

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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HE LOVED THEM

Forty-three years of dedicated service to a small rural community ended last Sunday, down in Pamlico county, when Dr. John M. Waters retired as pastor of Arapahoe's Bethany Christian church.

We were privileged to attend the farewell reception for the kindly minister and his wife. Written on the faces of young and old alike was the wistful awareness that from their midst a true servant of God was departing.

In joy and sorrow he had been near and dear to these good people, who come pretty close to being the salt of the earth. There were weddings beyond all counting, and funerals that were never impersonal to a parson who recognized each and every member of his flock as a close personal friend.

Mr. Waters—not Dr. Waters or Reverend Waters—is what they've always called him at Bethany Christian. In the manner of plain and unassuming country folks, it was their way of showing him the highest respect possible.

Here was a minister of exceptional training, keen intellect and rare capabilities. For many years he headed the department of religion at Atlantic Christian college. Repeatedly he was sought as a pastor for larger churches in big cities—for example, he turned down a handsome edifice with a well-heeled membership in Memphis.

Why did he pass up this chance and others? What was the force that made him want to stay at Arapahoe? Does he have any regrets? There was one way to find out for sure, so we asked him.

"If I had my life to live over, I'd do the same thing again," he told us. "These people are the kindest and the friendliest I have known. I was a farm boy myself, born in a big family, and my interest has always been centered in rural people."

To cite one of the things he likes about country folks, the scholarly, soft-spoken minister said, "Our congregation doesn't rush home after the service is over. They stand around and talk, and invite each other home to dinner. You don't see so much of that in big city churches."

Dr. Waters isn't as young as he once was, but he has never been one to drag his feet or rest on past laurels. Originally, Bethany church was a frame church, but when it became practical to do so, it was moved across the highway and brick veneered.

Convinced that a lack of space was cramping the program of the church, the energetic pastor sold his small and none too wealthy membership on adding Sunday school rooms to the sanctuary.

More recently, an annex for recreational and fellowship purposes was built. Quite appropriately, the congregation announced last Sunday that from that day on a bronze plaque proclaiming it as the "John M. Waters Fellowship Hall" is to be prominently displayed on its wall.

Not content with furthering the aims of his own church and own denomination, Waters has been a tireless worker in the community and area for all worthy causes. In short, he practiced what he preached.

Above all, he has believed in education. Perhaps no one—not even the minister himself—could begin to list the number of deserving Pamlico county youngsters who have gone to college through his efforts to provide the necessary finances.

His reward has been the commendable records established at school and in later life by those who never would have been able to get a college education without his help.

Quite a few aspiring young ministers—not just of his faith, but of other faiths as well—will long remember him for his sound counseling, his encouragement and his constant inspiration.

Yes, Dr. Waters was country-born, and there never was any doubt in that keen mind and that understanding heart of his that his great challenge and his great opportunity was among rural folks.

Others got to be pastors of the big churches in the big cities, but in his own way, among his own kind, this man became a servant of God who will long be remembered. No one knows that better than the folks at Bethany Christian church.

Historical Gleanings

—By—

FRANCES B. CLAYPOOLE
and
ELIZABETH MOORE

CAROLINA CENTINEL

1820, July 29. Married in this town on Sunday evening last by the Rev. Richard S. Mason, John W. Guion, Esq., to Miss Mary Tillman, daughter of the late Col. Henry Tillman.

Married at Chapel Hill on the 9th inst. Hamilton Jones, Esq., Attorney, to Miss Eliza Henderson, only daughter of Major P. Henderson.

1820, November 11. Married on Thursday evening last by Rev. Dr. J. O. Freeman, Mr. James Sanders to Elizabeth Avis.

1820, November 18. Married in Duplin county on the 3rd ult. Edmund H. Whitfield of Wayne to Miss Sally A. Green, daughter of Joseph Green, Esq.

1820, November 25. Married in this town on Monday last Mr. John R. Good of this town to Miss Margaret Ellis, daughter of Mr. Michael Ellis of this county.

Married in Jones county Thursday last by Rev. Lewis Skidmore, Mr. James Stanton to Miss Nancy Foy, daughter of Enoch Foy, Esq., of the said county.

December 9, 1820. Married in this town Thursday evening last by Rev. Lewis Skidmore, Mr. Alfred Jones to Miss Ann Oliver.

1820, December 9. Married on Thursday evening at Mr. John Fonvielle's in this county, by Rev. Thomas Meredith, Mr. Abner Pearce, merchant of Kinston, to Miss Phoebe Fonvielle.

1820, Dec. 23. Married on Wednesday last at the residence of John S. Nelson, Esq., by Rev. William Cook, Mr. Samuel Hyman to Miss Mary Nelson, all of this county.

1820, Dec. 30. Married Tuesday evening 26 ult. at residence of General Edward Ward in Onslow county, by Bazel R. Smith, Esq., Mr. Richard B. Hatch of Jones county to Miss Clarissa Rhodes, daughter of the late General Rhodes of Wayne county.

1820, April 15. Died in this town on Friday evening last Capt. Robert R. Sparrow.

1820, June 3. Died in Fayetteville Monday 15th ult. Mrs. Ann B. Carney consort of Mr. John Carney, joint editor of the Observer, in the 23rd year of age.

1820, September 2. Died at Street's Ferry near New Bern on 23 ult. Miss Sarah Tripp, daughter of Charles Tripp of Pitt county, in the 13th year.

Died at Slocumb's Creek in this county in the 8th year of age, on

Village Verses

HEART SONG

Love can salvage sweetness
From all the empty years—
And somehow bring completeness
To chase old doubts and fears.
Love is more than caring
In a selfish sort of way;
Above all, it is sharing
One's lot from day to day.
Love means quick forgiving
In a manner that's divine;
It makes life worth the living,
So be my Valentine.

JGMCD.

25th ult. Benjamin, the son of Amos Rowe, Esq.

1820, Sept. 9. Died in this town on Monday last after an illness of several months, Mr. William Harvey, merchant.

1820, Oct. 14. Died in this town on Saturday last Ann Maria, daughter of Dr. Frederick Blount, in the 11th year of age.

1820, Oct. 28. Died at Holly Grove in Duplin county at the residence of Hon. Charles Hooks on the 9 inst. Mrs. Eliza Jones Hatch, consort of Lemuel Hatch, Esq., Sheriff of Jones county.

1820, Nov. 25. Died at Kinston, Lenoir county, on Wednesday, 15th Mrs. Elizabeth Cobb in the 68th year.

1820, Dec. 9. Died in this town on 18th ult. General William R. Davie, a gallant soldier of the Revolution, formerly one of our ministers to Frances.

Died in this town on Friday last Capt. Jeremiah Brown, a resident of Philadelphia.

1820, Dec. 30. Died on Thursday night last at his residence, Mr. Nathan Parsons in the prime of his life.

Saturday, March 25, 1820. Notice of administration at March Term of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Session, Craven county, for John Thomas by Moses Nelson.

1820, June 16. Notice of Administration by Edward Vail of estate of Mary Vail.

1820, July 1. Letters at post office for Solomon E. Grant, Capt. William Hall, John O. Ivey, John Oliver and Benjamin S. Tillman.

1820, Nov. 18. Notice of valuable property to be sold. Plantation on Trent River, 8 miles from New Bern, Lyon's Pasture or Alveston

Hall, adjoining lands of Frederick Foy, Esq., at present in occupation of John F. Burgwin, 980 acres, also valuable land on Swift Creek 18 miles from New Bern with one of the best mill seats; also 1/2 lot No. 22, and part of lot 21. G. Holmes, M. Campbell, J. R. London.

1820, Dec. 9. For rent, a large white house on Middle Street lately occupied by Mrs. Emery as a boarding house, apply Ich. Wetmore.

1820, Dec. 16. Notice of administration by John R. Good and Salmon Hall, estate of William Good, deceased.

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WOODROW MOORE'S
Supplying Indoor Comfort With
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Have You Listed Your 1960 Taxes?

Time Extended Through Saturday, February 13, 1960

Fearing that some taxpayers had been unable to list their taxes during the month of January, as required by law, the Board of Commissioners have extended the time within which we may accept your tax list, without penalty, through February 13, 1960.

This is, therefore, final notice and urgent warning to any who have not listed taxes for the year 1960, that unless their tax list is in the hands of the list-takers on or before the 13th day of February, 1960, the penalty prescribed by law will immediately become effective, as well as subjecting the taxpayer to indictment for failure to list.

I therefore urge you to see the tax lister in your Township as quickly as possible and attend to this important matter.

U. W. Daugherty,
TAX SUPERVISOR

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