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Watterson, Gene L. (1969)

Pastors of First Baptist Shelby

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Gene Watterson - Thirty-Second Pastor

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Dr. Gene L. Watterson

Thirty-Second Pastor

The Rev. Gene L. Watterson preached his first sermon as pastor of First Baptist Church, Shelby, on July 27, 1969. He came to Shelby after serving as Pastor of Murray Hill Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida (1967-1969). He served pastorates at First Baptist Church, Crestview, Florida (1960-1967); Woodlawn Baptist Church, Colonial Heights, Virginia (1953-1960). In 1952 he served as Associate Pastor and Minister of Youth at First Baptist Church, Warner Robins, Georgia, and was Speaker of Youth Revival Teams in 1951.

A native of Decatur, Alabama, Dr. Watterson received his B.A. from Howard College (now Samford University), an M.A. from the College of William and Mary, a B.D. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, an M. Div. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and has received special training in clinical counseling at Central State Hospital in Petersburg, Virginia.

He is presently serving or has served on the following committees of the Southern Baptist Convention: Executive Committee, Mission Service Corps Committee, Program and Budget Committee, Business and Finance Committee, and the Audit Committee.

Dr. Watterson has served in the following N. C. State Baptist Convention capacities: Member of the General Board of N. C. Baptists, member of the Executive Committee, member of the Council of Christian Life, and as President on the Council on Christian Higher Education.

He has served as speaker at the Evangelistic Conference of Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and at numerous state conventions. He has participated in programs at Ridgecrest and in the Southern Baptist Program Evaluation and served as mission speaker in the Transpacific Crusade in Otorohanga, New Zealand.

Dr. Watterson's civic activities include: Chairman of the Commission of Housing and Urban Redevelopment, Shelby, N. C.; Member of the Human Relations Council, Shelby, N. C.; Member of the Board of Directors of Boys' Club of Cleveland County; Member of the Shelby Rotary Club; Member of the Board of Trustees of the Christian Action League.

In 1974 Gardner Webb College presented him with an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree. Other honors include: Citation from Gardner-Webb College for Outstanding Achievement in the Christian Ministry (1970); Nominated to Personalities of the South (1970); Nominated to Dictionary of International Biography (1970); Nominated to Executive and Professional Hall of Fame (1967); Listed in Who's Who in the South and Southwest (1958-1968); Listed in Who's Who in the American Protestant Clergy (1958); Named Outstanding Man of the Year, Colonial Heights, Va. (1957); and Listed in American College Student Leaders in 1951.

Dr. Watterson is married to the former Yvonne Caudle of Petersburg, Virginia. She is an accomplished organist, pianist, and soprano soloist. The Wattersons are the parents of three children, Pamela Yvonne, Gene Lee, and Lisa Dawn.