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October 28, 1969 - The Cleveland Times

The Cleveland Times

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The Cleveland Times

A Part Of The Life Of Cleveland County...Published Each Tuesday, Thursday And Saturday

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

SHELBY, N. C. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1969

8 PAGES TODAY

and Times

Times
Advertising
Pays

Published Each Tuesday, Thursday And Saturday

OCTOBER 28, 1969

8 PAGES TODAY

SINGLE COPY 10¢

First Baptist Church Of Shelby Publishes History

The phenomenal memory plus an affinity for facts of R. Hubbard Hamrick and the fluid pen of Mrs. C. Rush Hamrick Jr. have been coupled to produce an outstanding history of The First Baptist Church of Shelby, N. C. Mrs. Hamrick is a former editor of The Times.

The well-written hard-back book is not only an outstanding history of the local church but is a commentary on local events as well.

Several thousand copies of the newly published book were distributed to church members following church services last week. Copies are available at the church office for four-dollars each.

The two authors have collected information and photographs of the 122-year-old institution and woven them into an intriguing drama of local church history.

The 167-page publication contains photos of the church's thirty-two pastors dating back to 1847 when Rev. James Milton Webb delivered his first sermon in the small frame building in downtown Shelby known then as Shelby Baptist Church.

Hamrick's efforts to secure photographs of the pastors involved years of correspondence reaching throughout North America and Europe. Procurement of the photographs is an achievement within itself.

The newly published book contains a number of interest-

ing photographs of Shelby's yesteryears.

A number of sources were utilized by the authors including newspaper files, Baptist Association minutes, several published books and the personal files of O. M. Mull and Mrs. O. Max Gardner.

The book is dedicated to Mrs. O. Max Gardner who is a great-granddaughter of the first pastor. Funds for the publication

of the history came from a gift bequeathed to First Baptist Church by Mrs. Gardner in her will. The endowment was also used to furnish each church family with a copy of the book.

The Rev. Gene Watterson is pastor of First Baptist Church, and the Rev. Roland Leath is assistant pastor. Mel Doughty is youth director; George W. Hamrick, chairman of the board of deacons; Olan Speagle, treas-

urer; Lloyd Bost, Brotherhood president; Roland Leath, Sunday School superintendent; J. C. Bissette, Training Union director; and Mrs. J. A. West, W.M.U. president.

Miss Mary Sue Thompson is church secretary; Mrs. James B. Spears, educational secretary; Miss Linda L. Petty, music youth secretary; and Mrs. L. P. Williams, church hostess.



Rev. Gene Watterson, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Shelby, distributes copies of

the new church history book following Sunday services. (Staff Photo By Rodney Dodson)