

JAN. 27, 1989



(Star-Progress photo by Jack Hancock)

BREA CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH — Next door to the Golden Gate Baptist Seminary now under construction, this Baptist Church founded in 1956 will soon be accomodating theology students in its congregation. The Church at 251 S. Randolph Ave.,

holds Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. with morning worship at 11 and evening worship at 6 p.m. lead by the Rev. Don Powell. After a potluck fellowship on Wednesday evenings at 6, the pastor leads a Bible study session from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

AUG. 26, 1988



BREA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH — Pastor of the church, 201 W. Ash St., is Elder Dwane Stutte. Services are Sundays at

(Star-Progress photo by Jack Hancock)
11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Sunday School is from 9:45 to 11 a.m.; and a prayer meeting is scheduled each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

JULY 8, 1988



BREA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH — Brea's First Baptist Church congregation has been active in the city since 1924. Originally, a group of churchgoers from the Fullerton First Baptist Church began a small congregation in Brea and eventually built their own church, which was dedicated on the fourth Sunday in March 1928. Its first pastor was the Rev. Harry Tratt, and there have been 11 pastors since. Today the church's pastor is the Rev. George Saunders, a member of the Brea Project's Steering Committee. The original church was located on the site of what is now Brea's Assembly of God church. The building was sold in 1948, and the present church was dedicated on April 4, 1954. The programs, facilities and size of the church have nearly tripled since then. Expansion began during the late 1950s, when Sunday School rooms were added. Since then,

(Star-Progress photo by Jack Hancock)

the church has added programs for all ages. New this year is a summer day camp that will begin July 18 and will run for seven weeks, through Sept. 2. A number of trips are planned for participants, including outings to the San Diego Zoo, Knott's Berry Farm and museums in Los Angeles. In addition, church officials say a one-week Vacation Bible School program is set for the week of Aug. 22, during morning hours. Exact hours have not yet been set. Both programs are geared toward elementary school children. The day camp will register children in grades 1-6 and the Vacation Bible School will include kindergartners. Chris and Vickie Tong have also put together a youth program that church officials say has been well-received. For more information, call the church offices at (714) 529-2396.

Saunders leaves First Baptist Church

AUG. 16, 1990

He will assume head position at Indiana pulpit

By Mark Berg

DSP Staff Writer

BREA — "This is the First Baptist Church and we want you to remember that Jesus loves you," the ebullient phone message declares after hours.

The happy demeanor of Rev. George Saunders, whose bubbling voice was heard weekly by the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Brea and can still be heard on the church's answering machine, will be inspiring others now — in Indiana.

Saunders recently announced his intention to transfer to the larger church, First Baptist Church of Muncie, Ind., and was given a send-off reception Aug. 5, following his final service at the small church on Flower Avenue.

The move to Muncie, described by the white-haired pastor as a promotion, will place him as head pastor of the 600-member congregation and five full-time staff in the university town of 100,000.

Saunders said he and his family — wife Nancy and children Betsy, 13, and John, 9 — have "fond memories of Brea. We'd love to stay, but feel it's time to move on."

Ten years is about the right duration for a pastor before moving on, he said, pointing to his nine-year tenure in Brea. "The church needs a change. I need a change." But he added, "I have no regrets about being here."

Two pastors have held the pulpit in the past 40 years. Saunders, coming from a Ban-



(Star-Progress photo by Stan Bird)

MOVING ON — Rev. George Saunders of the First Baptist Church of Brea joins wife Nancy at a recent farewell reception. The Saunders family is moving to Muncie, Ind. and a new church.

ning pastorate of three years, succeeded Pastor Roswell McFadden, who retired in 1980. McFadden, or "Mac" as he was known, was pastor from 1951, the year before the church built its new facility on Flower Avenue. The First Baptist Church of Brea was founded in 1925.

Times have changed since then, Saunders said, and not all for the better.

"I guess one of the hardest things this church has suffered is the loss of the young adults to Riverside churches," he said. "Most of the older churches in downtown Brea have had this

same experience."

Currently, the church membership totals 130, Saunders said, most over the age of 50.

Saunders' efforts have not been spent on his congregation alone while a resident here. The minister boasts a long list of parachurch and community service activities.

The pastor was a member of the Brea Ministerial Association, serving on homeless and blood bank projects; treasurer of the Widowed Persons Service; and steering committee member for the Brea Project, a community design exercise accomplished by citizens.

As chairman of new church development for the American Baptist Churches, Saunders oversaw the birth of 50 churches in the Pacific Southwest.

Saunders said he hopes to visit Brea in the future, but will likely remain a resident of the eastern United States where most of his family lives.

While laboring to prepare the family for the Muncie move, Saunders bestowed a final piece of wisdom: "My encouragement to the citizens of Brea would be to slow down, enjoy life, and love one another."

APR. 26, 1988

1929: The Brea Baptist Church received formal recognition on April 11, 1924, in a meeting at the Brea Congregational Church. The Rev. Harry Tratt was the founding pastor. After meeting temporarily in Craig Hall, the Baptists bought a vacant store building on the corner of Ash and Pomona (now Brea Boulevard). In April 1928, the Baptists dedicated a new building (shown here) at the corner of Birch Street and Flower Avenue. The Rev. John Bell was pastor at the time. The Baptists continued to worship here for more than 20 years, making several additions to the building.

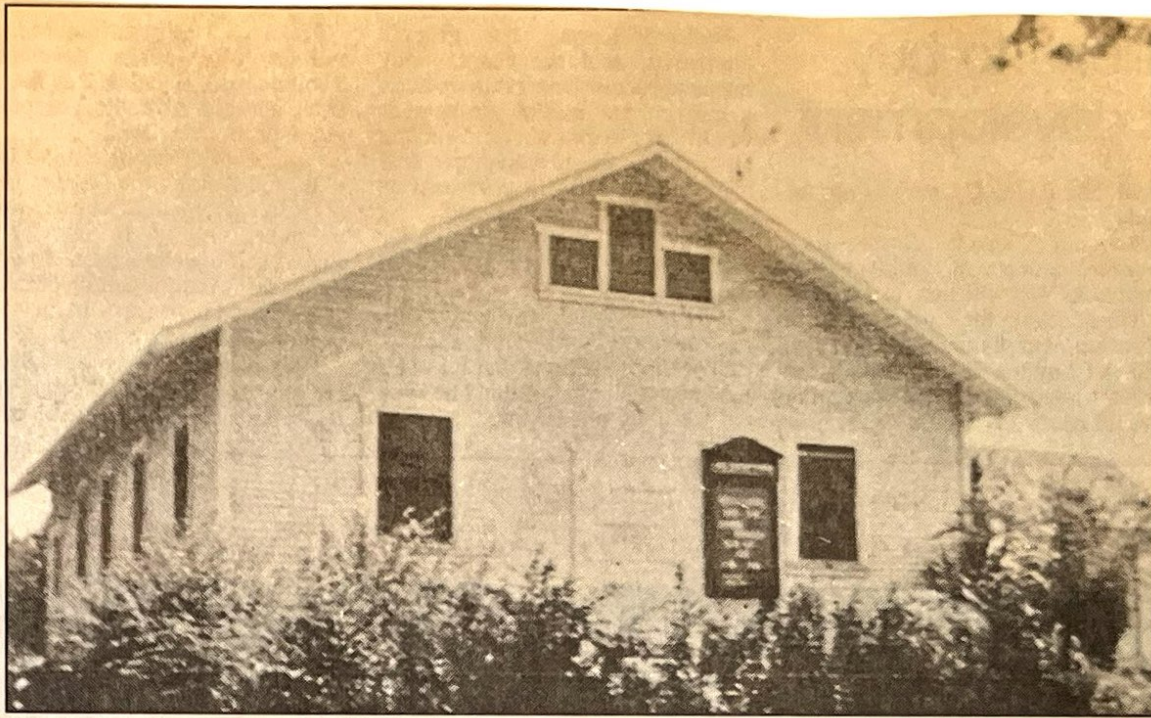
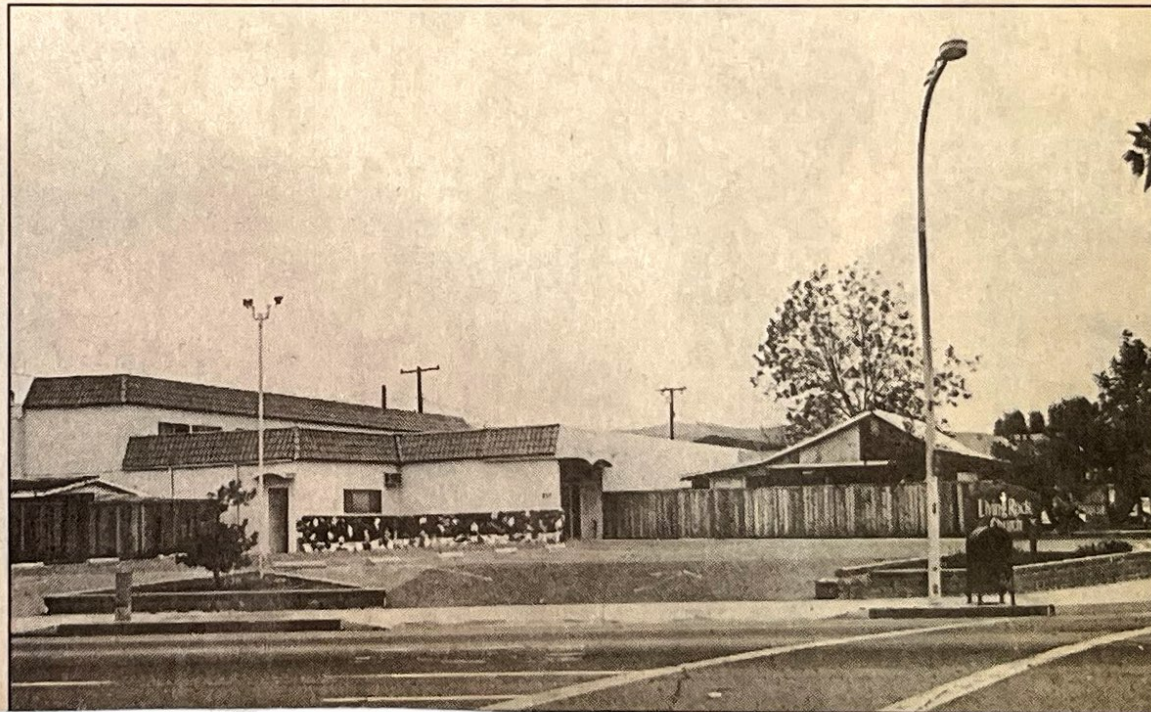


Photo courtesy of Brea Historical Society

Today: In June 1950, the Baptists purchased a lot a little farther south on Flower Avenue for a new church. The next year, members used one part of the new church for worship as construction continued on the rest. The building was completed the next year, and the church dedicated in 1954. It is now known as the First Baptist Church of Brea, at 408 Flower Ave. The building at Birch and Flower was torn down. Standing at that location today is the Living Rock Church, at 217 E. Birch St.



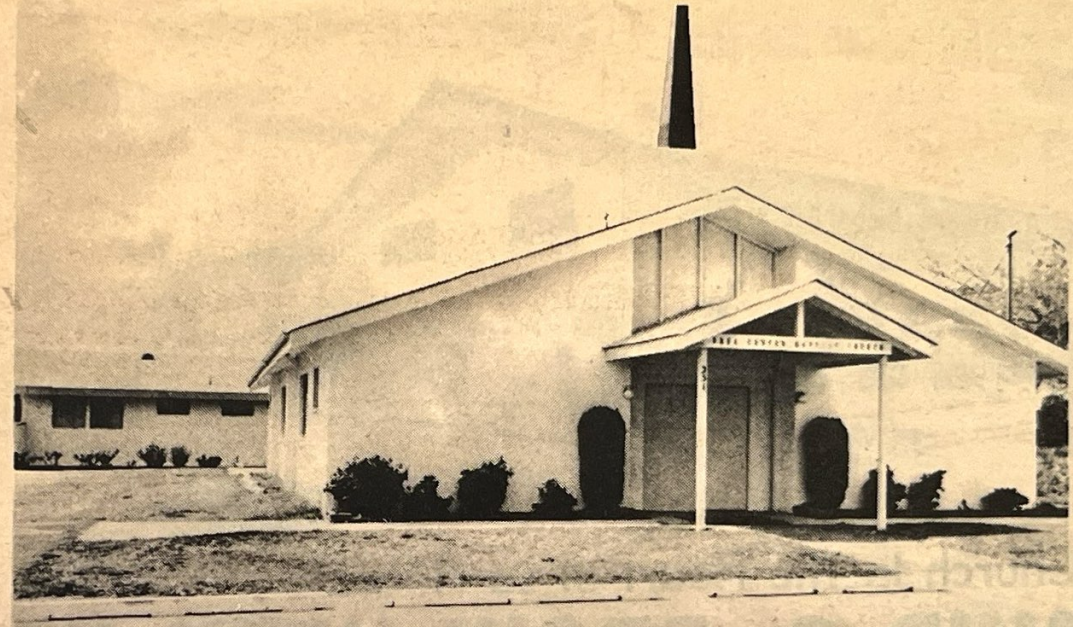
John Westcott/The Register

APRIL 6, 1977

Worship With Warmth, Dignity and Commitment At

Brea Center Baptist Church

251 South Randolph — (S.B.C.) — Brea



Sunday School9:45 AM
 Sunday Worship11:00 AM & 7:00 PM
 Mid Week ServiceWed, 7:00 PM

WILLIAM M. PRESLEY, Pastor.....529-4109
CHUCK ERIKSON, Youth Pastor.....990-3567

NURSERY PROVIDED FOR SERVICES



MOUNT OF OLIVES — The Rev. R. C. McFadden, minister of the Brea First Baptist Church (Shown sixth from the left), visited the

Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, on his recent trip abroad. A view of the city may be seen in the background.

Pastor Tells Of Holy Land, Seen On Trading Stamp Trip

"I'd do it all over again if I could," declared the Rev. Roswell C. McFadden, minister of the Brea First Baptist Church, in discussing his recent five-week tour of the Holy Land and Europe.

The trip, financed largely by trading stamps collected by the Church Women's Missionary Society, was a "tremendous experience" and "made the scriptures clearer for me," he said.

Rev. McFadden found Israel and the city of Jerusalem in particular of greatest interest. The contrast between Israel and Egypt was very great, he said. In Egypt he observed extreme conditions of poverty and a primitive standard of living. In Israel, however, the cities are modernized and living conditions generally good.

At Collective Farm

He visited a Kibbutz Community in Israel and dined in one of their restaurants on the Sea of Galilee. "These collective farms are gradually disappearing," Rev. McFadden explained. "In the beginning, they were very helpful in building the country. Now, with the country on its feet and employment conditions improved they are dying out." He estimates that there are about 200 such communities in Israel where no religious distinctions are made and all families live together in dormitories, with profits from their work going to the community at large.

Rev. McFadden visited all of the sacred spots in the Holy Land, including the Garden of Gethsemane and Calvary Hill. Since Arabs prevented anyone from visiting the site of the Crucifixion, Rev. McFadden was forced to bribe his way through Arab guards to the top of the hill. He said he was determined to climb the hill, and was, in fact, the only member of the touring group to do so.

Arabs Speak English To

On his European tour, Rev. McFadden visited historical and religious sites in Italy, Greece, England, Belgium, Germany, Austria, and France. He spent 14 hours a day and traveled more than 3,000 miles in buses and taxis. Everywhere he went the people were friendly, he said. Language barriers were not so great as

might be expected since many of the Arabs spoke English and he himself is familiar with some of the foreign tongues.

Twenty-two persons made the tour last June, with 18 from California. "It was a fine gesture on the part of those who made it possible for me to go," he said.



BACK FROM TRIP — Rev. Roswell McFadden of Baptist Church.

NOVEMBER 19, 1964



HOSPITAL SERVICE — Members of the newly-named Jean Brown Circle at Brea First Baptist Church have undertaken sewing of bed boots as a service project. The boots will be distributed to patients at Fairview State Hospital. Participating in one work

session were (from left) Mrs. I. J. Stanton, missionary chairman; Mrs. Laurance Buckner, Mrs. Harold MacDonald, chairman; Mrs. Wayne Lance, white cross chairman; and Miss Katherine Collins, secretary-treasurer.

(News Tribune Photo)

Brea Baptist Homecoming To Fete 50th Anniversary

By JESSIE LOU GIVENS
News Tribune Church Editor

BREA — "Sister Bates moved that we proceed to organize ourselves into the First Baptist Church of Brea. This motion was seconded by Sister Swindle and unanimously carried," read the minutes of the meeting which led to the founding of First Baptist Church 50 years ago.

Tomorrow, those early days of the church, which began in an upstairs hall in downtown Brea and the later days of growth and achievement will be recalled in a homecoming celebration. The congregation will be joined on the 50th anniversary day by denominational and community guests, former members and three of the original 50 charter members.

Besides tomorrow's special events, a congregational banquet is scheduled at 7 tonight at the church.

In services at 11 a.m. Sunday, the Rev. R. C. McFadden, who has served the church more than 23 years, will bring the homecoming message. The Rev. Vernon Legg, regional minister for Area III, will offer denominational

greetings. Community recognition will be expressed by Brea City Manager Wayne Wedin.

Charter members Mrs. Pearl Purdy of Brea, who continues to be active in the church; Mrs. Dessie Smith Bell, Riverside; and Mrs. Zada Fiscus, La Habra, will be honored.

A buffet luncheon will be followed by an open house from 1 to 5 p.m., with congregation members to be joined by former members coming from points in Oregon and Arizona, Northern and Southern California, reported Mrs. Katherine Citizen, chairman of the church anniversary celebration committee.

Mrs. Citizen, church historian, will have ready for distribution at tonight's dinner an illustrated church history, recounting highlights of the half century. Mrs. Citizen, who is Yorba Linda city librarian, is also author of "History of Yorba Linda."

Besides Pastor McFadden, the planning committee also includes: Mrs. Lila Tremayne, Laurence Buckner, Michael Fast and William Allen.

At the dinner at 7 at the church, for which reservations have been completed, the guest speaker will be Dr. George Downing, Los Angeles, executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest. Music will be provided by groups from Sierra High School, Whittier.

Brea Mayor Leonard MacKain will bring community greetings. Presenting a solo will be the Rev. LeRoi Arroues, who grew up in the church and who is pastor of First Baptist Church at Highland.

Mrs. Citizen's history of the church notes that it was several months after Sister Bates and Sister Swindle pushed the motion for organization before the preliminaries were completed.

"The charter membership was then opened and several months later was closed with 49 names, 27 women and 22 men. The first pastor, the Rev. Harry Tratt, made the 50th name on the charter list."

The First Baptist Church of Brea was officially recognized



COMMITTEE — Planning committee for the 50th anniversary celebration at Brea First Baptist Church tonight and tomorrow includes (from left) The Rev.

R.C. McFadden, chairman Katherine Citizen, Mrs. Lila Tremayne, Laurence Buckner and Michael Fast. Not pictured is William Allen.

by the Southern California Baptist Convention in 1925. The parent organization guaranteed partial support for the new church, with this aid continuing until the fall of 1951 when the Brea church became fully self-supporting.

The founding group met in the downtown hall for a time, then the store building, then in part of the Masonic Hall, where "planks were placed on boxes for seats."

Its first property, a lot at Birch and Flower streets, was purchased by the congregation in 1927 and the first sanctuary built in 1928.

"The church membership and Sunday school attendance began to grow and, in October 1933, a building was purchased from Union Oil Co. for Sunday school rooms. Cost of the building and moving onto the lot was \$100," according to the minutes.

"In January 1934, a room was added to this annex at a cost of \$113.04," it was noted in precise terms.

"By February 1944, many improvements had been made, including the building of a baptistry. Until this time, the First Baptist Church of Fullerton had graciously allowed our pastors and candidates for baptism the use of its baptistry."

The first church was outgrown and the congregation planned toward a larger sanctuary. Three lots at Date and Flower Streets were purchased and the first unit of the present facility was built in 1950 after the sale of the first property.

The church plant has grown to include the sanctuary, chapel and education building

surrounded by landscaping and parking area.

First Baptist Church of Brea has had nine pastors during its first 50 years, with most serving pastorates of two years, one for seven and another four years.

Mr. McFadden, who was called on Sept. 19, 1951, has had the longest term in the pulpit and has also been active in the Brea community.

Brea residents recall a special tribute to the minister in 1964 when congregation members and friends collected sufficient trading stamps to send Mr. and Mrs. McFadden on a tour of the Holy Land. The trading stamp tour gift won wide publicity.

Mrs. McFadden, who died last fall, was active in the church throughout the years until her last illness.



News Tribune Photo

TEEN SERVICE — Among participants in a youth mission to Indians in Poston, Ariz., are members of the pictured group. The high school and college group will conduct a vacation Bible school for the Indian children next week. Adult aides include (from left) the Rev. R.C. McFadden, senior minister; Mrs. Lila Tremayne, counselor; and Herb Bradford, youth minister. Youth group members are: Tim McFadden, Lindsay Buckner, Ron Smith, Gary and Ed McDonald, Linda, Debbie and Judy George and Betty Watson.



News Tribune Photos

IN APPRECIATION — Admiring a decorated cake inscribed with their names are the Rev. and Mrs. Roswell McFadden, who were honored recently by the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Brea on the occasion of their 20th anniversary of pastoring at the church. A reception was held in September and many former church members returned to the area for the celebration, including those who had been on the committee which issued the call to the couple 20 years ago. Member of the official boards of the church each brought greetings to the pair, and about 150 friends gathered to honor them. A money tree was presented to them from members of the church and friends by James Tremayne, chairman of the board of deacons.



1925 AND 1975 — Brea First Baptist Church, celebrating its 50th anniversary in events tonight and tomorrow, first met in the upstairs hall, indicated



by the arrow, (left) in an old downtown Brea building, and will host its homecoming guests in today's spacious facility at the right.

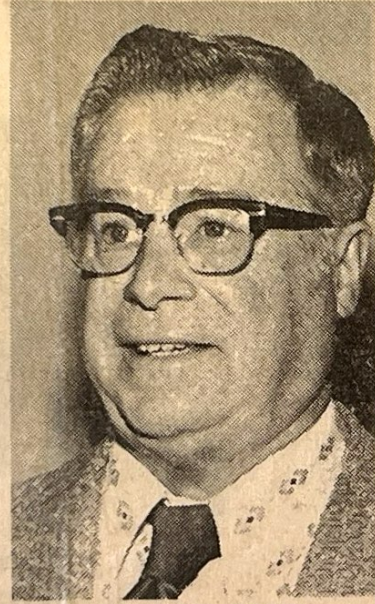
Retirement Dinner to Honor Brea First Baptist Minister

BREA — The Rev. R.C. McFadden, who has served for 29 years as pastor of First Baptist Church of Brea, and who has announced his retirement as of April 30, will be honored by his congregation and community friends at a church dinner at 6:30 tonight.

"It was time — it seemed the right time," the veteran pastor said of his retirement, noting that he had delayed a couple of years past the traditional 65 years of age.

Although he will move from the parsonage, he will continue to live in the area. Plans have been announced for his marriage on May 2 to Ruth Morgan, a long-time member of his congregation.

Besides his church ministry, McFadden has been active in the community throughout 29 years. He will continue serving as vice president of the Breal Project, the



REV. R. C. McFADDEN

program for a retirement home which is under construction. He will also continue serving as chaplain of the Lions Club, the American Legion and as assistant chaplain at St. Jude Hospital.

"I'll also continue offering prayers at Brea City Council meetings," he added.

He is a past president of the Brea Ministerial Association, having served four times in this office. He has also been active in Baptist denominational programs. Among other offices, he has served two terms as pastor counselor for the American Baptist Laymen of Southern California.

During his ministry in Brea, the unfinished sanctuary was completed and a Sunday school unit and social hall were built. A major

addition to the parsonage was also made.

The Brea pastor is a native of Oakland, attended schools in Turlock, joined the army in 1944 and served two years.

He attended California Baptist Theological Seminary, now the Seminary of the West, and was also graduated from Bible Institute of Los Angeles, now Biola College, La Mirada.

Following ordination in 1948, he went to his first pastorate in San Pedro where he served two years. He was then called to a Baptist ministry in Julian where he served two years before coming to Brea.

Family members attending tonight's farewell party at the Brea church will be his daughter, Mrs. Patricia Ruzich, and granddaughter, Becky, of Santa Cruz. His other daughter is Mrs. Kathleen DeMoss of Newburg, Ore., and his son is Timothy McFadden, Nashville, Tenn. His first wife died in 1974.



News Tribune Photo by Stan Bird

NEW AT BREA BAPTIST
Rev. George, Mrs. Saunders, Betsy, 4, John, 9 months

Pastor installed at Brea Baptist

BREA — Newly installed senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Brea is the Rev. George Saunders who comes from Banning where he served the Baptist church as associate minister the past four years.

Mr. and Mrs. (Nancy) Saunders and daughter Betsy, 4, and son John, 9 months, have established residence in the parsonage at 429 S. Flower St.

At the Brea church, Saunders succeeds the Rev. R.C. McFadden who retired last year after 29 years in the Brea ministry, and by Dr. C. Salvaggio who has served the interim ministry the past year.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Saunders are graduates of Vassar. He was a member of the first freshman class in which men were admitted at the previously all-female

school. Some 200 men entered the first freshman class, he said.

"It was the right distance from home and offered the right courses," he said of his choice of college.

He continued his education at Gordon-Conwell Seminary, South Hamilton, Mass., where he earned his M. Div. degree.

The new Brea pastor is talented musically. In college, he was a tenor with the madrigal singers group which appeared in Lincoln Center and also toured in Europe. He also plays piano, violin and guitar.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Saunders, Rochester, N.Y., where his father is a physicist.

He grew up in Rochester and Mrs. Saunders was reared in Altadena.

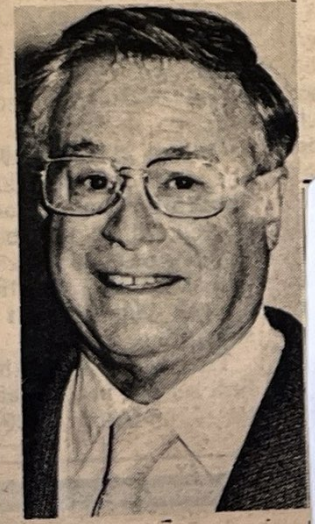
APRIL 6, 1977
77

Wednesday, April 6, 1977
LA HABRA-BREA, CALIF.

DAILY STAR-PROGRESS C-13

Brea Baptists Cherish History

Celebrating 26 years of service to both the Baptist and Brea community is Reverend R.C. McFadden, pastor of the Brea Baptist Church lo-



Rev. R.C. MacFadden

cated at the corner of Flower and Date Streets.

The stately building reflects quite a history, although early Brea Baptists chose Craig Hall, on what was then Pomona Avenue, as their meeting place. In 1925, the church was officially recognized and the group decided to form their own congregation. Paying \$2 per

month rent, the congregation moved to a vacant store building. When the store was let out for commercial purposes, the Baptists moved to another building on Pomona Ave.

McFadden arrived at the church in 1951, after serving the small communities of San Pedro and Julian.