

..... 91
 103
 174
 66
 5
 78
 4
 7
 163
 4
 188
 105
 108
 109
 111
 112
 116
 121
 126
 127
 129
 137
 141
 142
 143
 144
 145
 145
 146
 149
 146
 150
 153
 154
 156
 212
 207
 156
 157
 37

JOURNAL OF THE

Tenth Session

of the

LOUISIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

of the

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

South Central Jurisdiction

held at

CENTENARY COLLEGE

and

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

June 2-5, 1980

★

BYRL MORELAND, Editor
P.O. Drawer 3057
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Printed by TM/UMR Productions
 Dallas, Texas

In Memoriam

The Honored Dead

Ministers

William R. Akin
 J. Henry Bowdon, Sr.
 Henry B. F. Charles
 Ralph M. Davis
 Edward Plummer Drake
 Sandy Facen
 John Elton Hearn
 Thomas Bridgers Peyton III
 John Zerangue

Spouses of Ministers

Mrs. Robert C. (Mildred) Carter
 Mrs. Charles H. (Magdene) Green
 Mrs. Simon E. (Carolyn) Harris
 Mrs. Ashley T. (Ruby) Law
 Mrs. Henry W. (Kathryn) Ledbetter
 Mrs. James W. (Elizabeth) Spitzkeit
 Mrs. James (Bertha) Suds
 Mrs. Mary Ragsdale Wilson
 Mrs. John (Maude) Zerangue, Sr.
 Mrs. L. W. Smart (Winnie) Smart

VII. Memoirs

WILLIAM ROY AKIN

William Roy Akin was born July 19, 1901 to Reverend W. E. Akin and Beulah Akin in a Methodist parsonage in Gibsland, Louisiana. Being the oldest child in a parsonage family, he accompanied his father many miles in a horse-drawn buggy, and later in a new Ford car.

Roy attended Centenary College, but due to a lack of finances, he was not able to graduate. He was well-learned in Latin, Algebra, and Geometry, and later spent some time teaching these subjects in high school. Eventually Roy became a rural mail carrier and retired at this occupation.

His early years as a layman were dedicated to the work of teaching Church School and serving as Church School Superintendent in The Sibley United Methodist Church. During the 1930's and early 1940's Roy was pastor of the Adams Chapel Methodist Church, where he served for thirteen years. In 1951, Roy entered the ministry full time as a Local Pastor. He sold all his business ventures and began some very active and productive years as a Methodist preacher. He helped build four lovely churches in The Louisiana Annual Conference, and one educational building. These beautiful rural churches are: Mt. Zion, Oak Grove, Provencal, and Davis Springs. In addition to these churches in which he provided pastoral leadership, Roy also applied his carpentry skills, while serving Ville Platte, Marthaville, Beulah, Robeling, Athens, and Evergreen, just to name a few.

After Roy's retirement from the ministry he continued to serve many churches as a supply pastor. He also gave much support to many young men who were entering the ministry, besides his silent ministry of mailing over 200 Upper Rooms to many people who he knew to be in special need of spiritual guidance.

On June 18, 1979, Roy died after a short illness. He is survived by his wife, Fredna S. Akin, son, W. W. Akin, two daughters, Mrs. Martha Susla and Mrs. Mary Byrd, two brothers, two sisters, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and other relatives and a great host of friends. Roy's pilgrimage in life is ended, but the pilgrimage which Roy made will continue to be an inspiration to all of us who knew his strong dedication to living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And so, we affirm what Roy lived: "Do not fear what you are about to suffer . . . Be faithful unto death, and (Jesus) will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2: 10a,c)

Steven M. Spurlock, Minister
 The Heflin United Methodist Church

J. HENRY BOWDON, SR.

J. Henry Bowdon, Sr., was born on February 7, 1896, near the town of Pelican, Louisiana. He was one of thirteen children born to his parents, Richard George Bowdon and Maggie Griffith Bowdon.

He attended Centenary College for three years and then transferred to Southern Methodist University where he received his B.A. degree in 1921. He was Principal of Istrouma High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for two years; after which he returned to SMU where he received his B.D. degree in 1925.

He was married to Hazel McGuffey on November 25, 1925. Two children were born to this lovely marriage; Henry Jr., and Louise.

He joined the Annual Conference of the former M. E. Church South, in which he served successfully for forty-two years. He served nine pastorates during this period, three districts as District Superintendent and Director of the Area Council of the Louisiana Annual Conference.

In 1947 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Centenary College. He was a life member of the Board of Trustees of that institution.

He was actively related to the Boy Scout movement and was awarded two of its top honors, the Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope awards.

Brother Bowdon was a good and true minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He loved

people and those who knew him, loved him. He will always be remembered for his gracious spirit and uprightness of character, his fidelity and loyalty to the best, his devotion to his family, his generous good will to his friends, and best of all, for his devotion to his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and His Church.

Brother Bowdon entered into his eternal reward on January 6, 1980. It was his day of coronation.

The words of John Ellerton are most appropriate:

"Now the laborer's task is o'er
Now the battle day is past
Now upon the farther shore
Lands the voyager at last.
Father, in Thy gracious keeping
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping."

Carl F. Lueg

HENRY B. F. CHARLES

The Reverend Henry B. F. Charles was born February 26 in the year 1880, fifteen years after the cessation of hostilities of the American Civil War, in the city of New Orleans, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Charles.

By 1905 he had become a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was appointed to the Curtis-Magnolia Charge by Bishop Spellmayer, the Annual Conference convening at Monroe that year. There followed twenty-four appointments, all of which were in Louisiana except two which were in the old Delaware Conference at Nassua, Delaware, and Bridgetown, New Jersey.

During his ministry he was a district superintendent both in the Delaware Conference and in the Louisiana Conference on the New Orleans District. Ten of his appointments were in the greater New Orleans region. Brother Charles accepted the retired status in 1945 where he had been the pastor of Shaw Temple Church in New Orleans.

Eventually, his Charge Conference membership was placed with the Grace Church in New Orleans. His last sermon was preached in Grace Church June 18, 1978, while seated in a wheel chair, for he was a double amputee. Brother Charles brought a Father's Day meditation on June 17, 1979. His last attendance upon a worship service was on October 7, 1979. He passed away in a local hospital on December 21, 1979.

Had Reverend Charles lived until February 26, 1980, he would have been 100 years old. He was generally considered the oldest living minister of the Louisiana Conference at the time of his demise.

RALPH M. DAVIS

On August 2, 1979, the Reverend Dr. Ralph M. Davis transferred from the ephemeral Church militant to the eternal Church triumphant. At the time of his death, he was 103 years old and the senior member of the Louisiana Annual Conference.

Dr. Davis was born December 26, 1875, in Mobile, Alabama. After receiving his elementary and high school education in Mobile, he earned an A.B. degree at New Orleans University. He received the B.D. degree from the Gammon Theological Seminary and did post-graduate work at Drew University. Later he was awarded the D.D. degree by New Orleans University.

Mr. Davis was united in holy matrimony to the late Miss Lucretia B. LeVert, and from this union were born three sons and four daughters. Five of these offspring preceded him in death.

Dr. Davis served forty-three years as a Methodist minister. Under his leadership, many persons were added to the membership rolls, new buildings were erected and renovated, but he was best known for being a masterful pulpiteer. This was evidenced by his pastorates in leading churches of various Annual Conferences. Some of the churches he served were St. Paul, Birmingham, Alabama; Wesley, Austin, Texas; St. Paul, San Antonio, Texas; St.

Andrews, Fort Worth, Texas; Wesley Tabernacle, Galveston, Texas; First Street, New Orleans, Louisiana; and Wesley, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the appointment from which he retired in 1948.

Upon retirement Dr. Davis moved to Los Angeles, California, to reside with a daughter. There he entered another phase of his ministry by serving as minister of visitation at the Wesley United Methodist Church for nearly thirty years. After passing the century mark, he was still physically erect and possessed of a rich, resonant voice which stirred the hearts of the Wesley congregation.

Upon the occasion of his death, Dr. Davis was funeralized at the Wesley United Methodist Church and buried in Los Angeles, California. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Carrie D. Murray, and a son, Mr. Herschel A. Davis of St. Louis, Missouri.

EDWARD PLUMMER DRAKE

Reverend Edward Plummer Drake was born in the State of Georgia in the year 1895. He received his education in that state and served a number of local churches. He later became associated with Andrew College in Cuthbert, Georgia where he was head of recruiting and admissions.

In 1939, he transferred from the South Georgia Conference to the Louisiana Annual Conference. While in this Conference he served the following Churches: Columbia, Jennings First Church, Clinton, Algiers, Franklin, Abbeville, Gentilly, Morningside and Gueydan. He retired in 1966. After retiring, he moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where he served the Monterey and Star Churches for three years. He then moved to Magnolia, Mississippi and lived there some seven years before expiring on April 17, 1980. Funeral Services were conducted in the Magnolia United Methodist Church and interment was in Hollywood Cemetery in McComb, Mississippi.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Carolyn Redding Drake of Magnolia, Mississippi; two sons: Edward P. Drake Jr., of San Francisco, California, and Dr. Robert E. Drake of Orlando, Florida; two daughters: Mrs. S. G. Hines Jr., of Vicksburg and Mrs. Warren A. Hiatt of Magnolia, Mississippi.

Brother Drake will be remembered by his many friends as a churchman of dignity, dedication and loyalty to Jesus Christ. He was a true Southern gentleman and believed very strongly in the culture and values of the Old South. He continued to attend the sessions of the Louisiana Annual Conference as long as possible and maintained an active interest in the ministers and work in the conference.

R. Leonard Cooke

SANDY FACEN

Sandy Facen was born in Macon County, Mississippi, in 1893. He later moved to Lake Providence, Louisiana, and on December 2, 1926, married Sarah Hearn. In 1948 he heard the call of God to go preach. In 1950 he was ordained as a Methodist minister. His pastoral tenure began at St. Peter Methodist Church. One year later he was appointed to the Lawson Chapel Methodist Church in Bonita, Louisiana. He served under the Bishops Noah W. Moore, Willis J. King, Robert N. Brooks, and later retired at Lawson Chapel Methodist Church. Reverend Sandy Facen departed this life September 4, 1979, in his home in Lake Providence, Louisiana.

I close my eyes in place, for God is here.

I do not fear dark, for God is near.

I cross the river of death to Pastures Green,
And lay me down to rest in Joy serene.

Within that flock my shepherd tends my fear,
Confused with Pain, forever ends.

Joe Brown, Jr.