

FIRST NOTES

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL 1997

THE CROSS IN MY POCKET

*I carry a cross in my pocket, A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian, no matter where I may be.*

*This little cross is not magic, nor is it a good luck charm;
It isn't meant to protect me from every physical harm.*

*It's not for identification for all the world to see;
It's simply an understanding between my Saviour and me.*

*When I put my hand in my pocket to bring out a coin or key,
The cross is there to remind me of the price He paid for me.*

*It reminds me too, to be thankful for my blessings day by day;
And to strive to serve him better in all that I do and say.*

*It's also a daily reminder of the peace and comfort I share,
With all who know my Master and give themselves to His care.*

*So I carry a cross in my pocket reminding no one but me;
That Jesus Christ is Lord of My Life, if only I'll let Him be.*

HAPPY



EASTER

WUL Forming For Grand Celebration Commemorating Pastor Bradley's Faithful Service To First Baptist Church

Pastor's Anniversary/Retirement July 21-27th

With Pastor James R. Bradley announcing to the First Baptist congregation last month his plans to retire, a major effort is now underway to give him a grand recognition for his spiritual leadership at First Baptist.

A weeklong celebration with several other churches and ministers sharing with us in fellowship will highlight the activities. Though specific details are not yet finalized, the celebration will begin on Monday, July 21st with services each evening of the week; a retirement banquet will be held on Saturday, July 26th and the culmination of the celebration will be on Sunday, July 27th.

Deacon J.C. Davis is the General Chairman of the Anniversary/Retirement committee. The Co-Chairman is Deacon Owen P. Cheatham. Other committee members include the following: Program/Souvenir Booklet: *Eric Cheatham*; Culinary Committee: *Sis. DeLois Watkins*; Reception Committee: *Sis. Deborah Hayes*; Publicity Committee: *Deacon William Johnson*; Housing Committee: *Sis. Linda Thomas*; Finance Committee: *Joseph Slash*; Gift Committee: *Sis. Dessie White*; Banquet Committee: *Deacon Marshall Taylor*.

Several additional members have already been added or will be added to work with the leaders of the above mentioned committees. Each and every member of First Baptist is encouraged to take an active part in making this a very memorable and spiritually uplifting occasion. **The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday, April 6th at 5:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall.** There's a lot of work and effort to be done and a short amount of time to do it in order to make this a successful celebration. *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Psalm 133:1.* Let's unite in this spiritual celebration!

Ten Guidelines For Church Etiquette

- 1 I will not walk, talk or distract anyone while Scripture is being read. Scripture, the Holy Bible, is God's divinely inspired Word. His word deserves the full attention of the church family. If I do not pay attention or if I distract someone else, not only may I miss a blessing but another member may miss theirs also.
- 2 I will not walk, talk or distract anyone while Prayer is going on. Prayer time is very important in the church. It is a divine privilege that God has given His children. The church should be on one accord while a person is leading the prayer. Talking to God is an important part of the Christian's life and we must take it seriously.
- 3 I will not walk, talk or distract anyone during the invitation. The Invitation to Christian Discipleship is the key moment during any worship service. It gives people the chance to respond to God's Word and give their lives to Christ. It is the most important decision a person can make in their life. The proper thing to do during the invitation is to Pray that someone will decide to give their life to Christ.
- 4 I will bring my Bible with me to Church and read it everyday. The Bible is God's Holy Word. As Christians, we are admonished to "Study to show myself approved". My Bible should become so much a part of me that not only will I carry it in my hand, but I will also carry it in my heart.
- 5 I will not leave church without receiving the Benediction. The Benediction is the final pronouncement and prayer for God's blessing upon the congregation until we meet again. How would I feel if God left me early before finishing what He was doing?
- 6 I will not take distracting news or messages to the Pastor before he has to preach on Sunday morning. In order to be fully used by God, a preacher must completely yield himself to the Holy Spirit. Distractions move him away from the preaching task. Trivial things should be kept until after the preacher has preached God's Word.
- 7 All written messages for the pulpit should be given to a Deacon, who will give the message to the pulpit. This helps to cut down on confusion during worship. The Deacons are the Pastor's right arm, and are responsible for seeing that the worship service proceeds without hindrances.
- 8 I will not walk through the Pulpit at anytime unless I am a preacher of the Gospel or am fulfilling some specified duty. The pulpit is a sacred place in God's house that is set aside for ministers or ones under the direction of the Pastor.
- 9 I will not lay foreign objects on the Communion Table/Altar. The altar is a place of prayer, worship, sacrifice and communion. It is not meant for hats, coats, books, etc. We should respect God's altar.
- 10 If I see my brother or sister practicing wrong church etiquette, I will go to them in a spirit of love and correct their mistake. Some people don't do better because they don't know any better. In the spirit of brotherly love, let's continue teaching the right way so that God will be pleased with our Church family. *Submitted by Mrs. Willie J. Moore.*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. James H. Bradley, Pastor
DeLois Watkins, Secretary
Tracie Stewart & Jufie Johnson, Asst. Sec.
Linda Jones, Financial Secretary
June Barnett, Treasurer
J. C. Davis, Chairman of Deacons
Marshall Taylor, Chairman of Trustees
Donna McCray, Sunday School Dir.
Rev. Eric Hayes, Bapt. Training Union
Timothy Bratton, Minister of Music
D'Crey McGuire, Head Custodian
William Borum, Custodian

Church Office Hours: 9a.m. - 3p.m.
Monday through Friday

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Bible Study on Monday,
March 31st from 6-7 P.M.

YOUTH RETREAT at Benedict Inn
on Tuesday, April 1, 1997 from 8:30
a.m. until 4 p.m. Buses will leave
church at 8:30 a.m. Activities in-
clude:

- Bible Lesson
- Workshops
- Mini-Sermon
- Open Gym
- Bible Games & Prizes
- Fellowship & Fun

Bring Your Bible

Participants will receive a T-Shirt.

F.A.I.T.H. Choir sings at Northside
New Era on April 1 at 6:45
VOICES OF JOY CANDLELIGHT
CONCERT-April 20th—6p.m.

To the Pastor, Rev. Bradley
and the Deacons Board:

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to you, the Deacons and the Deaconess Board of First Baptist for all of the kindness you all have expressed during the Homegoing of our grandmother, Blanche B. Martin. Through her love, guidance and devotion, we've all grown to embrace God in our lives, and it is through God's strength and your prayers that we will continue on without her. She will truly be missed but we're certain she's smiling down on all of us every day.

We truly appreciate the cards, flowers, the dinner, and all of the wonderful things you shared with us during this time of sorrow. We know not to mourn her for she is happy with Him.

Thank you for all of the kind gestures and prayers and know that you will always be with us in spirit.

Sincerely,

The Family of Blanche B. Martin

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23

