

Dr. Wayne Brown

Wayne Brown was born in Spartanburg, South Carolina, but "grew up" in Blacksburg, South Carolina, where he attended kindergarten through high school. He is the son of the late Joseph Milton and Minnie Williams Brown. His mother was a nurse and his father was a signal maintainer for Southern Railroad.

He made his profession of faith and was baptized at the First Baptist Church of Blacksburg where he was ordained into the ministry in 1970.

A graduate of Limestone College in Gaffney, South Carolina, where he majored in Sociology and Psychology, Dr. Brown received his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Following his sophomore year in college, Wayne served as a student summer missionary in Arizona and New Mexico, where he worked with the Navajo Indians in Shiprock, New Mexico, and the Spanish Baptist Mission in Santa Fe. Sponsored by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, this life-changing experience further led to Wayne's call to the ministry and he was licensed into the ministry in 1965 by the Providence Baptist Church in Gaffney, South Carolina, where he served as Minister of Music while attending Limestone College.

In 1969, Wayne married the former Joyce Ann Clary (Joy), the daughter of Mary Clary and the late James Albert Clary. The Browns are thankful for their two daughters, Meri Beth and Molly. They also are the proud and grateful grandparents of Thomas Wesley Howard, IV, "Ty," born to Meri Beth and Thomas on March 11, 2008, and Mazi Grace Howard, born to Molly and Christman on April 24, 2008. (The Brown girls married Thomas and Chrisman Howard, who are cousins. Their fathers are brothers.)

In addition to their home churches and Providence Baptist as described above, the Browns have served churches in a variety of ministries: Student Chaplain at the Murdoch School, Butner, North Carolina; Minister of Youth at Rock Springs Baptist Church, Bunn, North Carolina; Minister of Youth, Converse Baptist Church, Converse, South Carolina; Minister of Music, Youth, Education, and Associate Pastor, Millbrook Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina (1969-1975). Associate Pastor and Minister of Youth and College Ministries, First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 1975-1977; Pastor, West End Baptist Church, Gaffney, South Carolina, 1977-1984; Pastor, West Monmouth Baptist Church, Freehold, New Jersey, 1984-1988; Pastor, First Baptist Church, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, 1988-2003; Pastor, First Baptist Church, Boone, North Carolina, 2003-2008.