

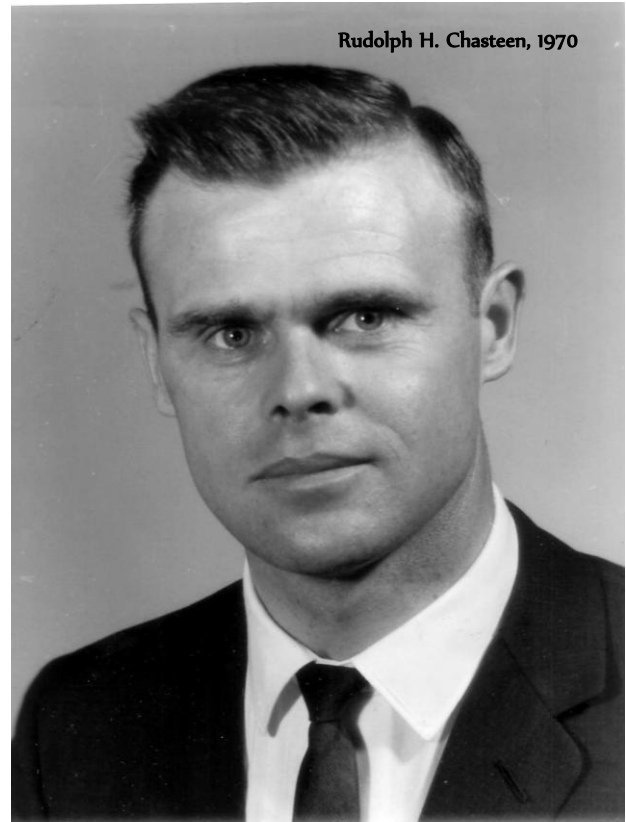
Rudolph H. Chasteen

On August 26, 1971, the Pulpit Committee for Bethel Presbyterian Church unanimously recommended to the congregation that **Mr. Rudolph H. Chasteen** be called as their pastor. Rudolph H. Chasteen was born November 9, 1928, in Piedmont, South Carolina, to James Oliver Chasteen and Cora Pitts. Rudolph and Helen Abrams were married on June 28, 1954, and celebrated their fiftieth anniversary six years previous to her death on September 10, 2010. Children were Cheryl Carlton, Lynn Humphrey and Renee Cobb. Mr. Chasteen served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Furman University and his Masters of Divinity from Erskine Theological Seminary in Due West, South Carolina.

Reverend Chasteen served Bethel Church from 1970–1975, being ordained on July 30, 1972.

During this time the church was underpinned with stone by Elmer Cox and Frank Crowe in 1972. The stones were taken from the foundation piers and chimney of the old home place for Mason Duncan that was located on the property of Elmer Cox just down the road from the church on Oconee Creek. Mason was the oldest son of David Duncan and Nancy Trotter. The next year, 1973, nineteen used pews were purchased from Bountyland Baptist Church and the flags placed in the pulpit by Reverend Chasteen.

Bethel was the only church of its Presbyterian sisters with a full-time minister in 1973. Reverend Chasteen then went on to serve Fraser Presbyterian, Greenwood; Rocky River Presbyterian, Abbeville; Providence Presbyterian, Lowndesville; and the Interim Minister for Ware Shoals First Presbyterian and Welcome Presbyterian, both in Ware Shoals. He is honorably retired and living in a house he built himself in 1994-95.



Rudolph H. Chasteen, 1970