

Religion

Community outlook

Pastors join forces to reach out

By Kristin Guthrie
Staff writer

Pastors from all walks of life are leaving their native roots behind and reaching out to try to make a difference in the lives of people all around the county, regardless of race, creed or any other human boundaries.

As leaders in their church and community, these pastors want to be catalysts in promoting unity — racially, denominationally and otherwise. They see their commitment to a monthly prayer meeting as the first step to breaking down the walls that divide.

In addition to promoting unity, these pastors are meeting to pray for the lost and to ask God to bring revival to this land. "We pray for revival and renewal among the churches," said Don Satterwhite, Raeford First Baptist Church pastor

and key leader in the recent beginning of these pastoral meetings.

Satterwhite said he was originally inspired to break down racial and denominational boundaries after attending a Promise Keepers convention last year. "My whole thrust came out of Promise Keepers," Satterwhite said. "The Lord really said go find a black pastor and make him a friend."

Shortly after the Promise Keepers event ended, Satterwhite returned to Hoke County and began trying to carry out what the Lord had told him to do. Along his journey, Satterwhite met Buffalo Springs Baptist Church Pastor Barry Shoffner. Shoffner, like Satterwhite, has a heart for bringing unity among all people.

"I have always tried to bridge the gap of denominational and racial lines," Shoffner said. "I have found power is in the strength of the alliances."

Together Satterwhite and Shoffner are leading these prayer meetings. The first Saturday of every month pastors are meeting at Virgil's Restaurant on Highway 401 Bypass at 8 a.m. Satterwhite said they begin the meetings with scripture and go into sharing items of common interest. From there, the pastors move into a lengthy time of prayer. They pray for revival, the lost, unity among the churches, young people and ask God to move.

At their first meeting in January, they had 14 pastors attend. Last month they had 10 pastors and in March they had 20 pastors, the largest crowd ever. Satterwhite said they've had pastors from all denominations and all races in the area.

Satterwhite said they welcome any pastors to come join the group. For more information, call Satterwhite at 875-3508 or Shoffner at 875-4154.



Keys are being presented to chairman of the trustee board, Bro. Altas Lewis, by Rev. Shelly Dial; also, standing at the rostrum is the Pastor of Center Grove, Rev. Dr. W. O. McCullough. The guest speaker for this grand occasion was Rev. H. E. Edward, moderator of the Pee Dee Association and the pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Maxton. A reception was held after the service in the new dining area.

God's looking for a few good men

In the Old Testament we have several examples of godly men. One of my favorites was Abraham. He was a man of faith who left familiar surroundings, family and friends to follow God. He sacrificed all that he had, even willing to sacrifice his only son, to follow the Lord's will.

In Genesis 18 the story is told of how God was going to destroy the wicked city of Sodom because of its people's sin. Abraham was standing before God, and he made a request that God not destroy the city. He looked for righteous men in the city, first looking for 50, then looking for just 10 — and he couldn't even find 10 righteous men. Sodom was destroyed, but Abraham continued to stand for what was right.

God is still looking for those who would be righteous in our community. I wonder how many of us would be like Abraham and stand alone among sinful people. God has called us to stand for

Pastor's Pen

by Don Satterwhite

righteousness. I have often heard it said that those who stand for nothing will fall for anything.

The sad thing is that when I look at which Christians are most committed to the cause of Christ, I see the women. I'm thankful for women who are not ashamed of their faith. Without the women willing to take the lead, the church would be much weaker. My question is, where are all the men who could be more committed to the cause of Christ? Where are the men who will stand for Christ no matter what the world is doing around them? I'm looking for a few good men who are

willing to take a stand and be godly men.

Promise Keepers is sponsoring 18 major stadium events this spring and summer. The theme for these 2-day conferences is "The Making of a Godly Man." Along with several other pastors, I'm looking for men who would be willing to go to Promise Keepers in Tampa, Fla. May 16-17. We are planning to charter a bus and need a minimum of 40 men to make the trip. If I can count on you to be one of the 40 men in Hoke County needed to take the lead spiritually and go to Promise Keepers, then call or write today at First Baptist Church, 333 N. Main St., Raeford, N.C. 28376 or call 875-3508. I will answer questions about arrangements and cost of the trip.

I'm wondering if there are 40 men in Hoke County who will take this stand for Christ. Let me hear from you today. I'm going to take a stand, will you stand with me?

Center Grove holds dedication

Dedication Service for Center Grove Missionary Baptist Church was held on February 2 at 3:30 pm. The pastor, Rev. Dr. W. O. McCullough, and the church congregation celebrated the new and remodeled addition to the church. We thank the contractor, Henry Dial, owner of Dial Construction Co., because while the work was being done to the church, not any of

the church services were cancelled.

For the grand occasion, many Hoke County dignitaries were present. Those present were Hoke County Commissioners: chairperson, Jean Hodges and her husband; vice chairman, James Leach; L. E. McLaughlin Jr.; Cleo Bratcher and his wife; City Councilman, Clyde

Thomas Jr. and his wife and family; Hoke County Sheriff Wayne Byrd and his wife. Due to illness, Henry Dial could not be present.

His wife, Joyce Dial and their son, Rev. Shelly Dial, who worked very closely with his father on the remodeling of Center Grove, was there to represent him.

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