

My memories of Rev. Frank Hughes, Jr. go way back to 1948 when he baptized me...I had been raised a Methodist. This opened the door for me to be very involved in the Baptist Student Union at Madison College, which ultimately led to my accepting a position of BSU Director at Radford College, following my graduation from seminary.

He and Mrs. Hughes were both instrumental in helping me decide to go to Southwestern Seminary, including getting some financial aid.

During college and seminary days it was always such a joy to come back to South Norfolk Baptist Church. Eventually my sister, Ellen became a Baptist and we had some great experiences, especially in the summer. I remember once when we were at Nags Head the Hughes family invited us down to their cottage for some soft shell crabs. Ellen and I said we didn't care for any, that we'd rather have a hot dog. Well, Preacher never let me live that down and hot dog was a running joke between us ever after. I once even gave him a birthday cake with a hot dog sticking out of it!

I served as Educational Secretary at SNBC for a while and it was my privilege to type up many of his sermons. I always enjoyed listening and typing and sometimes laughing aloud at a joke now and then. I recall that the clock in his office never was changed to Daylight Saving Time...he always kept it on "God's Time". Playing the piano with Gwen at the organ was also a blessing during those days.

One very important occasion was when Preacher performed the wedding ceremony for Ernie and me...and this brings to mind some other weddings which I'll never forget. I was organist for these, one in which the ring bearer was misbehaving so badly that our pastor took hold of his hand and restrained him during the entire ceremony! Of course we'll never forget the time the groom fainted! Some strange things can happen at weddings and funerals.

Yes, Rev. Frank Hughes, Jr. was very influential in my life. When we moved out to Kempsville we eventually changed our membership to Kempsville Baptist Church where I served as organist for 42 years. Still I think fondly of my "Preacher" and that special time in my life at SNBC.

Betty Miles LeBlanc