

First Baptist Church

Gastonia, North Carolina



BARTLETT A. BOWERS, D. D.
Pastor 1928-1944

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ORDER OF SERVICE

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 1944

Evening Worship, 8:00 O'clock
(Arranged by the pastors of the up-town churches)

Rev. George S. Bowden, presiding
(Lutheran Church)

Prelude: "Adagio" from "First Sonata" ----- Mendelssohn
Call to Worship: "Lead Me Lord" ----- Wesley
(Intermediate Choir)
Hymn No. 38: "A Mighty Fortress" ----- Luther
Scripture ----- Rev. Claude Moser (Main Street Methodist Church)
Anthem: "Lovely Appear" from "The Redemption" ----- Gounod
Prayer ----- Dr. T. H. McDill (A. R. P. Church)
Hymn No. 149: "Something for Thee" ----- Lowry
Offertory: "On Wings of Song" ----- Mendelssohn
Solo: "The Lord's Prayer" ----- Malotte
(Rev. George Bowden, Jr.)
Message: "All Needs Supplied" ----- Dr. Bowers
Benediction ----- Rev. Phillips S. Gilman (St. Mark's Episcopal Church)
Response: "Evening Prayer" from "Hansel and Gretel" ----- Humperdinck
(Intermediate Choir)
Postlude: "War March of the Priests" ----- Mendelssohn

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1944

Morning Worship, 11:00 O'clock

Prelude: "Song Without Words" (Consolation) ----- Mendelssohn
Doxology
Invocation (with choral response)
Hymn No. 196: "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" ----- Williams
Scripture and Prayer
Hymn No. 204: "Holy Ghost, With Light Divine" ----- Gottchalk
Offertory: "Song Without Words" (Sorrowful Soul) ----- Mendelssohn
Recognition of Service Men and Women
Anthem: "Open Our Eyes" ----- MacFarlain
Sermon: "Companionship With God" ----- Pastor
Hymn of Invitation, No. 230: "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" ----- Doane
Benediction (with choral response)
Postlude: "Song Without Words" (Confidence) ----- Mendelssohn

BARTLETT A. BOWERS
1928—1944

With the morning worship service, May 28th, Dr. Bowers closes his pastorate of sixteen useful years. During his ministry with us, 1,630 new members have come into the church. Under his leadership we have contributed \$381,942.79 to all causes. In leaving us, he carries with him our love, esteem and best wishes.

IN APPRECIATION

For sixteen years Dr. Bowers has faithfully fulfilled his duties as pastor of our church, working conscientiously for the ultimate good of her members. As chairman of the Board of Deacons, I wish to express my appreciation for his cooperation and for the splendid service he has rendered our church and community.

G. G. WILLIS,
Chairman of Board of Deacons.

The Sunday School expresses its deep appreciation to Dr. Bowers for his able assistance in obtaining the best of workers and giving direction to the activities of this department of the church; also for his devoted interest in its efficient operation; to Mrs. Bowers for her faithfulness as teacher and helper in all phases of the Sunday School work. Both Dr. and Mrs. Bowers, during their long stay here, have been an inspiration and a spiritual blessing to each of us.

R. A. EVANS,
Superintendent of Sunday School.

We wish to express a sincere appreciation for what Dr. Bowers has meant to us as Training Union members. We have never asked anything of him that he did not willingly and cheerfully do. For his spiritual backing and wise counseling, we are very grateful. People, especially young people, beset as they are today by a sense of insecurity, feel a great need for a stability, for a force on which they can absolutely depend. Our pastor has fulfilled that need for the young people of this church. Knowing that he is soon to leave us makes us realize more keenly than ever before how much he has really meant to us. We shall not forget you, Dr. Bowers, and may success and happiness be yours wherever you go.

TRAINING UNION MEMBERS.

RESOLUTIONS

Since Dr. and Mrs. Bowers will soon be leaving us, after successfully completing sixteen years of faithful service here, we as members of the Woman's Missionary Union, wish to place on record the following resolutions:

Dr. and Mrs. Bowers have most generously given of their time and talent to the support and development of every phase of the work. Their loyal attendance and cooperation have been most outstanding and they have never failed to lend a guiding hand to the carrying out of the entire program. The hearts of love which prompted this service have been the means of making their efforts most successful and effective.

Special recognition is due Mrs. Bowers for her outstanding accomplishments in the capacity of Mission Study Chairman. The splendid results have not only brought credit to our own church, county and state, but has also won recognition in the south-wide Woman's Missionary Union. For the past six years Mrs. Bowers has led in this work, each year's work culminating in a delightful dinner given at her home for the Mission Study Chairmen. In this way the work of the year was emphasized and Christian fellowship was promoted.

Her work with the Royal Ambassador organization is also worthy of mention. Through her splendid leadership, a missionary spirit has been instilled into the youth of our church, one that will be felt many years to come.

Therefore, we wish to extend our love and appreciation to Dr. and Mrs.

Bowers, and to assure them that our earnest prayers and best wishes will follow them wherever they go. We do not feel that their leaving here means that their influence has, or will be removed; for it will live on in the hearts and minds of our people. May God bless and keep them both.

We recommend that a copy of these resolutions be sent to Dr. and Mrs. Bowers, and that one be recorded in the minutes of our Woman's Missionary Union.

Respectfully submitted,
MRS. J. F. LEWIS,
MRS. B. A. HAMRICK,
Resolutions Committee.

It is with a feeling of sincere appreciation that we speak of Dr. Bowers' faithful attendance at the meetings of the Woman's Missionary Society and his cooperation in the work.

MRS. C. P. NANNEY,
President of W. M. U.

RESOLUTIONS

Since Brother B. A. Bowers has resigned his work as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Gastonia, N. C., and will soon leave our association, we, the members of the Gaston County Pastors' Conference, wish to place on record the following resolutions:

1.—Brother Bowers has been an able and aggressive leader in our denominational work. He has accomplished much in his local church, which occupies a position of great influence and has taken a leading place in gifts to the cooperative program.

2.—He has served unselfishly in his efforts to promote the work of our denomination in the Association, in the state, and, in the work of the Southern Baptist Convention. He has held many places of responsibility in all of these fields of endeavor, and he has proved himself to be qualified and pre-eminently successful in all of his work. His personality, spirit of cooperation and devotion to the Master's cause will be missed. Brother Bowers had the fine cooperation of his good wife in all his efforts. She, too, has made a fine contribution to our work, especially through the W. M. U. of the Association.

Therefore, it is with deep regret that we give up such capable and devoted leaders. We assure them our prayers and best wishes will follow them wherever they go and in whatever they are doing.

Submitted by
M. L. BARNES,
Chairman of Resolutions Committee.

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, Dr. B. A. Bowers has been the beloved and most successful pastor of the First Baptist Church of this city for the past sixteen years, and a loyal, active member of the Gastonia Ministerial Association, and:

Whereas, under his wise leadership the First Baptist Church has made splendid and glorious progress in every phase of Kingdom life, and:

Whereas, his leadership has not been confined to the church that he has served as pastor, but has been felt in the religious and civic life of the entire city and state, he having given freely of his time and strength in the planning of programs, speaking courageously, and leading in every worthy cause, and:

Whereas, after forty-five fruitful years as a minister of the lowly Nazarene, he is retiring from the active pastorate, therefore be it resolved:

1. That the Gastonia Ministerial Association express to Dr. Bowers our love, and appreciation for his life and splendid work among us, and that we pray earnestly the Father's blessings upon him and his, through the years that are before him.

2. That a copy of these resolutions be given to Dr. Bowers, a copy sent to the Gastonia Daily Gazette, and a copy spread upon the minutes of the Gastonia City Ministers Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
O. H. BOLCH,
For the Committee.

**The Sunday School Board of the
Southern Baptist Convention,
Nashville, Tennessee.**

AN APPRECIATION

The Sunday School Board desires to express to the First Baptist Church of Gastonia, North Carolina, its sincere appreciation for the outstanding service rendered by your pastor, Dr. Bartlett A. Bowers. He has been active in all phases of the Board's ministry, but especially helpful in the development of the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly. We wish to thank your church for permitting him to render this general service to the denomination.

Praying the Lord's continued favor upon him and on the church, we are,

Fraternally yours,
T. L. HOLCOMB,
Executive Secretary.

**Baptist State Convention
Raleigh, N. C.**

To The First Baptist Church:

As you, the members of the great old Gastonia First come to this severance of the pastor-church relationship with Dr. Bowers, I wish to offer a word of congratulation to both pastor and people.

During these many years I have observed the work of Dr. Bowers as he carried on his work among you. Personally he has been my friend, and has always been cooperative and helpful. I am looking now at a list of the churches that during 1943—calendar year—gave to Convention objects one thousand dollars or more. There are 282 churches in the list. The Gastonia First stands 7th. I know your church would not make this sort of showing were it not for the quiet, persevering teaching and preaching of your pastor and those associated with him. And so I offer my hearty congratulations since a previous engagement prevents my being present in person.

This particular pastor-church relationship will cease, but I feel sure the work of Dr. Bowers is not finished; and the work of the great Gastonia First is only begun.

Fraternally yours,
M. A. HUGGINS,
General Secretary

**Pastor's Study,
First Baptist Church,
Winston-Salem, N. C.**

Permit me, as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem and president of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, to speak a word on behalf of the great host of fellow Baptists in appreciation of the outstanding service which Dr. B. A. Bowers has rendered in the kingdom of God. His genial spirit, his wisdom and poise, his unfailing zeal, and his loyalty to our Lord and Savior have won for him the confidence and esteem of his brethren in the ministry. We rejoice in this happy culmination of your labors together as pastor and people and look forward with confident hope to an ever-widening sphere of usefulness and joy.

Most sincerely yours,
RALPH A. HERRING.

**Baptist Orphanage of North Carolina,
Thomasville, N. C.**

I note with much concern that Dr. B. A. Bowers is to retire from the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Gastonia.

May I join with many other Baptists and citizens of the state in expressing my keen appreciation of the services Dr. Bowers has rendered, not only to his church, but to all other causes related to the church, community and state. His leadership has been most manifest.

Dr. Bowers has convictions and the courage to express them. He never

compromises when a moral issue is at stake. The Baptist denomination is stronger and North Carolina is a better state as a result of his Christian service.

The great church he has been serving has been one of the leading supporters of the Baptist Orphanage and other causes since he has been its pastor. Our large family here joins me in wishing for him and Mrs. Bowers continued blessings and many happy years of useful service.

Sincerely yours,
I. G. GREER,
General Superintendent.

**Baptist Hospital of North Carolina
Winston-Salem, N. C.**

It has been my good fortune to know more or less intimately Dr. Bartlett A. Bowers, of Gastonia, for at least ten years. This touch has grown more intimate as these brief years have come and gone.

My first definite impression of his worth as a great Christian statesman, began to grow out of his fine reports and messages to our Baptist State Convention.

At the last session of our Baptist State Convention—1943—he was selected as one of the trustees of the Baptist Hospital, located at Winston-Salem. This selection was made, as I happen to know, because of the denomination's abiding faith in him as a wise leader, true to the principles and purposes for which this institution was created: to be one of the strong guiding spirits in its expanding program, to see to it that it shall ever be and remain true to its star.

I am sorry to learn that he is retiring from the pastorate of this great First Church in Gastonia—sixteen years of preaching, teaching, ministering, marrying the young, burying the dead, rejoicing with those who rejoice, weeping with those who weep, comforting the sorrowing. God only knows, eternity only can disclose what it has meant. This great pastorate has not closed. It shall go on in ever widening circles.

SMITH HAGAMAN,
Superintendent Baptist Hospital.

**Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly
Ridgecrest, N. C.**

Since Dr. B. A. Bowers came to First Baptist Church, Gastonia, sixteen years ago, he and I have been the best of friends, and it has been a very great pleasure to me to work hand in hand with him in our State and South-wide Baptist work. While I was State Sunday School Secretary, this courteous, considerate, wise and consecrated pastor was a constant help to me in many ways. He was a leader in all good work and a brother greatly beloved by all North Carolina Baptists. I never called on him for special counsel, service, or support in any undertaking that he did not respond gladly. His life for his Lord and his fellowman, especially general denominational workers, was deeply manifested in ready response to any call made upon him. And this fact endeared him to all immediately.

His connection with the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly as Chairman of the Ridgecrest Committee of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, has placed him in a strategic position of service to all Southern Baptists as well as to me personally as Manager of the Assembly. We love him, too, because he is a good "Ridgecrester" and will be our "Good Neighbor" in the future, as he and Mrs. Bowers come here to live. His whole ministerial life has been spent in the highest service for the Master and our sincerest wish for him and Mrs. Bowers is that their remaining years may literally be a "Mountain Top Experience" here in "The Land of the Sky" at beautiful Ridgecrest.

PERRY MORGAN,
Business Manager.

City of Gastonia, N. C.
Office of Mayor

To the First Baptist Church, its officers and congregation:

The information that your beloved pastor, Dr. B. A. Bowers, has resigned his pastorate and intends to make his residence elsewhere has brought to me genuine regret, not only because of my personal interest, but because of the loss to our community.

The chief asset of a community consists of its people, and the type of its citizenship determines the kind of community we live in. Especially is this true of its moral and spiritual leadership. For some fifteen years Dr. Bowers has lived and moved among us as the spiritual leader of one of our great churches and has endeared himself not only to the members of his own congregation, but to all who know him. During that period of time, he has always stood at the forefront of every movement for the moral and spiritual welfare of our community. Without fear or favor he has always taken a stand for the right, regardless of other considerations. No one can ever estimate the value of his presence and leadership, which has contributed so much to our welfare. His going is a great loss to our City, but he leaves behind him a monument in the love and esteem of a grateful people, and he takes with him their best wishes for the happiness, peace and satisfaction which he so well deserves.

Very truly yours,
P. W. GARLAND,
Mayor.

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, Kiwanian Bartlett A. Bowers, D. D., having served a period of forty-five years in the gospel ministry, is retiring from the active pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Gastonia and plans to reside elsewhere after retiring, and:

Whereas, during the sixteen years of his residence in Gastonia Dr. Bowers has been one of the outstanding members and officers of the Gastonia Kiwanis Club, having served as director, as vice-president and as club president, and has been for many years the efficient chairman of the club's committee on Kiwanis Education, ever diligent in promoting the ideals of Kiwanis, placing primacy on the spiritual, rather than the material, therefore:

Be it Resolved, that the officers and members of the Gastonia Kiwanis Club hereby express, in simple but heart-felt terms, their deep appreciation of the splendid services which Kiwanian Bowers has so faithfully rendered, both as a minister and a Kiwanian, during the years of his ministry among us, and extend to him, and to Mrs. Bowers and the entire family, their best wishes for a long life and happiness, and for continued service in the realm of spiritual aims and ideals, wherever their lines may fall.

EMMET D. ATKINS,
For the Committee.

State of North Carolina Supreme Court,
Raleigh, N. C.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation of Dr. Bowers for the many years of fine Christian ministry which he has given to the First Baptist Church and the people of Gastonia.

My family and I send greetings and best wishes to Dr. and Mrs. Bowers, and wish for them many more years of useful and happy Christian service.

EMERY B. DENNY.

ON DUTY FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

- Sunday, May 28—Pfc. William G. Rumfelt, Jr., Co. C., 41st Replacement Bn., III Phib Corps, care Fleet P. O., San Francisco, Calif.
- Monday, May 29—Cpl. C. Wayne Russum, 34016180, Co. "D", 142nd Infantry, A. P. O. No. 36, care Postmaster, New York, N. Y.
- Tuesday, May 30—Sgt Willard Murray Severance Jr., 3rd Academic Sqdn., Box 1366, Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss.
- Wednesday, May 31—Pfc. Carl W. Sherrill, 14009332, 820th Bomb. Sqd. (M), A. P. O. No. 240, care Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.
- Thursday, June 1—Lt. Basil L. Sherrill, U. S. S. Tisdale, (DE33), care Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.
- Friday, June 2—Pvt. Dillon C. Sherrill, 16027467, Station 7, Area B, A. P. O. 467, care Postmaster, New York, N. Y.
- Saturday, June 3—Lt. Kenneth Sherrill, 9320 Wingate Dr., Dallas, 9, Tex.
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You are earnestly requested to pray for these boys and write to each of them. Special recognition is given them and their families Wednesday evening at the prayer service.

The Women of the First Baptist Church
will hold a reception
honoring
Dr. and Mrs. Bowers
on the evening of Friday, the twenty-sixth of May
eight to ten o'clock Ladies' Parlor
All members of the church are invited