

# Rev. Wallace joins David Baptist as pastor

Rev. Charles (Charlie) Wallace began his duties Feb. 28 as the Senior Pastor of David Baptist Church in Kings Mountain.

He brings his years of experience as an Associate Pastor, former Youth Pastor, and Children's Pastor. He holds a BS in Retail Management from the University of South Carolina (2002) and graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2006 with a Masters in Divinity. While there, he was a member of the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, Theta Eta Chapter at USC.

Most recently, Pastor Charlie was the Children's Pastor of First Baptist Church in Columbia, SC. While there, he was in charge of overseeing the entire Children's Ministry, which encompasses the grade school and preschool division. Sunday School attendance ran around 250 children and teachers, with an enrollment of 430. In addition, he also oversaw the mission program for RAs, GAs, and Mission Friends. While there, they experienced significant church growth through the AWANA ministry for children, Bible studies for parents, and a

special needs ministry for children and families with special needs children. He has been involved in college and singles ministry, various children's camps, and ministry to all ages. He maintains a personal weblog at "http://pastorcharliewallace.com"; here he gives information related to the week's sermon and other Bible studies.

Pastor Charlie accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior when he was seven years old, but it wasn't until his junior year of high school that he really began to understand what it meant to follow Christ as his Lord. However, college years brought changes, and for a year and a half, he went down a different path. He learned a lot about the world, and how miserable people are who do not have any hope in life and fail to realize that a Christ-filled life is the only true source of contentment as well as fulfillment.

Returning to Christ's conviction in his heart, he put his life back on track, and soon realized his call to seminary and subsequent call to be a minister of the Gospel. In Pastor Charlie's words,



CHARLIE WALLACE

"This was something that I had thought I was called to do ever since my senior year in high school. My calling was affirmed, however, in my experience where I withdrew myself from the Lord. Fortunately, the Lord did not withdraw Himself from me."

His wife, Emily, also holds a Masters of Divinity in Women's Studies. She has taught Bible studies for women and also for fourth-grade girls Sunday school, and has been active in AWANA and GAs. She also maintains her own weblog, entitled "More Precious Than Jewels" at "http://emilywallace.blogspot.com". Emily stays busy caring for their two young children, Jackson, age 3, and Abigail, age 1.

## GAMING

From Page 1

Dellinger said, "they were your run-of-the-mill poker machines."

The machines, both tabletop and full-standing consoles, required the insertion of money to play. Credits were tallied and betted. Money was won. Money was lost.

But with the recent influx of sweepstakes machines one of the locations under investigation switched over to the updated version, Dellinger said.

The new consoles looked eerily similar to the poker machines of old, only this time there seemed to be no slot to insert money. Amusement companies have argued in courts that since nothing can be physically inserted into the machine that they are not in violation of the states gaming laws.

Dellinger disagrees. "The machines are illegal," he said.

"The statute says it doesn't matter what you're playing on, if you're gambling it's illegal," he added. You "still have to deposit money for play of the game."

And the games, he said, are "based on the random matching of shapes, colors, cards or whatever without having to rely on the dexterity of the player."

### The law

North Carolina General Statute 14-306.1A states that video gaming instruments are defined as "slot machines" if they operate: "a video poker game or any other kind of video playing card game, a video bingo game, a video craps game, a video keno game, a video

lotto game, eight liner, Pot-of-gold, (or) a video game based on or involving the random or chance matching of different pictures, words, numbers or symbols not dependent on the skill or dexterity of the player."

Those "slot machines" are still illegal, according to state law.

The North Carolina Court of Appeals recently overturned a lower court ruling made in February 2009 by Wake County Superior Court Judge Howard Manning, who shared the opinion that if video gaming is allowed in Cherokee it should be permitted statewide. The state Court of Appeals ruled that the Band of Cherokee Indians has the sole right to operate gambling games on tribal land.

Dellinger said that the amusement companies, which often produce or distribute these machines, took Manning's ruling and other lower court injunctions, made last year, to mean that sweepstakes centers and gaming consoles were immune from state statutes.

They took it, he said, "to say that it was okay to play these machines now, which wasn't the case."

Gastonia law enforcement officers have taken a hard stand against the video gaming machines since the machines began appearing in North Carolina a few years ago. District Attorney Locke Bell has brought many of the cases to trial.

### The machine

With the video gaming consoles, which look like the old poker or keno machines, money is paid to an operator, either for a phone card or other forms of credits. The

card or credits can then be used to play games, which are activated by the operator.

Other video sweepstake games of poker, keno, Pot-of-gold and the like can be found on simple computer monitors. Usually in facilities termed "Internet cafes" or "business centers", customers purchase Internet time and can use the money they paid to bet with as credits in the games.

Both types of machines have been used in properties owned by Johnson. The consoles that were confiscated recently in Bessemer City were like the old poker machines.

These two centers, Dellinger said, were located in commercial buildings which appeared to cater mostly to the gaming crowd. Unlike convenience stores, no other items seemed to be marketed for sale there.

"The people that went there in large part were there to play the games," Dellinger said.

GC Police Sgt. R.B. Battle began the investigation over two years ago. Det. Dellinger took over after Battle was promoted to sergeant.

Johnson, Morrison and Bush have been charged with misdemeanors. They will appear in court in Gaston County.

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