



**South Norfolk  
Baptist Church**

FRANK HUGHES, JR., PASTOR

*February 12, 1984*

"Let every thing that  
hath breath praise  
the LORD. Praise ye  
the LORD."

PSALM 150:6



"... Whom shall I  
send, and who will  
go for us? Then  
said I, Here am I;  
send me."

ISAIAH 6:8

## TESTIMONY OF MINISTRY

There are several kinds of immortality. One that gives me satisfaction is in the cornerstone of South Norfolk Baptist Church. Another is on the wall of the Education Building. I know my name is preserved, and I am glad.

The days pass by too fast. A preacher works like the sower in the parable — he throws the seed and some falls on stony ground or weedy ground, or good ground, or barren ground; and frequently he never knows what the yield is. But there are enough returns to keep him encouraged.

I thank the Lord for putting me into the ministry at age eighteen. The following forty-seven years of preparation and preaching have been unspeakably happy. I am thankful that I have shared in the valuable experience of organizing several new churches, and the first of which was Broad Creek Village Baptist Church which is still standing firm and solid after 40 years.

In 1947 a signal was made to me from the South Norfolk Baptist Church. The name "South Norfolk" is graven indelibly on my heart. As I was installed as pastor, a higher than human hand seemed to be behind it and I had to obey. The mighty wind from heaven filled this house with the glorious work of revival. People came to hear their new twenty-seven year old pastor. Of that first company, the majority has departed and are among the white robed with their risen Lord in glory. I wonder how many there are here this morning who gathered before this pulpit on Sunday, February 9th, 37 years ago? As many of you as there are present that were at that service 37 years ago, will do me a favor if you will rise in your pews (\_\_\_\_\_).

God bless you. Words can never express my thanks to the efficient labors of the Woman's Missionary Union, the good service of the Sunday School, and many loyal deacons and trustees. A source of joy has been the large number of young people who have set their faces toward the Christian ministry.

There is no way to summarize hundreds of sermons preached, officiating at near one thousand marriages, and an equal number of funerals. Few days have passed but I have visited a home or stood by the sick and dying beds. You know what I have preached as fresh manna from God's Word.

Every invitation from another church to become pastor has been promptly declined. For, because of my love for you, I determined never to be pastor of any other than South Norfolk.

I have decided to make the sixty-fifth anniversary of my birth — September 27, 1984, the terminal point of my present pastorate; at which time I plan to retire.

I have determined not to outstay my fullest capacity for the enormous work demands here. The extent of that work increases every day with committees about Christian work, funeral services, and numerous other duties. By divine help I have carried that load. My health today is as firm as usual.

It is my honest desire and purpose that I not linger and outlive my usefulness. For presenting this retirement I alone am responsible before God, before this church, and before the world.

When you have accepted this plan, the whole responsibility for the welfare of this beloved church will rest on your shoulders. My earnest prayer is that you may be directed to the right man to be



your pastor.

As for myself, I do not propose to sit down and watch the sun go down in the West. There will be no lack of employment for me.

While you are in search of my successor, if I can perform any service, it shall be done cheerfully.

I would call upon you to face the new day with faith, hope, and prayer. Let no man break rank. You are strong and The Great Shepherd has said "Lo, I am with you always!" You are well-manned, well-equipped, well-financed, and well-founded on the Bible. You have never been crippled by debt and never distracted with quarrels.

I confidently expect to see South Norfolk Baptist Church move steadily forward with unbroken column. When another 37 years have rolled away it will still be a strong tower of truth. Every member must be optimistic, positive, and a redemptive part of the future. By God's Grace, The Holy Spirit, as in The New Testament, will bring a beautiful fruitful new day through you in this church for his Glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:20 "For ye are our glory and joy."

The best part of my life has been blessed in working with the finest people on God's earth. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philipians 1:3-6.

