

1971



**PASTOR RETIRES FROM MINISTRY** — The Rev. and Mrs. Louis Balint of the First Presbyterian Church of Fontana will both retire on May 31. The pastor has been in the ministry for over 33 years. His wife Irene has been organist at the local church since their arrival in 1956. (Herald-News photo by Curt Barkley)

# Presbyterian Minister Retires After 15 Years in Fontana

FONTANA — Members of the First Presbyterian Church of Fontana will honor their retiring pastor, the Rev. Louis Balint and his wife on Sunday at a reception to be held from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the social hall of the church.

The Rev. Balint and his wife Irene came to Fontana in the fall of 1956 after accepting a call

from the First Presbyterian Church here.

He is a graduate of Manhattan High School in New York City. The pastor received his bachelor of arts degree from Colgate University in Hamilton, NY. He continued his studies at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pa.

Later the pastor decided to enter the Christian ministry and attended the Central Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. He was director of the Christian Community Center there for four years. He received his bachelor of divinity degree from Central Seminary (United Church of Christ) and continued his studies at the Eastern Theological Seminary in Philadelphia Pa. where he earned a masters degree in theology.

His first call into the ministry came from the Bayview Evangelical and Reformed Church in Milwaukee, Wis. where he served for four years. In 1942 he received his second call from the Bayard Street Presbyterian Church in New Brunswick, N.J. He served this church for 14 years before coming to Fontana.

The New Brunswick church was called an "ecclesiastical monstrosity" when the pastor arrived and in 14 years was turned into an "ecclesiastical masterpiece of Beauty", according to a letter received by the pastor. Mrs. Balint as president of the church's Women's Association helped raise \$23,000. She also helped organize the kindergarten and primary departments of the New Jersey church.



Upon hearing of the resignation and retirement of the pastor recently the people of the Bayard Street Church immediately extended a call for the local pastor to return to the vacated pulpit of that church. After many calls and letters from New Jersey, the Balints have decided to remain in Fontana for health reasons and because the Rev. Balint is employed as a substitute teacher in the Fontana Unified School District.

He recently received his Standard Teaching Credential from the State of California with a specialization in secondary and junior college teaching. Both credentials have been issued for life.

Mrs. Balint has also been an active member of the local church serving as its organist since their first Sunday in 1956. She has also served in many of the offices of the local United Presbyterian Women's Association and as its president for five years. She has taught Vacation Bible School each summer and provided the accompaniment for the musical portion of the school.

The Rev. Balint has been a member of the Fontana Rotary Club since 1957. He served as chaplain and chairman of its shut-in committee. He is also an active member of the Coordinating Council and serves as treasurer.

During his pastorate in Fontana a new Sunday School building and nursery have been constructed and named the Grisley Building. The pastor and his wife will retire on May 31.

The pastors nominating committee of the church will begin hearing new candidates in June.

Balint Lajos  
1971

