

Buddy Taylor-pastor, mechanic, student, and cager

When people refer to the pastor of their church, most often comes to mind a man whose sole activities are those involved with church and church-related activities in his community.

But, while student-pastor Emanuel L. (Buddy) Taylor of Union Chapel Baptist Church is devoted to the pulpit and his church, his life (both professionally and socially) is dotted with a myriad of other activities.

Besides his duties in the pulpit as pastor of the church on Sunday mornings and evenings, and Wednesday evenings; and the weddings, funerals and church meetings over which he must preside, the Rev. Mr. Taylor also works part-time at Raleigh Turf-Grass Farms as a mechanic and is studying for his Masters in Divinity degree at Southeastern Baptist Seminary.

Why all of these activities? Well, first of all, a second job is almost necessary for the pastor of a rural church such as Union Chapel, whose congregation cannot support a full-time pastor. However, Buddy pointed out that his church has been very generous in their support of him and their financial backing during the 3½ years he has served the pastorate.

"When I first came to Union Chapel, I was a novice minister, this being my first pastorate and it took both me and the congregation a while to get used to one another," recalled the minister. "I learned how to try to preach and they learned how to be patient."

The Rev. Mr. Taylor received his calling to serve



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the Lord many years ago, but did not become ordained until 1970.

A native of Lexington, South Carolina, Buddy was co-owner with his sister of a hardware and furniture store there when he received his first call from the Lord back in 1951.

"I felt then that the Lord had something that he wanted me to do. But I felt so inadequate," reflected the local pastor. "I felt that I should do something special

but I didn't know how to go about it."

Buddy was educated in Lexington public schools and attended Clemson College before he went into the hardware and furniture business. In the 1950's the business expanded and another store was bought. Life became very busy.

During this time he had married the former Margaret Norris of West Columbia, S.C., and they became the parents of three daughters and a son.

Drag-Racing

During that span of time, he also developed a new interest -- round-track and drag-strip racing.

"Two other fellows and I went in together and handled three cars under the name of 'The Shade Tree Racing Team'," laughingly recalled Buddy. "A boy I knew had a race car -- he was a mechanic, and with me in the hardware and auto parts business, I handled the details." Buddy said their driver at one time was Jimmy Thompson, brother of Speedy Thompson of Monroe, N.C., former Grand National topcar driver.

The "Shade Tree Racing Team" consisted of two gas coupes and one rail dragster. The cars were NASCAR sanctioned and were driven in races from Columbia, S.C., Charlotte, N.C., Jacksonville, Fla., Myrtle Beach, S.C.; etc.

Buddy said that the biggest win posted by the team came in 1958 when they won the overall top eliminator at Daytona Speed Weeks. The team came out with a 4 foot trophy and a cash prize. Their driver was running an

Oldsmobile power rail when he won the contest.

The pastor said the only good thing he gained from the racing was a knowledge of mechanics which he now uses in his job at Turfgrass.

"It wasn't long after I finished racing that I decided that there were more fulfilling things in life, and that I had to answer my calling."

Buddy returned to college, in 1966 this time, at Columbia College where he earned his B.A. degree in religion in 1969.

While in college, Buddy served as music and education director for four years at Green Hill Baptist Church in West Columbia.

I liked my work at Green Hill, especially with the choir, but I knew I needed more formal training.

"I've always loved music." "There's nothing I enjoy any more than leading the music in revival services," says Buddy, who sings solos and bass in a quartet. He and three of the Union Chapel members have a mixed quartet which sings on occasions. "One of the first pieces of furniture Margaret and I bought when we were married was a used piano and neither of us plays anything but the radio." One of his special joys is directing the choir at Union Chapel, and particularly directing seasonal cantatas.

"... going in the right direction"

So, in 1970, Buddy entered the Southeastern Baptist Seminary and the Taylor family moved to Union Chapel community to serve his first pastorate.

"I now feel as if I'm going

in the right direction," stated the Rev. Mr. Taylor. "I'm very happy with this pastorate, and I certainly have no desire to leave."

Buddy said that he will be graduating from the Seminary in May, and oftentimes congregations expect their pastors to leave when they graduate.

"But, my family and I are homebodies," declared Buddy, "and we are happy here and want to stay as long as we can get the Lord's work done together."

Buddy said that he doesn't find the Union Chapel community very different from his South Carolina home.

"I've never been a big city person," said Buddy, "so I don't feel out of place here at all."

The Rev. Mr. Taylor also cited the people in his church as being honest and outspoken people, which he says leads to a more "open and better relationship" between the pastor and the church.

Buddy compares his position with the church to a recent position as player-coach of the Green Hill Baptist Church Sunday School basketball team. "The two are virtually the same," said Buddy. "Because I must lead and I must participate and become one with the people."

Buddy commended the leaders in the church with whom he works, including Dickey Bryant, Sunday School director and Mrs. Doris Naylor of Cary, pianist and teacher. Buddy also serves as choir director of his church.

Building Program

"We have set goals each year and we have reached them," said Buddy. "We are

now in the midst of a tremendous building program to construct a new sanctuary and classroom building. From September to November, we raised some \$5,000 for our building fund out of a congregation average attendance of 60-65 people per service," said Buddy. "Over \$10,000 total

was raised in 1973 to go toward the building fund, in addition to that money collected in the regular offerings."

Athletics, too—

So besides tending to his regular church activities, working at Turf-Grass, and

studying for the Seminary courses, he is also helping to launch a tremendous, time-consuming building program.

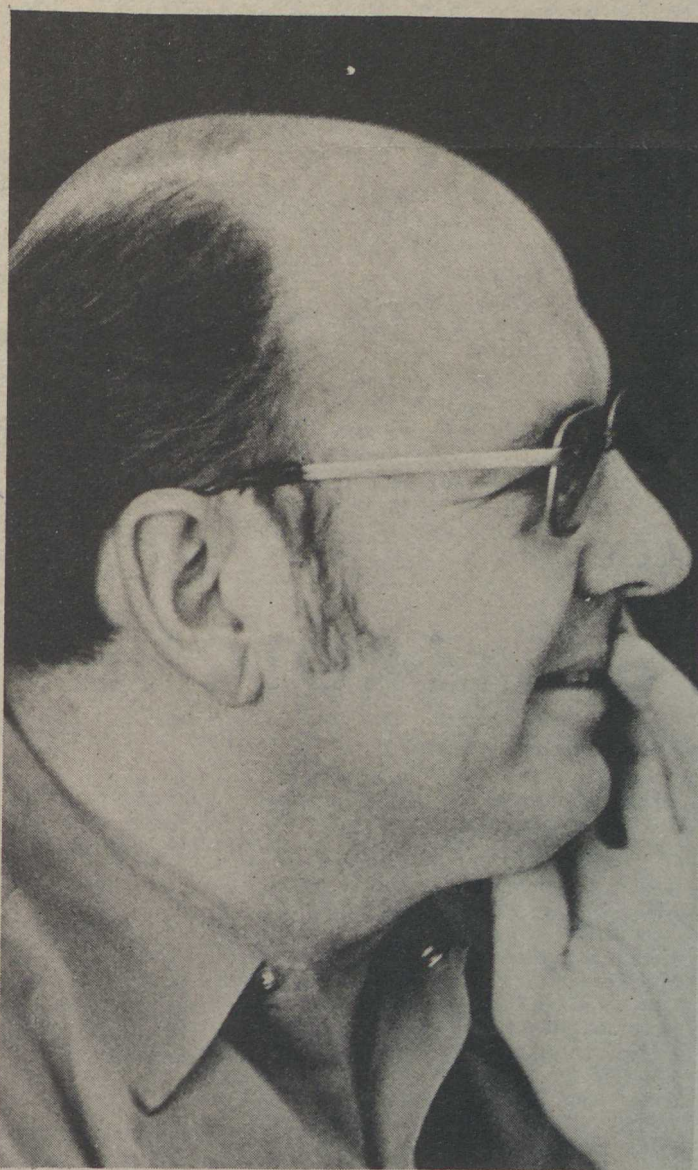
And that's not all. Buddy has recently joined the Adult Basketball League in Zebulon, whose teams play twice a week in the Zebulon school gym.

Buddy has long been a basketball advocate, having played in high school, on various church teams, and on the National Guard Signal Unit team of Lexington, S.C., which was runner-up in the state tournament in 1958. Buddy also won the Sportsmanship award that year.

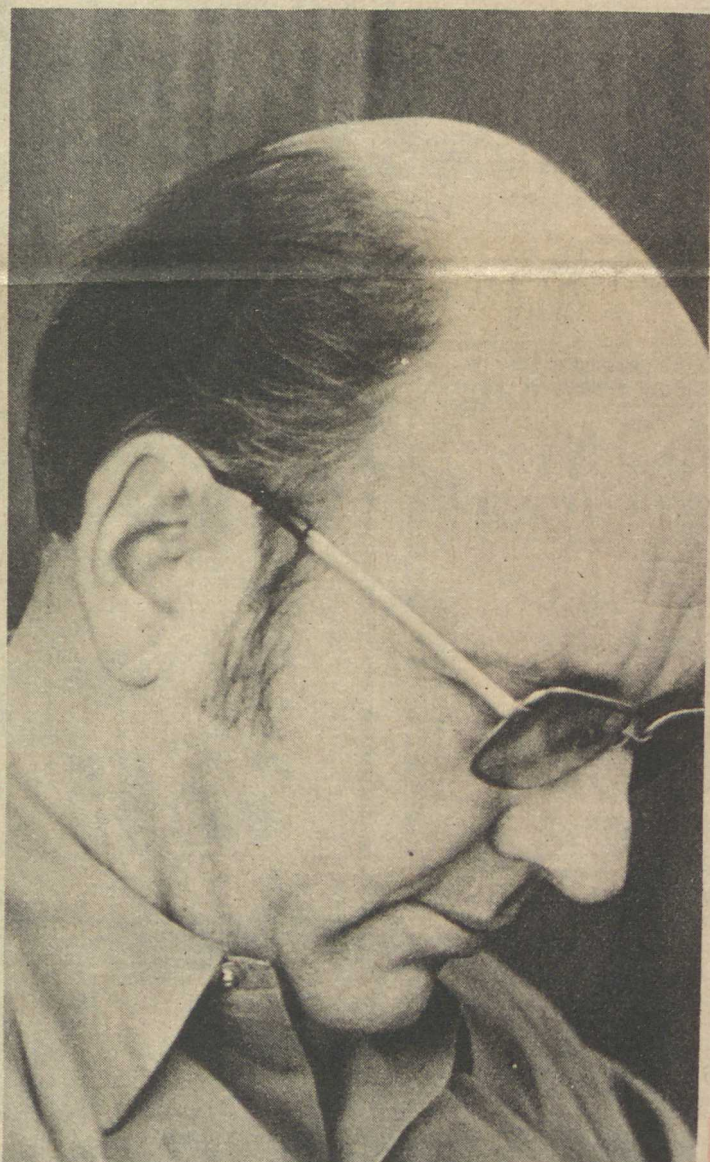
"Practically, my whole family is athletic," said Buddy. "At one time three of my daughters were playing on a basketball team, and so was I. We had four games a week to attend!" laughed Buddy.

E.L., Jr. is playing on the eighth grade team this year.

When asked how he copes with such a full and active life, Buddy said, "My father taught me when I was young to work and accept my responsibilities."



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