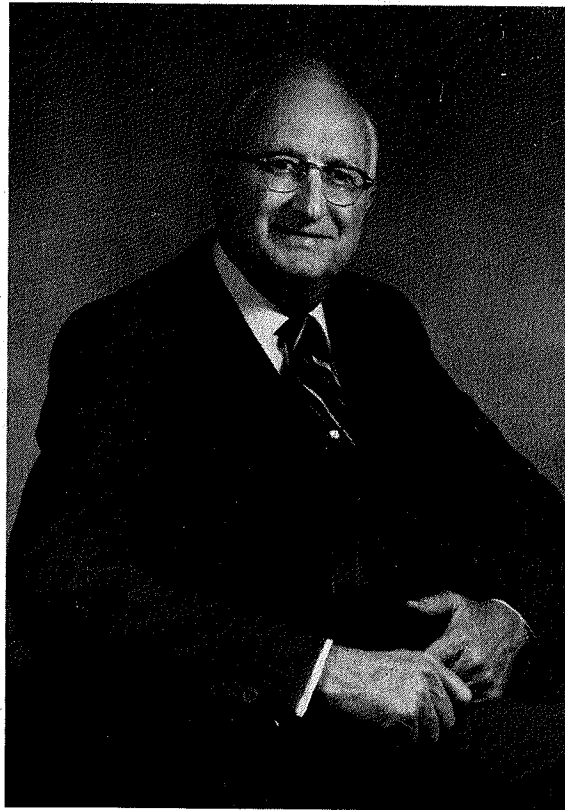


1947

1984



God Bless You

Frank Hughes, Jr.

on your retirement

as Pastor

from

SOUTH NORFOLK BAPTIST CHURCH

CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA

Sunday, September 23, 1984



THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED THROUGH THESE DOORS TO STUDY
AND SERVE IN THE GOSPEL MINISTRY OR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Rosa Belle Albright

Mark Alexander, Jr.

Doris Bunch Ankrom

Edward R. Boyd

Ronnie Costen

Beverly Curling

Eleanor Ramsey Dunn

Steve Feehan

Jean Brinson Garrott

Eddie Griffin

Diane Harrell

Bryan Holloman, Jr.

Joseph T. Hughes

Betty Miles LeBlanc

Stella Eure Pierce

Shirley Rountree

Dr. William C. Russ

James W. Russ

Sam Tatem

Sarah Margaret Rogers Tatem

Dr. Horace E. Twine

Wadell Waters

Don Wilber

George Wollett

PROGRAM — 11:00 A. M.

PRELUDE: Fanfare on "Coronation" Kohlman	Russell Mathews
ENTERING INTO HIS PRESENCE Call To Worship: "Gloria" Vivaldi Invocation	Psalm 100:4; 24:7-10 Adult Choir Willard Fulcher
OPENING WIDE OUR CHURCH DOOR Welcome	Revelation 3:8 Willard Fulcher
ENTERING THE PORTALS OF PRAISE Congregational Singing 33 Special Music	Psalm 95:1 "To God Be The Glory" Men's Quartet
	Gayle Harrell, Jimmy Scott, Charlie Harper, Billy Lassiter
CROSSING THE THRESHOLD INTO THE THRONE ROOM Prayer	Matthew 6:6 Bill Overton
ENTERING DOORS OF NEED THROUGH GIVING Congregational Singing 334 Offertory Prayer Offering: "Open Thou Thy Gates Of Splendor" Special Music: "Let Mount Zion Rejoice" Herbert	"Blessed Assurance" John Trafton Bach Adult Choir
A WORD FROM THE DOORKEEPERS Sunday School Brotherhood Woman's Missionary Union Deacons	Psalm 84:10 Mrs. Gayle Harrell Billy Bryant Mrs. Earl Todd Gayle Harrell
UNVEILING OF PORTRAIT Assisted By:	Mrs. Ed Briggs Mary Beth McMillan Joshua Curling
"BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK" Pastor's First Sermon Reflections	Revelation 3:20 February 9, 1947 Frank Hughes, Jr.
YOU MUST OPEN THE DOOR Invitation: "The Savior Is Waiting"	Adult Choir
KEY TO A NEW DOOR Presentation Of Love Gift	N. J. Babb
PRAISE, THE KEY TO BLESSING Benediction: "Great And Marvelous" Farmer	Adult Choir
POSTLUDE: Toccata on "The Church's One Foundation"	Kohlman Russell Mathews
Organist: Russell Mathews	Pianist: Mrs. Ernest LeBlanc

Reception — two until five in the afternoon.

OUR PASTOR

Frank Hughes, Jr., the second of four children of Frank and Aleada Doxey Hughes, was born September 27, 1919, in Currituck County, N. C. While in school his family moved to Princess Anne County (Virginia Beach) where he graduated from Kempsville High School. He was active in sports, playing baseball in high school, college and seminary. Mr. Hughes was educated at Wake Forest College (University) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas.

In the summer of 1942 he supplied the pulpit of First Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, and was ordained to the gospel ministry in August by his home church, Kempsville Baptist. While in the Seminary he did supply preaching and was pastor of First Baptist Church, Point, Texas, 1942-43.

September 3, 1942, Frank Hughes, Jr. was married to Miss Katharine Anne Read of Norman, Oklahoma, whose father and mother were missionaries to the "blanket" Indians in that state. Katharine Anne was educated at Oklahoma University and Southwestern Baptist Seminary. She served Calvary Baptist Church during the school year 1942-43 as Educational Director. The Hughes' have three sons: Frank III (deceased), James Read (deceased) and Joseph Truett, Pastor of Biltmore Baptist Church, Glen Allen, Virginia.

On February 9, 1947, Pastor and Mrs. Hughes came to South Norfolk Baptist Church from Broad Creek Village Baptist Church (Virginia Heights), Norfolk, which he organized in August 1943. Fifteen young men have gone from this church since 1947 into the gospel ministry. Nine young women have also studied and served in various areas of Christian ministry.

In 1955 our church dedicated a \$265,000 three-story educational building which was debt free in five years. Improvements to the sanctuary included rebuilding the pipe organ. Five houses were purchased to enlarge adjacent parking area, as well as ten lots on Seaboard Avenue for over-flow parking.

The first mission of our church, at Perry and Ohio Streets, was organized and named Southside Baptist Church, March, 1952. In 1961, at a cost of \$65,000 our church purchased land and erected the first unit of a church plant in Princess Anne Plaza (Virginia Beach) where for fifteen months Brother Hughes preached at two services each Sunday besides his regular schedule in South Norfolk. This mission became a self-supporting church in 1963.

Our Pastor has given of his time to serve our denomination. He has been Moderator of Norfolk Baptist Association (60 churches), President of Norfolk Baptist Ministers' Conference, and served on various committees in the Association and the state. He was a member of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board (Nashville) for two terms, and went on a preaching mission in Alaska for the Home Mission Board (Atlanta). He has been guest evangelist in many churches and many times took with him a talented girls' trio from our church.

September 30, 1984, our pastor will have served our church for thirty-seven years and almost eight months.

"Serve the Lord with gladness . . ." Psalm 100:2

Sept - 23 - 84 A.M.

"HAS HE KNOCKED AT YOUR DOOR"

Revelation 3:20

You have only this one chance to live. What you put your life into is important. But not vital -- but how you live it concerns not only today, but all the future. Not only for you but for the world in which you live. And the choice of the level on which one will live is entirely up to the individual. There is a (call) that comes to every individual -- where am I needed most. Where can I make my life count the most. There is also another voice that comes and insists -- get all you can, look out for number 1. If you don't, nobody else will. Take the easiest road, take the one with the quick results. What happens to others is no business of your own. But to choose, you must choose. And there is no escape from that division, and that decision. You settle the contest. Your vote is final.

To every man, there openeth
 A way and ways, and a way
 And the high soul climbs the highway
 And the low soul gropes the low.

And in between in the misty flats
 The rest drift too and fro.
 But to every man there openeth a high way and a low
 And every man decideth
 The way his soul shall go.

One of the main problems of our very existence is how to get our best into action.

Jesus talked to us in saying -- ^{Get}~~Get~~ your life out from under the bushel. Put the lamp on the lampstand and brighten the whole room. And become a light for me.

The days of adventure are not at an end. On this little globe on which we live, at our very doors this minute - there are spiritual frontiers offering us every challenge. And it is a task of building a better order of life, for the next generation. We can be called pioneers.

A prominent minister surprisingly said one day, the church of England and the church of Scotland are in a sad state. In England, the church is dead. In Scotland, it is dying. He went out of his way to describe the current situation. And how serious and critical it was. He talked about decline in church attendance, apathy among church members, a lack of resources, a decrease of influence in the national life. It is to be remembered that people talk about the church in this way, in every generation.

That was over 80 years ago when a man said that. He was a false prophet. Not 10 nor 20 -- but 80 years have passed since his gloomy prediction.

The church of Jesus Christ is an institution that never goes out of business. It has been subjected to opposition, persecution, and it is not infallible. It's survival is one of the wonders of the world. And it continues existence. It is to be remembered that this church, as other churches, is an anvil that has worn out

many a hammer. We work on an enduring institution. There is no likelihood of its disappearance or its decease. But anyone that knows the outline of history, knows that the church has had periods of strength, periods of weakness. Times of stirring potential and dynamic influence. And it ~~has~~ served like salt, light, and leaven. And at other times, there have been peaks when the outstanding qualities of the church have diminished.

But the church needs a mark of conviction. And this church needs in the terms of Jesus to discover - that the great danger confronting this church is not that it will die. The church will not die. The ever present danger that confronts us is that we become soft, standing for nothing in particular, hesitating about the will of God, half-heartedness. And failing to present our witness.

Could the Preacher see far down the road, where it dips over the hill and down into the valley. Where the mistakes might be and the detours. When a Pastor thinks of the situation, few preachers have stayed very long in a pastorate. Many of us, have a thought to dodge difficulties, or to change the scenery. I often wonder about short pastorates. When the going gets rough -- it is easier to fly than it is to stand. isaiah says they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up their wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Paul says, having done all - then stand. That is a virtue of triumph. But frequently the Pastor says, it looks better on the other side of the fence. There is crabgrass everywhere. It takes time to cultivate a lawn. And patience to grow roses. So Paul says, suffer hardship with me as a good soldier, of Jesus Christ.

This, (I remember,) I have a clipping or a little note, which was sent to me February 9, 1977. It told about some personal greetings and then it had 30 years - joy, sorrow, hard work, and fellowship. Love and prayer -- open doors and closing doors. And this letter went on to state this: Mrs. Maude Fortescue whispered to me -- Miss Mattie, make a motion right quick and I will second it, I made the motion, and we called you as our Pastor. Maude seconded it, and it passed. The door was opened. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. Thirty years have passed - the door is open.

And you have shared with me your family and I appreciate you. And this little note came from one of the wonderful members of our congregation. And do I remember, not only 30 years ago, but I remember now almost 38 years ago when that call came. And it was pointed out to me that every person in that business meeting stood to his feet--issuing me the call to become pastor. With no dissenting votes.

In a mysterious way, God touched my heart. I was happy doing what I was doing. But I came over one evening to talk and meet with the Pulpit Committee and the Deacons, in the basement of the church. There was an old coal stove in the middle of the room. And we sat around that coal stove, and that was before the days of negotiations and bargaining. They just simply said that we need a preacher, and we don't have any money to pay. But we have an opportunity and of course, you know my answer. At the reception, my reception Rowland Wagner, gave the address. And what an address it was! Something that I shall never, never forget. South Norfolk Baptist Church, as Pastor, has really been a joy to me, and this church has only had two pastors in the past 64 years or so. And that speaks well for the members. I have had the privilege of knowing two

He was the joy on the Jwg That Night -

pastors ahead of me. Mr. Sawyer and Rev. Black. Both of them were fine men, well educated, and capable leaders. And they laid a good foundation of this church. Upon which to build. I remember when I came, there was a -- or since I have been here rather. There have been two public modes of ~~transportation~~. First, of all, we had the streetcar or the trolley track, in front of the church. And you could ride to Norfolk for about 6¢ or 7¢. It cost you a nickel to ride all the way to Ocean View. And then the modern transit bus came.

Since I have been in South Norfolk, my ~~checking account~~ has remained active on one signature card. I think four different banks have owned my account. And it is now entrusted to the Soviet-ran bank.

I have been living in the ~~same house~~ in South Norfolk for these 37 or so years. At the same time, I have lived in two cities. South Norfolk and Chesapeake.

I have had ~~two sidewalks~~ by my house in the 37 years. The first was genuine cement. The second, was made of hypocrite bricks. And you dare not roll your baby carriage across it.

I have had ~~two mail carriers~~, delivering the mail to my house. One was Fulford, a black man. And the other was Herbert, a white man.

It is -- if I were to go back and reminisce, I would be able to tell you many many things.

I hope the new pastor will be very helpful in ways. I remember hearing about a new preacher who came to a church and somebody said, how do you like him. Well, somebody said, he is wonderful. He prays for things the other preacher didn't know God had.

But I think one of the best compliments that I ever had was made one day when a woman said, that Preacher Hughes, just holds the Bible in his hand and talks about the Scriptures. Well, that is what we have done. Birthdays tell how long you have been on the road, and you can already tell how far you have traveled.

Our church, when I came, had some wonderful people in the music. And we have had through the years wonderful musicians. And really, I remember that choir dressed in black robes and white collars. And the ladies wore black hats. I wish I had a picture of that choir and that group. Because they prepared great music and came forth every Sunday with a well polished anthem from the Scriptures. Today I wonder about this ear-drum splitting top ten type music that people call religious. As a boy, I really heard better notes from a Tom cat, with his tail caught in the screen door.

I would like to say a word about my wife who has been helping me at my side all of these years and making a happy home, and has relieved a lot of the pressures as she has assumed the house-keeping duties. And always, digging up a little vase of flowers from somewhere -- even if it is poison-ivy. She would bring it in the house and put it in a vase. She has been one of my best critics, I guess. Would you say? And I'm not what you call hen-pecked - but like the fellow said, I have had a lot of hen-house experience.

I married an old man some yrs back - over 80 - died in 70 this - helped each other up steps - no later - missy - on porch - Rocking Chair - Hand things were fine - "No body her hid me & Baby" I know something like that happened + abuse -

So very shortly, we will have a new opportunity and a new door will open. Shorty the Bird stayed out Here is Baby now! See me in Rocking the Porch May Amos Baby is in work working

As I remember, I was born in Currituck County, and I was always thankful that I was born in the country. And really, I have always been thankful that I had one of the best mothers that God ever gave a boy, who was more to me than school or anything else combined. From my infancy up, my mother and my Godly grandmother with prayer and interest, I loved her. And during my childhood, we did not have the modern improvements that people have today. We had wood fires. And we were without electricity, and without running water, and without all of these things that people have today and take for granted. And we worked on the farm. Have you ever tried your hand at choppin' cotton. Shearing sheep, pulling a cross-cut saw. Or plowing a mule with angelic eyes. I still have the three legged chair or stool that I used as a boy when milking cows. We always had fun and plenty of it. You really didn't have to look for it. My mind goes back, sitting there one day - there was a little negro boy about five or six, that lived around there - and he came by about the time I was milking the cow. I asked him if he wanted a fresh drink of milk. So I accommodated him, by sending a stream ten feet away, into his mouth.

Now the amusing part was that he shut his mouth to swallow, and then I spattered painted his whole face, even blinding his eyes.

Had Zale - RD Jones - Still have gun
(Ring Add in Paper advertising a Preacher for Sale)
(Not work into gun)

Annis Jaydema Praying Woman - I have called on her at Prinial dis - Talked to the Lord, or before her - Discern Trust my D - Miss Not worry - Man with st work D Slaps ch - I will sign trust me!

I remember, the history of this church. The great things - the staff. I remember the work of the women in this church. How faithful they have been and how devoted they have been. And I remember the many young people who have been ordained. And I remember that we had foreign missionaries that have gone from our church. And I remember building or erecting this educational building. And I remember great revivals and wonderful, outstanding music.

filling this house
Choir house

As we had ~~Gwen and Johnny~~, her brother. By the way, Gwen was here 25 years with us. And I remember the ~~radio broadcast~~ which was live from this auditorium every Sunday night. For over 16 years, we sent out the message in an hour long broadcast. I remember about the ~~new churches~~ that this church has had the privilege of taking a part in and becoming a part of. Southside, Princess Anne Plaza, and investing in Greenbriar. I remember the fellowship we have had. And the compassion of the members of our church when I had a heart attack. I remember ~~The Messenger~~ which has gone out - and we started 34 years ago. And it is still being published. And Mary does our printing of it, and it has been a challenge to write a little column for 34 years, every week.

And I remember the first sermon that I preached -- "Has He Knocked At Your Door?" I talked about the ~~doors that were used~~ in the Bible. And I talked about the slothful person, moving on a hinge, going no where. The door of opportunity that Paul spoke of. It was closed to the ten virgins. The door of utterance of speech. The door of salvation - when Jesus said, I am the door. And I talked about the door being the human heart - Rev. 3:20. John meant that Jesus was standing knocking. At the judgement, at the heart. In that sermon, I attempted to show you ways in which the ~~methods God uses~~. Whether through failure, suffering, through misfortune, through conscience, through individuals. I remember talking about how God really knocks on our hearts doors. Oh, there are so many times, (one night late), a man called me and he said I want you to come by my house. I need to talk to you. And so I went by Sam's house, that night, and in the upstairs apartment - and I sat down in a chair and I listened to him as he told me how God had talked to his conscience. He said, I was on my way - going to the liquor store. And a thunderstorm and a rainstorm arrived, and I took shelter on the front steps by the door of the church. And as I was standing there, I looked on the wall and I read the inscription from Psalm 100:4. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto Him, and

bless his name. When I read that, he said, God spoke to me. And I could not go on to the liquor store. And he said, I turned around and I went back home. And so we talked. He had been a man who had been a little rough in his day. Had a wonderful wife who was a Christian. And now, here was a man pushing 70 -- saying, don't you think I ought to do something about it. And so, I talked to him. He came on Sunday, and I baptized him. And he became a Christian and a regular attendant in the worship services.

Yes, God does speak through conscience and through individuals. Another thing I remember about that sermon, I talked to you why some people do not hear his voice, they harden their hearts against God's knock. And they are too busy at times to listen to what he has to say. And they are not ready to give their attention to him. You see, heart has an ear in it. H-e-a-r-t - heart! And when God knocks at the heart, the center of the heart, he wants you to respond. And he says, if any man will hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and will worship with him. And I remember preaching that sermon as to why people do not hear the knock.

Another thing I tried to point out to you was -- the point that some have bolted the door just through complacency, and through pride. And through other ways, people lock the door from Jesus Christ. Did you know, that the Christ I preached that day 37-38 years almost ago, is the same Christ that I preach to you today. And this will be the same Gospel that can be preached tomorrow in this church. And it is going to be the same Gospel that will be preached in the future. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. The unchanging Saviour. Dear friends, when we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, then we can trust and obey.

The last thing I remember pointing out in that sermon, that ~~by rejecting~~ Christ and the invitation, you would lock the door against him. He says, behold, I now stand ~~at~~ the door and I knock. I will come in. Now how Jesus does that, I can't explain it all. But I know that he will come in. And I know that what he says about entering your heart - he wants to enter it today. And with Pilate, what is written is written. And the difficulties, my friends, that stand before us, life is so hard. It seems to be beyond us. Jesus said to the twelve, go ye to the ends of the earth. And win it to me. That is a great task. That is a grand task. Win the world to Christ. One talent - most of us have one talent. Some of us, may have two. But if one talent - and you have Christ, you can move the mountain. If we co-operate with providence, Heaven will co-operate with us. God says I know how to touch the needs, and touch the gold, and touch the silver, and I know today - he says, and he is knocking on some heart doors today I think. I believe like in that first service many years ago - I believe that Christ is knocking at some hearts today. And he is encouraging you that you need Christ. And you need to come to him.

Oh today, my fellow Christians of this church - a church that is dear to me. Dearer than any other place. I summons you today to give anew today to give your best to Christ. To be done with playing at religion. To be done with all lukewarmness. I summons you today to come and give your human sympathy for all mankind and for good. For the high and the low, the rich and the poor, and give your best to win this city and this world to Jesus. So that you hear that wonderful thing at last, well done thy good and faithful servant. Wouldn't you love to obey Christ today. Wouldn't you tell him today as an inactive Christian, that you would like to register some great deeds tomorrow. Wouldn't you today, link your life with this church and take him as your Lord. And give him your best. Wouldn't you today say, I have opened my heart, I want to follow him. I want to be a part of this

great church and fellowship. Holding back, without holding back - come to an end of all the dangerous delay. Aren't you ready today, with your needed life to put life there. And to do it while he knocks on your hearts door.

I am asking you today to surrender your life to him. Some of you need to come, some of you need to follow him. And be baptized. Some of you need to make this your church home. And we are challenging you to come. As

~~Holloman Hunt's picture of Christ knocking at the door.~~ Someone asked the artist - there is no knob or handle. And he said, it opens from the inside.

So I trust that you will open it just now.

The invitation is that you must open the door. And I point to you, the Saviour is waiting. And I'll be standing here at the altar to receive you. As the choir begins to sing, you take your step to come.

He ~~opened the Red Sea~~ for His people, He caused the ~~walls of Jericho~~ to fall, He stopped the mouths of lions ~~for Daniel~~, He halted the course of the seasons for the prophet, He ~~fed Elijah~~ in his need, He ~~defeated Napoleon~~ with a snowflake and ~~saved England~~ with a fog at Dunkirk. God has been ~~busy in history~~---the fact of the ~~resurrection~~, God's work.

~~II The resurrection as a foundation.~~

~~First~~, it is the foundation of ~~Christianity~~. It has a relation to the ~~scripture~~ and to the ~~church~~. It is the ~~heart~~ and soul of Christianity---the empty tomb.

It would have ~~perished like other groups~~---the ~~Essenes~~, the ~~Pharisees~~, the ~~Sadducees~~---the religious groups never got off the ground and Christianity would not exist for the empty tomb that gave it motivation, drive, power that captivated the Roman Empire.

It had a ~~message of hope and cheer~~. It spoke with ~~confidence of eternity~~ and ~~life beyond the grave~~. That kind of world was hungry for a message like that and the world responded to it.

All because they could ~~speak~~ of God for whom ~~no burial ground~~ to go to, ~~no monument to place flowers~~ in front of as a place where the ~~bones lay~~, but rather a living Christ in the hearts of those who preached it.

The danger today is we minimize His person and His work in favor of a selective choice of His teachings.

Reject His teachings of man's sin and redemption and the resurrection.

Satan allows the good instead of the best. Our world is filled with teaching of good works but fail that we are lost and need to be redeemed and forgiven.

The resurrection says you better believe what I say because the empty tomb confirms His deity. Romans 1 He is declared to be the son of God by His resurrection.

The resurrection affirms that God has accepted His work on the cross in our behalf.

Many of us boldly say we know we're going to heaven-if we drop of a heart attack, sudden death means sudden glory. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. To die is gain, to depart and be with Christ is for better.

Now some people do not understand the teaching of the Bible when it says that you can know this---someone will say well who do you think you are? Well Jesus Christ took all my sins in His body on the tree and He was my punishment. They have all been punished in Christ. The word of God says if I open my heart and my life to