

Conversation Tool

Medallion Tells Christian Story

By MARTHA RAINEY
Independent Staff Writer

When a teenager walks down the street with a medallion flopping on a leather strap around his neck, nobody gives him a second glance.

But when a minister does it, now that draws stares and questions. Just ask Rev. Gilbert Pierce, pastor of Shadybrook Baptist Church.

"Every place I've worn this medallion in the past week and a half, someone has asked me what it means," he says. That's exactly why he put it on in the first place.

The medallion, about three inches tall and two inches wide, symbolically tells the story of the Christian faith. A cross in the center, says the Rev. Mr. Pierce, depicts "the vicarious suffering of Christ for our sins." A "Z" also in the center, stands for the letter "Zoe" in Greek, which means, "He lives."

The outer circle of the medallion means "the eternity of God's love and the universal church of believers," according to the Shadybrook minister.

Smaller circles, imprinted on the larger circle, he explained, represent "local congregations," and the dash between the circles stands for "the love that holds the different faiths together."

"It's just a tool to start conversation, that's all it is," said the Rev. Mr. Pierce, fingering the medallion. He's ordered 15 more, and young members of his church, forming what they call a Zoe Club, plan to wear them.

The hitch is that they must pledge to tell anybody who asks them about the medallion what it stands for. "If they have to go to class or something, when somebody asks them, they have to plan to see that person afterwards," said the Rev. Mr. Pierce.

If they don't tell the Christian story, he said, they can't wear the medallion anymore.

The Rev. Mr. Pierce got the medallion from a minister friend in New York City, Larry Walker, who got a Greenwich Village silversmith to design the piece for him.

"Larry is really good with young people," said the Rev. Mr. Pierce. "He speaks their language."

The Rev. Mr. Pierce hopes to get the New York minister to come to Kannapolis some time in the future.

"We're not trying to get a mass movement going," he said. "We just want a group who will, without fail, tell anyone what the medallion means."

"So many young people are committed," the Rev. Mr. Pierce said, "but they don't know how to say so. This medallion is just a tool to help them get started talking."

He said the group is also open to older people who are willing to make the pledge to tell the Christian story.

Asked if he's ever told anyone about the medallion who didn't ask first, the Rev. Mr. Pierce grins slowly.

"Well . . . I was with this man one day, and I saw him look at it about 15 times. I knew he wanted to know, so I said, 'I noticed that you've been looking at my medallion.'"

The man, more courageous then, said, "Yes, what does it mean?" and that was the pastor's signal to go ahead and tell him.



—Staff Photo by Charles Foster

Rev. Gilbert Pierce

... Sporting The Latest In Christian Fashion.

Kannapolis Daily News
Kannapolis Independent
Kinston Free Press
Lenoir News-Topic
Lexington Dispatch
Lumberton Robesonian
Morganton News-Herald
New Bern Sun-Journal
Raleigh News & Observer
Raleigh Times
Reidsville Review
Rockingham: Richmond Co. Journal

SEP 26 1971

Ends Work July 1

Pierce Resigns At Shady Brook

The Rev. Gilbert Pierce, pastor of Shady Brook Baptist Church for the past 11 years has resigned, effective July 1.

In announcing his resignation to the congregation on April 28, the Rev. Mr. Pierce said, "I am open to the future. If the Lord opens the door to another position. If the latter becomes true, please be assured that I am not leaving the ministry. I will simply be leaving the pastorate to enter the ministry, in the market place. Remember that our faith was born in the market place, and it is to the market place that it must return."

Since coming to Shady Brook, the Rev. Mr. Pierce has led the church in two remodeling programs, one in 1964 and another in 1970. The church was completely air-conditioned, carpeted, painted throughout and remodeled, and the parking lot church was paved.

He has also led in the development of a church library program and in setting long range goal planning, in the organization of the church-sponsored Cub pack and Boy Scout troop, and in development of a clothes and food distribution program for needy families.

The Rev. Mr. Pierce has served as leader of the Youth Dialogue Group and helped form the Senior Adult Fellowship.

The church built a \$50,000 parsonage in 1967 and secured property behind the present



REV. GILBERT PIERCE

building. The portion of offerings for missions has increased from 10 per cent in 1963 to 27 per cent in 1974. The church total income has increased by 45 per cent, and 292 members have been added to the church roll. In 1970 the church began sponsoring a kindergarten.

The Rev. Mr. Pierce led the church to cooperate with the community in the organization of the South-West Little League field, using the church property for this purpose.

Active in the Cabarrus Baptist Association, he has served on every committee and as parliamentarian of the association for the last five years. He has also held every office in the Kannapolis Ministerial Association, being president in 1973. He was director of the Kannapolis Summer Festival of Faith in 1970 and served as director of the Bible distribution (Good News For Modern Man) for Cabarrus County and was follow-up chairman for the Leighton Ford Crusade.

He has also served as president of the Southwest Little League, served on the board of directors of the Cabarrus Rescue Squad, is a charter member of the Kannapolis Committee on Human Affairs, worked with the Community Fund and Heart Association, and is the current president of the Inter-Agency Council of Cabarrus County. He served as president of the Cannon Junior High School Parent-Teacher Association this year and is a past president of the Carver P-TA. He has been an active member of Cannon Memorial Masonic Lodge.

Hickory Daily News
High Point Enterprise
Jacksonville Daily News
Kannapolis Independent
Kinston Free Press
Lenoir News Topic
Lexington Dispatch
Lumberton: Robesonian
Morganton News-Herald
New Bern: Sun-Journal
Raleigh: News & Observer
Raleigh Times
Reidsville Review
Rockingham:
Richmond Co. Journal

MAY 30 1974



REV. GILBERT PIERCE

Rally ✓ Speaker Reported

Rev. Gilbert Pierce, who is serving his eighth year as pastor of Shadybrook Baptist Church will be guest evangelist for the fourth rally in the Fall Festival of Faith at Memorial United Methodist Church Sunday.

The Rev. Mr. Pierce was born in Guilford County, and is the son of a minister. He received his education at Elon College and Wake Forest University and is a graduate of the School of Pastoral Care of Bowman Gray School of Medicine. He is presently working on a Master of Divinity Degree.

The Rev. Mr. Pierce has served in the state of Nevada with the home missions board of the Southern Baptist Convention. During this time he organized three churches and two missions in a period of 18 months. He has served as pastor of Churches in Nevada and North Carolina.

In the service which is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m., the Rev. Mr. Pierce will tell about a power that sustains. There will be special music under the direction of N. C. Strickland Jr., and a layman who learned to live with Christ will give his personal testimony. Mrs. Excel Grass is organist for the services. Mrs. Joe Fisher will serve as hostess for the coffee and fellowship hour to be held in the fellowship hall immediately following the rally.

The program for Saturday night is family entertainment. A film, "His Land" will be shown. This is the latest Billy Graham film and is one that is a family-type film.

Rev. William O. Bigham is pastor of Memorial United Methodist Church and serving as coordinator of the services.

Jacksonville Daily News

Kannapolis Independent

Kinston Free Press

Lenoir News-Topic

Lexington Dispatch

Lumberton Robesonian

Morganton News-Herald

New Bern Sun-Journal

Raleigh News & Observer

Raleigh Times

Reidsville Review

Rockingham: Richmond Co. Journal

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11-20-78

Baptist Church Honors Pastor

Shadybrook Baptist Church climaxed Pastor Appreciation Week Saturday night with a dinner honoring Rev. Gilbert Pierce.

The dinner was held in the fellowship hall, and the pastor received a suit and accessories—a gift from the congregation.

The Rev. Mr. Pierce assumed his duties as pastor of the church April 28, 1963 and during this time he has served both the church, the Cabarrus Baptist Association and the community.

In the Cabarrus Baptist Association, he has served on the Missions Committee, the Ordination Advisory Council and as superintendent of training for the associational Sunday School. Presently, he is serving as parliamentarian and as pastor advisor for the Music Committee. In the Cabarrus Baptist Ministerial Conference he has served as secretary.

During the Leighton Ford Crusade, the Rev. Mr. Pierce served on the Program Committee, the Advisory Committee and as chairman of the follow-up work through the Inter-Denominational Pastors' Conference. Presently, he serves as chairman of the Radio Ministry Committee.

Civic Work

His civic activities include the N. C. Heart Association, president of the Shadybrook Elementary School P-TA, cubmaster of Troop 227 at the church, and he is presently serving on the Board of Directors of the Cabarrus County Rescue Squad and as director of the Southwest Little League.

During his pastorate, the congregation has completely renovated and redecored the church buildings. The work included redecorating all of the old buildings, the new educational building as well as the sanctuary. New tile was installed on all the floors and air conditioning was installed in the sanctuary. New draperies were also added. Floodlights for the front of the church were installed and musi-



REV. GILBERT PEIRCE

cal instruments throughout the church were repaired.

In 1967 a new pastorium was completed.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Pierce the mission program of the church has almost tripled.

As the Rev. Mr. Pierce looked back on the past six years,

he commented:

"While much has been accomplished there is still a harvest ahead and may we give God the praise for all past accomplishments, and may we recognize that this has been possible only because of the spirit of cooperation that has prevailed in the church. May we never lose sight of the challenge Christ has given His church."

The Rev. Mr. Pierce is a native of Greensboro and received his education at the University of Wyoming, the University of Nevada, Elon College, Wake Forest College and the School of Pastoral Care of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Baptist Hospital at Winston-Salem.

During his ministry he organized and served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lovelock, Nev., while working with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He has also served as pastor of churches in High Point and King.

He is the son of Rev. and Mrs. C. R. Pierce, formerly of Kannapolis, and is married to the former Miss Jeannette Brown. They are the parents of two sons and a daughter.

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Appreciation Check

The Rev. Gilbert Pierce, pastor of Shadybrook Baptist Church, receives a check from Harold Broome, chairman of the deacons, in apprecia-

tion of his nine years of service there. The check was presented at a dinner honoring him and his family last Sunday. Looking on is Mrs. Pierce.

Hickory Daily Record
 High Point Enterprise
 Jacksonville Daily News
 Kannapolis Independent
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MAY 11 1972



GRATITUDE EXPRESSED — Members of the Shadybrook Baptist Church showed their appreciation to their pastor, Rev. Gilbert Pierce, Sunday during homecoming by presenting him a trip to the Holy Land. Pictured are (left to

right) Don Hogue, chairman of the deacons; the Rev. Mr. Pierce; Seyborne Jones, Sunday School director; and Mrs. Geneva Gaskins, church hostess. The Rev. Mr. Pierce will leave Dec. 26 to visit the Holy Land and Rome.

—Staff Photo By Charles Foster

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NOV 13 1972

Pierce Addresses Baptists

The Rev. Gilbert Pierce, pastor of Shadybrook Baptist Church in Kannapolis, was among those speaking up this morning when the Baptists of North Carolina considered a proposal from the General Board to make the position of parliamentarian an appointive job.

He spoke against the proposal, explaining that he had worked in favor of electing a parliamentarian in 1957 and he still believes the convention needs a parliamentarian elected by the messengers.

For the past two years, the Rev. James Bulman, pastor of Providence Baptist Church at East Spencer, has been parliamentarian.

Before Mr. Bulman's election in 1963, the position was filled by Robert N. Sims, a Raleigh lawyer. Shearon Harris of Raleigh, president of Carolina Power and Light Company, was elected parliamentarian in 1958 and served seven years — stepping aside in 1962.

Some messengers interpreted the General Board's recommendation that the parliamentarian be appointed by the convention president as an effort to remove Mr. Bulman.

The East Spencer minister has long been a controversial figure at state Baptist meetings. He has proved to be an expert in Kerfoot's Parliamentary Law, which was developed by Dr. Kerfoot for his students at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in the late 1800s.

Tied to the General proposal today was for the North Carolina Baptist Convention to adopt Robert's Rules of Order instead of Dr. Kerfoot's Parliamentary Law. Robert's Rules of Order is widely accepted and is used by the Southern Baptist Convention at its meetings.

Mr. Pierce statement, prepared for delivery to the convention this morning, follows:

"This is only the second time I have spoken to this convention. The first time was on November 21, 1957, when we were in the midst of some very trying days for our convention. On this date, marked by a lot of disorder and confusion in the convention, it was apparent to me, and I feel to everyone there, that our president needed some help in keeping us in order.

"I made the motion to amend the constitution to include as a general officer a parliamentarian to give the president this needed help. The motion was passed overwhelmingly.

"I believe that this change was a good one, for our conventions have been more orderly since then.

"I believe that we, the messengers, have the right and the responsibility to elect all officers necessary to conduct the business of our convention in an orderly manner. I feel

WEDNESDAY 11:00 WEA

WFMV-TV, Greenville

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Hickory Daily Record

High Point Enterprise

Jacksonville Daily News

Kannapolis Independent

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NOV 17 1965

Colburn

—Rev. Gilbert Pierce—

Baptist Minister Attends National Breakfast

The Rev. Gilbert Pierce, pastor at Shadybrook Baptist Church and Mrs. Pierce attended the 20th Annual National Prayer Breakfast and National Leadership Seminar in Washington D. C. Tuesday.

The National Prayer Breakfast is sponsored by a group of Senators and Congressmen and the President, and is not paid for by Federal taxes.

Rev. Pierce's name was submitted by Congressman Earl

Rev. Pierce said his first thoughts as they arrived at the Washington Hilton Hotel were

"If you were to open a 'Who's Who in America' you would certainly find most of those who are in government there. There were representatives of the executive, judicial, legislative, diplomatic and military branches of service attending. Two and three star generals were everywhere and delegates and representatives from

100 countries were present."

He said all guest were treated in much the same way. "As we came to the entrance line, we were just behind Sen. and Mrs. Sam Ervin of North Carolina. He introduced us to many others who came to speak to him. Mrs. Ervin recalled many memories of Kannapolis and Concord. She is a native of Con-

cord.

"The International Ballroom is very large and tv lights were in all directions. Each table was numbered. Our table was about 50 feet from the speakers table.

"Each table had a host and ours was Under Secretary of Transportation J. Lee West-

Rev. Pierce marveled at the tone the breakfast took after the speakers began their talks.

"The program was one of deep reverence for God. In his opening remarks, Rep. Quie, Minnesota Congressman, in the spirit and tone of a Baptist Evangelist, stated we were there not to say to the country that we have arrived but that we need

to be a nation under God. He stated emphatically that we were there to experience Christ.

"I could sense the spontaneous presence of the Holy Spirit. I talked to many who were in accord as to the high spiritual tone of the entire program.

"President Nixon brought a message calling for a re-discovery of our spiritual greatness in this country. He asked for prayer on behalf of peace as he traveled to China and Russia. He referred to the statement of Ab-

raham Lincoln when he was asked if he thought God was on his side and when Lincoln replied to the effect that the most important thing is that we're on God's side."

Rev. Pierce said following the talks, a very unusual thing happened. "Before the Honorable Harold Hughes, U. S. Senator and a converted alcoholic, offered the closing prayer, he said, 'T ere is in this hall today the leaders of the free world. If everyone of us would commit our hearts to Jesus Christ and

His love, we could and we would change the course of history.' Then he too asked that we join hands for prayer.

"I have never had a more moving or touching experience," Rev. Pierce said.

While in Washington, the Kannapolis minister and his wife were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Burton Selleseth of Arlington, Va. They also visited with Mr. and Mrs. Gioele Settembrini, director of American's United for Separation of Church and State.



Rev., Mrs. Pierce

... Admire Breakfast Invitation