

Evening River Cruise Set

By SCOTTY CULP

EAU GALLIE — "These kids can spot a phoney a mile away. This is one of the reasons we want to give them something genuine for a change."

These are the remarks of Dr. Jamie Buckingham, the new pastor at Harbor City Baptist Church, Eau Gallie. He was commenting on the unique idea that his church has come up with in sponsoring an evening cruise for the Eau Gallie High Students Saturday night, the same night of the traditional junior - senior high prom.

"IT TAKES guts for a



Rev. James Buckingham

young person to take a stand for Christ in today's society," he said. "However, this is all the more reason that the churches should give them a helping hand when the going gets rough."

The young pastor, who was an all-state football player at Vero Beach High School in 1950, believes that there are a lot of young people in the Brevard area who for reasons of sincere conviction prefer not to attend the proms. However, the churches have never provided anything else for them to do — that is, at least until now.

COMMENTING on their motives the pastor said, "It's not that we believe that dances are 'sinful,' but we do believe that there are better things that can be planned on a much higher spiritual level."

Because of this conviction, Harbor City Baptist Church has responded to the leadership of their new pastor and has chartered a cruising ship for a "youth crusade" tonight, Prom Night.

"**THE SKEPTICS** said that it wouldn't work," one of the youth leaders remarked. "Others said that it was too much of a financial gamble." However, the response from the students who have registered indicates that the ship will be almost up to its 96 passenger capacity and that it will also pay its own way, the minister said.

"We are asking the young people to kick in \$5 per person, figuring that this is half what it would cost if they went to the prom."

The group has chartered the Miss Cape Canaveral, a brand new 80 foot diesel yacht owned by the Cape Canaveral Charter Service.

The ship is used for fishing trips during the day but will be brought in earlier Saturday for this occasion. The group will depart the Port going through the locks out into the Indian River as far south as Eau Gallie and back to Port Canaveral by midnight.

THE YOUNG people will leave Eau Gallie via bus from the church at 6 p.m. and will stop for a breakfast snack on the return trip from the port early Sunday morning, the pastor said.

What will you do for five hours aboard ship? "What

do kids generally do on a cruise down the river at night?" the pastor replied. There will be hootenanny music on the upper deck, buffet supper will be served and Cocoa Bubba Warren, of Satellite High School, a member of the church, and the pastor, will bring brief devotional type messages. "But mostly," the pastor said, "we'll just walk about the deck, look at the lights along the shore line, and have a good time."

Summing it all up, he said, "Our churches have a definite obligation to the young people of our generation to provide good, sound entertainment. We hear so much of juvenile delinquency and those of us who have been around some, have seen our share of it. But it's wrong to curse the darkness unless we're willing to light a candle at the same time. This is our first candle. There will be many more!"