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WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

of

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Being also the 92nd year of the organization of the Blue Ridge-Atlantic Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the 80th year of the organization of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the 142nd year of the organization of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, the 110th year of the organization of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the 5th year of the organization of the North Carolina-Virginia Annual Conference of the Central Jurisdiction, and the 3rd session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.)

Edited for the Conference by

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That we may hold them in continual remembrance, and ever think of them as with thee in that city whose gates are not shut by day and where there is no night,
we beseech thee to hear us, O God.

That we may now be dedicated to working for a world where labor is rewarded, fear dispelled, and the nations made one in the brotherhood of thy kingdom.
O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage. Day by day we magnify thee, and worship thy name, world without end. Amen.

SOLO—"God Is My Strength" *Hanklin*
Mr. Edwin H. Easter, *Tenor*

THE SCRIPTURE *The Minister*
The Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 90:1-14
The New Testament Lesson: I Corinthians 15:45-58

THE RECORD OF REMEMBRANCE—(The People Standing)

HYMN 536—"For All the Saints" *Wm. W. Dow*

THE MEMORIAL ADDRESS *Dr. Eugene C. Fox*

PRAYER

HYMN 48—"How Firm a Foundation" *"K" in Rippon*

THE BENEDICTION *The Minister*

THE POSTLUDE—"Blessed Are Ye, Faithful Souls Departed" *Brahm*

7. Memoirs

EDMUND MARSHALL AVETT
October 20, 1879-July 1, 1969

Edmund Marshall Avett, son of Edmund F. and Elva Tomlinson Avett, was born October 20, 1879, on a farm near Ansonville in Anson County, North Carolina. Following several months of declining health he died July 1, 1969, at his home on Church Street in Mocksville. The funeral service was conducted at First United Methodist Church, on July 3, in Mocksville, by the pastor, James A. Allen, assisted by Clegg W. Avett and Gilbert Miller. Interment followed on the same date at the Rose Cemetery in Mocksville.



At the age of five years he moved with his parents to Stanly County where he attended the public schools of the area and grew into manhood. The early death of his father left him with a widowed mother, three younger sisters, and a comparatively large farm to maintain, thus making it practically impossible for him to attend college. However, he took full advantage of all available educational opportunities and began to teach in the public schools at twenty years of age.

After yielding to the call and leadership of God's Spirit Brother Avett was admitted on trial, into the Western North Carolina Annual Conference in 1906 at Mt. Airy. He was ordained a Deacon in 1908 at Asheville, and was ordained an Elder in 1910 at Winston-Salem.

He served faithfully and most effectively as an active itinerant minister until 1947 when he was granted the retired relationship in our conference. During these years he served the following appointments: Big Lick, 1906-08; Jackson Hill, 1908-11; Dobson, 1911-12; Salisbury Circuit, 1912-14; Fines Creek, 1914-17; Gold Hill, 1917-22; Polkville, 1922-24; East Spencer-Long Street, 1924-25; Davie, 1925-29; First, Albemarle, 1929-33; Mt. Zion, 1933-37; Mocksville, 1937-41; Glenwood, Greensboro, 1941-43; Kernersville, 1943-47.

Following his retirement Brother Avett served as associate minister at Wesley Memorial Church in High Point as a retired supply from 1948 to 1953, when he moved back to Mocksville. After moving to Mocksville he was called on twice to fill vacancies as a retired supply: at Dobson for seven months and at Brooks Crossroads for several months. Mr. Avett continued his ministry as long as he was able by assisting the pastors within the local area and supporting the general program of the Methodist Church in every possible way.

In 1906 he was married to Ila Smith of Albemarle. To this union were born three children: a son, Finch Avett, who now lives at Virginia Beach, Va.; Elvada, who died at eleven years of age; and one child who died at birth. Mrs. Ila Smith Avett died in 1913. On January 27, 1915, Brother Avett married Annie S. Tucker of Granite Quarry. To this union were born three children: Helen, who is now Mrs. Arlen DeVito of New York City; Frank Avett, now living at Virginia Beach, Va.; and Harold Avett Tucker of Clemmons, N.C. Mrs. Annie Tucker Avett died in 1921. In August, 1922, Mr. Avett married Kate Jenkins. To this union was born a daughter, Elva Grace, who is now Mrs. Henry Cole Tomlinson of Mocksville. Mrs. Kate Jenkins Avett died at Mocksville in 1956.

Among the unusual and noteworthy facets of his ministry are the following facts: during the first year of his ministry he served as principal of the public school as well as minister of the Big Lick Charge. Practically one-half of all the time Brother Avett spent as an active minister in our conference was spent serving churches within the Salisbury District. He attended sixty-two consecutive sessions of our Annual Conference from 1906-1908, before missing the 1969 session.

Brother Ed Avett loved God and he loved the Methodist Church. His was a most fruitful and effective ministry and only the Creator and Sustainer of us all can ever know how many lives were touched and how many souls were saved because of his faithful service to God and his church. He will continue to live in the memory of all who know him because of his unique sense of humor, his understanding of human nature, his deep convictions, his firm frankness, his interest in people, and his ever-present awareness of God's love. His life will continue in our memories to be a great source of spiritual

inspiration. The editor of the local newspaper said it well when he wrote: "Loved, admired and respected by all who knew him, the Rev. Edmund M. Avett was the person of a person who solved the 'sweet mystery of life.'"

Basking in the afterglow of his life and cherishing the many fond memories which are ours and praising God for all the blessings which came to our world through his life and ministry, we commend his spirit to God the Father.

To him we say goodnight with a great eternal hope, and to all who know and love him we again say in the words of John B. Dykes:

"Now the labourer's task is o'er;
Now the battle day is past;
Now upon the farther shore
Lands the voyager at last.
Leave we now thy servant sleeping.

"There the tears of earth are dried;
There its hidden things are clear;
There the work of life is tried
By a juster judge than here.
Father, in thy gracious keeping
Leave we now thy servant sleeping.

"Earth to earth, and dust to dust,
Calmly now the words we say,
Leaving him to sleep in trust
Till the Resurrection day.
Father, in thy gracious keeping
Leave we now thy servant sleeping."

—GILBERT MARSHALL

GILBERT HAVEN CALDWELL, SR.

October 10, 1888-May 29, 1969

The Reverend Gilbert Haven Caldwell was born in Guilford County, North Carolina, October 10, 1888.

Those who knew him and were privileged to spend time in school and work with him in his home conference, where he spent most of his life, recognized in him a devoted servant of Christ. He was deeply interested in and knowledgeable of the church and church-related schools where he gave his life in various capacities of service and leadership.



In any account of his life's work one would have to speak of the Christian home from which he came. His educational surroundings and both of his companions. These furnished the basis, the motivation, the sacrifice and loyal cooperation in whatever success he attained.

In preparing himself for his life's work as a pastor and Methodist minister, he pursued his education at Bennett College, graduating in 1908 with an A.B. degree; B.D. Gammon Theological Seminary 1911; M.A. Syracuse University 1912; D.D. Gammon Theological Seminary 1936.

He began his ministry as a student pastor of the North Greensboro Charge, 1908-11. He was ordained Deacon in the North Carolina Conference and admitted on trial

in 1910. He received full connection and Elder's orders in 1912. Along with various other capacities, some of which will be mentioned later, he served the North Carolina Conference for eleven years as secretary. His appointments and other services are: West Asheville 1911-13; Statesville-Philadelphia 1913-14; West Raleigh 1914-17; Professor of Bennett College 1918-20; Dean, Bennett College 1920-22; Professor at Samuel Houston College, Austin, Texas 1923-25; Pastor Berry Temple, Asheville 1925-30; Launborny Cool Springs 1930-31; Superintendent Western District 1931-37; Pastor of St. Paul, Winston-Salem (Conference Youth Counselor) 1937-44; St. Paul, Dallas, Texas (Conference Secretary of Evangelism) 1944-49; Wesley Tabernacle, Galveston, Texas 1949-51; Professor, Samuel Houston College, Austin, Texas, 1951; Professor Clalin College,

Greensboro, S. C., 1952-54; Pastor Laughlin Memorial, Ramseur, North Carolina Conference 1954-57; Saint Paul, Reidsville, N. C., 1957-61; and served in the pastoral relationship at Celia Phelps, Greensboro, N. C. until 1966.

He was married first to Miss Vivian Rose Trigg, to which union were born two girls, Miss Phoebe C. Bell of Philadelphia, Pa., and Mrs. Margaret C. Alexander of Kansas City, Mo.

His first wife died while the girls were quite small and he was later married to Miss Julia E. Brown who survives him along with two children, Reverend Gilbert H. Caldwell, Jr. of New York City, who follows in the footsteps of his imminent father, and Miss Shirley C. Sparkman of Chicago, Ill. Mrs. Julia Brown Caldwell assumed the responsibility of a real concerned mother not only for her own two children but also to the two girls of Reverend Caldwell's first marriage, and in cooperation with her husband, each child received a college education.

Dean Caldwell, as he was known and referred to by many of his co-workers, gave advice and was held in high esteem in the areas of education and church-related institutions where he was privileged to give many years of faithful and effective service.

The memory of his warm heart, jovial and friendly nature will be to all of us who knew him most of his life, and our lives a lasting source of joy and thanksgiving that it was ours to know him. He ended a long and fruitful ministry and passed to his reward Tuesday, June 3, 1969.

G. M. PHELPS, SR.

JOSEPH MARSHALL GREEN

August 11, 1884-May 13, 1969

Joseph Marshall Green, the son of James Tipton and Mary Jane Cook Green, was born August 11, 1884, in the Baldwin section of Ashe County, North Carolina. When he was three years old his father died, leaving his mother with nine children to rear. She was a devout woman and her influence had much to do with three of her sons going into the ministry. Needless to say, the family had a struggle to make a living on a mountain farm. Joe did much to help his mother provide for the family.



He began his education in the public schools of Ashe County at a school on Mill Creek, near Todd. When he was twenty years old he and his brother John went to Boone and entered Appalachian Normal School (now Appalachian State University). They rented a room in the basement of the Blair Hotel, did their own cooking, and took care of the Normal School buildings to pay their school expenses. Two years later they moved the rest of the family to Boone. His mother took in boarders to make a living.

Following his training at Appalachian Normal he taught in two schools in Watauga County and worked in industry in the Canton area. Then, feeling the call to the Christian ministry, he applied for and was admitted into

the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Gaston on November 24, 1916. He was appointed to Spring Creek in Madison County where he served three years. Then followed appointments in Mayodan, Ararat, Bethel in Haywood County, Smyre, Balls Creek, Shepherds, Gilkey, Henderson Circuit, Rosman, Avery, Sandy Ridge, Jonesville, Todd, Creston, Moravian Falls, Union Grove-Zion, Elmwood, Ivy and St. Paul's. He retired in 1953 having served 134 rural churches during his thirty-seven years.

As a pastor he excelled. He was always loyal to the program of the church and led his people to support her causes. He loved people. This was expressed in his diligent calling in their homes. He never felt he could take a vacation. He wanted to be in the pulpit every Sunday. He had a zeal for leading people to Christ, particularly the young people. His annual reports of the number received by profession of faith were usually well above the average. One year he led the conference in this matter. He was effectual in prayer. One hearing him had the definite impression that he was talking directly with the Lord. One of his superintendents said that hearing Brother Joe pray was enough