G. Bryant, who had served in 1919-20, returned as our minister. He immediately resumed his efforts to have Sunday observed as God's Day, and his main targets were filling stations that sold gasoline on the Sabbath and drug stores that sold "cigars, ice cream and things other than medicine on Sunday." He and other ministers conducted chapel programs in the local schools and reported these were "profitable meetings."

In our church, the Rev. Mr. Bryant emphasized the expansion of the Baptist Young People's Union, and during the 21 months he was here a third group was organized and all the groups met the standard prescribed by the Southern Baptist Convention. He also emphasized the importance of the Sunday School meeting the standard, and in his letter of resignation in September 1927 he said "marked advances" toward this goal had been made.

He also said in his letter that our congregation's gifts for all causes increased from \$5,413 to \$7,269 and then to \$8,405. More than 300 members were added to the church roll during this pastorate.

In reporting the Rev. Mr. Bryant's resignation, James L. Moore, Kannapolis correspondent for the *Concord Tribune* referred to our congregation as the First Baptist Church. The headline said it was the largest church in Kannapolis, but nowhere in the lengthy article was the membership figure given.

The Rev. Mr. Bryant left in November 1927 to become a member of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, which at the time had headquarters at Oxford. He later served a church at Windsor and in March 1930 he was called to the pastorate of the North Charlotte Baptist Church.

HISTORY OF BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH,
Knightdale, N. C., 1883-1983.
(286.175655/B46)

Appendix 19 Continued ----



REV. LEVY LEONIDAS CARPENTER
Our Sixteenth Pastor - 1912

Dr. L. L. Carpenter was born November 29, 1891, near Carpenter in Wake County, North Carolina. He graduated from Wake Forest College, Southern Theological Seminary and Yale University. He married Lucille O'Brien on September 2, 1919, and they had two sons. He served as pastor in several states before becoming editor of The Biblical Recorder. He died August 22, 1966.

REV. E. M. LASSITER
Our Seventeenth Pastor - 1913

Elvis Martin Lassiter was born on December 25, 1871, in the northeast section of Wake County. His death occurred at his home in Apex on March 9, 1915. He was 44 years of age. He married Cassie Yates in 1893, who, with five children, survived him. He sold his farm and home in 1902 and entered Buies Creek Academy in 1902. He was ordained in 1904 -- two years later attended Wake Forest College. He filled pulpits in Sampson, Harnett, Wake, Jones and Granville Counties.

✓ REV. H. G. BRYANT
Our Eighteenth Pastor - 1914-1915

The only data in The Baptist Historical Collection of Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University on Rev. H. G. Bryant -- "He attended the Brown Creek Association meeting at Mount Pleasant Union Baptist Church."