

Rev. C. O. Greene is a native of Cleveland County, North Carolina He came back to this section about 2 years ago to take a field of churches as Pastor: Double Shoals, Lawndale and New Bethel. He is highly respected by the people of the church community and the people of the county and Association. He is serving as Vice-Moderator of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association. At the present time he is the President of the Pastor's and Workers Conference of the Kings Mountain Association.

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REV. C. O. GREENE

Rev. C. O. Greene, a native of Cleveland County and from the Double Springs Church section, has been pastor of the Double Shoals and New Bethe Baptist Churches for the last eleven years. For more than eight years, until 1957, he was also pastor of the Lawndale Baptist Church. He was host pastor of the New Bethel Baptist Church for the one hundred ninth session of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association on the second day, October 23, 1959.

On August 17, 1959 the General Board of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association extended a call to Rev. C. O. Greene to become Associational Missionary. He succeeds the Rev. T. W. Bray, who retired March 31, 1959. The offices for the Associational Missionary will be located at 1003 Bufalo Street, Sheby, N. C. The telephone number for the "Baptist Center" is HU7-5253. The duties of Missionary Greene will be to correlate the Association's mission program in the 68 Baptist churches.

KINGS MOUNTAIN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MINUTES, 1959. (also photo)

Rev. C.O. Greene got start he

The Rev. C.O. Greene of Lawndale has had a fulfilling life in the

field of ministry. It began when he was a young man and continues until this day to some degree.

Lattimore across from the school. At the age of one year, his parents moved to Zebu- Helen lon, near Raleigh. They were there Hovle 14 years. During the middle of his

He was born in

junior year in high school, the family returned to Cleveland County to settle near what is now CCA. Greene's father was a tenant

In 1925, the older Greene bought his first automobile for \$368. A brand new open Ford Touring car. It was still in operation when the young man graduated from Lattimore School in 1926.

Farmers in several mid-western states were in need of help reaping their harvest in 1930. It could be that a bumper crop of wheat had grown in the fields that year. Certainly, it might prove to be an adventure for several Cleveland County youths, including C.O. Greene, assisting with a western wheat harvest. Not only helping other people, but seeing the states of Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado as well.

These young men had brought cots from home to use for beds on

In and Aroun

nights when nothing else was available. Some nights were spent sleeping on the make-shift beds in ditches not far from a roadway.

One unforgettable high point of the trip came when the young travelers followed a railing to the top of Pike's Peak, Colorado. There at the summit, they had a worship service praising the Creator. "It was quite an experience," Rev. Greene said, "one I shall never forget."

He married Eliza Brooks in 1931. Eliza was one of 16 children and a twin. There were three sets of twins born to that family. "Remarkable woman," Greene said of his mother-in-law.

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THE SHELBY STAR Friday, December 13, 199

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lping others at an early age

d Lawndale

Eliza and C.O. Greene became the product parents of three sons in the next few years. Sallen, Allen and Albert Greene.

In 1934, he made the decision to enter the ministry. He chose Wake Forest College to further his education. It is now Wake Forest University. The school originated in 1834.

During Greene's last two years at Wake Forest, he served as an assistant at the Department of Religion. He graduated Summa Cum Laude (highest praise).

His first call to be pastor of a church came from Stough Memoral of Pineville (near Charlotte). He spent four years there; then moved

to Cary (near Raleigh) and became pastor of Cary Baptist Church in 1942.

By December of 1948, the Rev. Greene had returned to Cleveland County to be pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church, Lawndale and Double Shoals Baptist for a number of years.

In 1959, he became director of missions. There were 70 churches in Cleveland County. Rev. Greene retired in 1972. Since then he served as interim pastor at Norman's Grove, Belwood, for 10 years. New Prospect needed an interim pastor at one time and he filled that space.

He did three interims at Double Shoals Church which lasted 26 months, and an interim at Norman's Grove Church. For the past two years, he has served as a supply pastor.

Rev. Greene and his wife celebrated a 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 9. Double Shoals Church, where the couple are now members, sponsored a dinner for them.

This special man has a hobby, too. He spends hours in wood craft turning out beautiful pieces. To his credit he has built 158 grandfather clocks, and this is just a portion of items turned out in his workshop.

What more could an individual ask of life? The pursuit of a talent which led to serving mankind and his Lord as well.

(Helen F. Hoyle is a native of Lawndale and writes this column weekly for The Star. Anyone with items of interest should call her at 434-0030 during the evening hours.)

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Hew Sithel Baptist Church Pictorial History 1848-1973

Řev. C. O. Greene Jan. 1949 – Nov. 1959

Succeeding Rev. Suttle was one of his "boys," Charles Olin Greene. Many remember Rev. Greene for his outstanding sermon, "Come Before Winter" given annually with variations, in October. Under his leadership our present sanctuary was built and the first service in the new church was in February 1954. He served as chairman of Cleveland County Agricultural Extension Advisory Board and as a director of the Piedmont Area Development Association. In 1958 he was named the Rural Minister of the Year by Emory University and the Progressive Farmer Magazine.



In 1957 he preached the sermon for the Baptist State Convention. In 1959 he resigned at New Bethel to become Supt. of Missions of the Kings Mountain Apparition

tain Association.

Greene, C. O.

NCCF Lawndale Baptist Church

KINGS MTN.

History of Lawndale Baptist Church. Photograph of C. O. Greene.

286.73655 H71



Rev. Charles Olin Greene Nineteenth Pastor

(August, 1942 - December, 1948)

It will be remembered that during the pastorate of Rev. C. O. Greene, property on South Harrison Avenue was purchased and a new pastorium was built. He was a young man when he held the Cary pastorate and had spent most of his youth in Wake County.

Rev. Greene was born at Lattimore in Cleveland County on September 23, 1909 to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Washington Greene. The following year his parents moved to Zebulon where they lived until he was fifteen. At that time they moved back to Cleveland County and lived in Shelby. He graduated from Lattimore High School in 1926 and attended Wake Forest College from 1934-38, where he received a BA degree.

His baptism was at the church in Zebulon in 1922. He was ordained as a deacon in 1932 and into the ministry in 1936. In December, 1931, he took Eliza Brooks as his bride. They became the parents of three sons.

Rev. Greene has worked in the Mecklenburg, Raleigh and Kings Mountain associations, often serving as moderator. He has been a trustee of Wake Forest University on two different occasions and served on numerous convention committees. He preached the convention sermon in 1957.

In addition to his Cary pastorate, other North Carolina churches he has served have been at Pineville, New Bethel and Lawndale churches in Lawndale, and Double Shoals in Shelby. In 1959 he became an associational missionary in the Kings Mountain Association.

Rev. Greene has published a history of Cleveland County Baptists and has written numerous sermons, devotional thoughts and articles for the *Biblical Recorder, Charity Children* and other publications. Service organizations in which he has membership are Lions, Masons, Exchange and Red Men.

Rev. Greene has been retired for two years, but continues to pastor a small church near his Lawndale home.

The sermons he preached here are remembered as "being deep and spiritual." He was a "good pastor who had a good ministry."

The old parsonage had a basement and he had it equipped with woodworking tools. In his spare time he built furniture for use in his home.

In addition to recodewarking he also enjoye colf

BAPTIST BIOGRAPHY DATA FORM

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	etc.) Rural Minuter of the year for N.C 1958								
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Rev. C.O. Greene: Make today count

☆ From Page 1

Until he reached 14, C.O. Greene called Zebulon home. Other children came along in the family: Tyree, who now lives in Shelby, and Janie, a Thomasville resident. Another brother, Clarence O., is deceased.

Greene remembers walking to school during the terrible winter of 1918. His father, driving a horse and buggy, crossed a creek that was frozen solid for

two weeks.

Ice: Greene can see that. And fire as well. Lightning struck his church, and it burned down. The congregation met in the high school auditorium. Dr. C.A. Jenkins, who had pastored Shelby's First Baptist Church, spoke to them one Sunday and Greene can recall the tears in the minister's eyes when someone came in to tell him his wife had died. With the completion of the new church, Greene and his brother, Tyree, were the first

Greene began school at Wakelon High which is now on the National Register of Historic Places. (It was built the year of his birth: Greene likes to ponder connections in life, "God's mysterious ways" that alter a

person's direction.)

Among his childhood friends was Clifton Daniel, who later married Margaret Truman.

Every four years, the Greenes stepped aboard a Norfolk & Southern train and road to Lattimore for a two-week reunion with relatives. Young Greene would be so anxious about the long trip that the night before departure would always be sleepless for him.

Back in Cleveland County, Greene would spend some time in his grandfather's woodwork-

palachian State University. All three are psychiatric social workers.

Following a 1934 revival, Greene heeded the call he had avoided for eight years. He entered Wake Forest College intent on being a Baptist minister.

The Rev. Greene went to work full time at Stough Memorial Baptist Church in Pineville the church was named for a former Shelby First Baptist preacher — and later a church in Cary. In December 1948, he came back to Cleveland County to follow the Rev. John W. Suttle as pastor of three churches. Greene calls Suttle "my father in the ministry."

A friend once commented that the thing he liked about Greene's preaching was that he always came up with something dif-

"I didn't go to seminary," says Greene, "and I had to read omnivorously." His home and I study are filled with books. He takes between 40 to 43 magazines, including the conservative Christianity Today and liberal Christian Century. "I figure the truth is somewhere in between,"

Greene describes his messages as "life-situation preaching."

"I have problems," he says, "and everybody else has problems. I try to preach to meet the needs I have and assume others do."

He titled one of his recent sermons "Why Did It Happen That Way?" Two joggers are on a track; one is struck and killed by lightning; the other is unharmed. Providence? "What's providence?" Greene asks. "God sets up natural laws and we have to obey them. Maybe there are

ing shop and try his hand at things. A small windmill he made as a child is still at the farm.

The Greenes eventually moved back to Lattimore and started sharecropping at various farms.

"Back then we thought it was great," he says. "We didn't know any difference. Nobody had any money to speak of. For 49 cents you could go to J.C. Penney's and get a pair of Ox's Blood overalls. I wore them to church. Tyree and I plowed two old mules, Maude and Mame."

After graduating from Lattimore School in 1926, Greene did a little of everything. Four years later he teamed up with some friends to head west for the great wheat harvest, all of them dreaming of wages between \$10 and \$15 a day. They earned \$5 per day at the most. (The crew included Wyan Washburn, Reburn Washburn, Woodrow Humphries, Green Humphries and H.D. Bridges.)

"I almost stayed out there," says Greene, "but Daddy wrote me and said he wanted me to

help him on the farm."

Earlier, Greene had worked with Seaboard Railway, building bridges in the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. Down in Lakeland, Fla., a 1,000-pound steel shoe fell and mashed the end off one of his

fingers.

All these events helped steer him back home where, on Dec. 9, 1931, he married Eliza Brooks and they took up cotton farming. A year's work earned him, less his share of the fertilizer, a total of \$100. During laying-by time, he did carpentry work at 15 cents an hour and clerked in Efird's department store. The Greenes have three children: Charles Stanley, who works with the VA Hospital in Roanoke, Va; Samuel Allen, director of the development evaluation center, in Shelby; and James Albert, assistant professor at Ap-

special providences, but there are so many other things. I don't believe God causes all these things we lay on him. He allows a lot of things, but he did a very dangerous thing in giving us freedom of choice."

Outside the pulpit, Greene expresses himself in wood — rich, old chestnut or pine. Largely self-taught, he fashions grandfather and grandmother clocks, mantle, shelf and wall clocks. He has built most of the furniture in his house.

Even someone who knows nothing about woodwork can recognize the craftsmanship in the articles Greene turns out in his backyard shop. There, he is in "another world."

Whatever the world he is in, he operates on a faith he says is not

second-hand.

"You've got to come to a faith of your own if it's to mean anything," says Greene. Si Ol CC Pl All Cas We Reg S39. Batt

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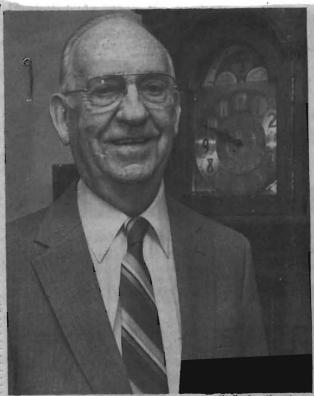
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DAILY STAR SHELBY, N.C.

JIIL-14-84



Shelby Star/Sam Jones

Rev. Greene with some of his handiwork

Rev. C.O. GI

By Joe DePriest

Star Staff Writer

Take down this urgent message from the Rev.

C.O. Greene: Make today count.

Although he is endowed with a rich sense of humor, Greene is not joking on this point. He feels there are several basic lessons people need to know in their voyages through life: each day, realizing how close to death they are and doing what needs to be done with their relationships.

In Greene's study in the Double Shoals community, he is surrounded by books and the constant wave of ticking, tocking and low-tone chiming. He makes, among other things, clocks, and his house is filled with them, large and small, reminders in almost every corner of the passing moment. The hobby is something Greene took up more out of love for woodworking than the concept of time, but he is given to reflection on the subject, especially in view of his recent illnesses.

In two months he will turn 75 years of age and can look back on a career as a janitor, farmer, store clerk, wheat harvester, railroad bridge builder and Baptist minister.

Since 1948, he has pastored New Bethel, Double Shoals and Lawndale Baptist churches and served

reene: Make today coun

Profile

on the general board of the Baptist State Convention including three years on the executive committee. Progressive Farmer magazine and Emory University named him "Rural Minister of the Year" in 1958. From 1959 until his retirement in 1972, he served as director of missions for the 70 churches in the Kings Mountain Baptist Associa-

During what Greene refers to as his "so-called retirement," he served nearly 10 years as pastor of Norman's Grove Baptist Church, Route 3, Lawndale, and as interim pastor at New Prospect Baptist and for the past two years interim at Double Shoals Baptist.

Embattled by health problems to include cancer, a stroke and aneurysm, Greene has proven

himself a tenacious fighter.

"I've had six major operations," he says, "and I've snapped back. I've had a very busy and, I think, meaningful life. It's been great.

He remembers an announcement he made to his wife one day: "I've got some good news and bad news. The good news is I'm still living. The bad news is I have cancer." Around 2 o'clock the next morning, after grappling with the problem all night, he turned things over to Good. "Honestly, it has worried me very little since," he says. There were, he admits, three "down days," but after that he took things a day at a time.

The sound of chimes ripples through Greene's

office like a soft summer breeze.

"Everything changes," he says, "and you better change with it.

On Sept. 23, 1909, Samuel Washington and Buena Ida Bridges Greene, welcomed their first child Charles Olin — into the world in the small town of Lattimore. "When I was born, grandfather Cicero Bridges was attending a Kings Mountain Baptist Association meeting in Boiling Springs," says Greene. "When he found out about me, he stopped on his way home to see his new grandson.'

The elder Greene worked at the Gettys Lumber Co. which transferred him to Zebulon in Wake County when his baby son was only a year old.

☆ See REV. Page 2, Col. 1



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IN HONOR

Rev. and Mrs. Charles Olin "C.O." Greene are names that are recognized in the Kings Mountain Baptist Association. Rev. Greene served as Director of Missions in this Association for thirteen years during 1959 to 1973. He pastored four different local churches, Double Shoals, New Bethel, Lawndale, and Norman's Grove. His ministry spanned a period of 58 years. During all of that time his wife, Eliza, has been a faithful helper and supportive wife. When Rev. Greene visited in homes or höspitals usually Mrs. Greene visited with him.

Rev. Greene and Mrs. Greene were both born in Cleveland County and later they graduated from Lattimore High School together in 1926. In 1931 Eliza Brooks and C.O. Greene were married. In 1934, after eight years of fighting the call to ministry,

Greene surrendered to the Lord and agreed to do what the Lord wanted. He decided he should go to Wake Forest College, but he didn't have the money. He borrowed fifty dollars from an uncle and moved his wife and son, Stanley, to Wake Forest with him.

The Greenes have three sons, Stanley, Allen and Albert, who are all in social work. Stanley works at the Veteran's Hospital in Roanoke, Virginia. Allen is director of the Developmental Evaluation Center in Shelby, and Albert is a professor in the department of counselor education and research at Appalachian State University. The Greenes have four granddaughters, Beth, Susan, Brooke and Pearce and one great grandson, Vince.

Rev. C.O. Greene became interested in wood working at an early age. His favorite place as a youngster was in his grandfather's wood shop. He said that was where he got his love for wood working. This served him well as a hobby for many years. He made most of the furniture in their home as well as making many clocks. He has built 176 grandfather clocks and 50 grandmother clocks and over 300 mantel, shelf or wall clocks. This was also one of Mrs. Greene's hobbies since she does all of the finish work of his clocks or wood work.

In 1957, Rev. Greene received the honor of being named Rural Minister of the Year. This honor was given by the Progressive Farmer magazine and Emory University. In 1958 one of the personal highlights of his career was being asked to preach the convention sermon for North Carolina Baptist State Convention. In 1993 friends from the churches Rev. Greene had served and others established a Lectureship in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Greene at the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University. Rev. Greene says he hopes that all of the students who have the honor and privilege to attend will come out better equipped to preach and know more about pastoral relations. He said, "If pastoral students can learn through these lectureships to accept people where they are and as they are, it will make a world of difference. It will help people work together...a wonderful blessing for them and the churches."

Rev. and Mrs. Greene are now in the Edgewood Nursing Home in Forest City, NC. They have had 66 happy years of life together.

DEDICATION

By recommendation of the Resolutions Committee at the Tuesday afternoon session of the biannual meeting the 1999 Minutes of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association are dedicated to the memory of Reverend Charles Olin "C.O." Greene.



IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Charles Olin "C.O." Greene died June 27, 1999 at the age of 89. A native of Cleveland County, his parents were the late Samuel Washington and Buena Ida Bridges Greene. He is survived by his wife, Eliza L. Brooks Greene of Lawndale; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Allen and Peggy Greene, Stanley and Ruth Greene, and Albert Greene; four granddaughters, one step-granddaughter, one step-grandson, two great grandchildren, and six step-great grandchildren.

Rev. Greene graduated summa cum laude from Wake Forest University in 1938. He served as pastor of the following churches in Cleveland County - New Bethel, Lawndale, Norman's Grove and Double Shoals. Rev. Greene became the Director of Missions in the Kings Mountain Baptist Association in 1959 and served in that position until 1973. During this period two new churches were started and membership in the churches grew from 23,568 to 27,033. Baptisms averaged 659 a year. The Association grew in many effective ways through his leadership.

Rev. Greene was a woodworker making more than 150 grandfather clocks, 50 grandmother clocks, and over 350 other clocks. Two of those clocks are in the Kings Mountain Baptist Association building. In 1993, the C.O. and Eliza Greene Lectureship was established in their honor at Gardner-Webb University.

Rev. Greene's influence will continue for years to come in the Kings Mountain Baptist Association.

Respectfully submitted, Resolutions Committee

ASSOCIATION



CHURCH

tain Baptist Association was ctober 21, 1954. This beautiongregation last year.

intendent.

Director.

Woman's Missionary Union.

dent.

asurer.

acons.



REV. C. O. GREEN

The Reverend C. O. Green serves the following churches as pastor: Double Shoals, Lawndale and New Bethel. He has served these churches for a number of years. The Association in session, at Oak Grove Baptist church, elected him as Moderator of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association.