

Table of Contents
(for complete index see inside back cover)

the Annual Conference P
Directories
Calendar
Commissions, Committees,
tees, Representatives
dings
Questions
egistry
s
ds
tructure & Rules
.....
.....
s S

JOURNAL OF THE

Twentieth Session

of the

LOUISIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

held at

CENTENARY COLLEGE

and

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

June 4-7, 1990



AREA OFFICES OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

527 North Boulevard

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802-5720

(504) 346-1646

DONALD C. COTTRILL

Conference Journal Editor

CAROLYN J. POWELL

ELIZABETH P. LUCAS

Assistant Journal Editors

Printed by M.A. Publishing

Mobile, Alabama

Mrs. Bridgette's devotion and love for her husband supported him spiritually, educationally, and morally as he served the Louisiana Annual Conference. She will long be remembered by those whose lives were filled with joy through her influence.

At the death of her husband, she retired and lived in Houma, Louisiana. She served as a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church until she became ill. Then she moved with her daughters to San Diego, California where she attended St. Paul United Methodist Church.

She leaves to cherish her memories two daughters, a son, and six grandchildren.

She was funeralized at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 3094 L Street, San Diego, California, Wednesday, November 29, 1989 at 1:00 p.m. with the Reverend G.M. Phelps, Jr. officiating.

James S. Davidson

TILLMAN ARMSTEAD BROWN

On May 20, 1990, the Quitman United Methodist Church was filled to capacity for a memorial service for a much beloved native son who had twice served the church there as pastor. Although a lengthy illness had denied him the frequent contacts that he had had with the Quitman people during the last few years, the love that he had for them was reflected in those who were gathered for this last service in a church that he had served so faithfully.

Tillman Arstead Brown was born in a farm home on the outskirts of Quitman, Louisiana, March 26, 1908. He was educated in the Jackson Parish schools. On November 9, 1930 he was married to Gladys Sneed in Oak Grove, Louisiana. To this union were born four sons: Gerald W., Donnie D., Travis D., and Wade G. He became a welder and machinist and held a high position in the Hodge Paper Mill before being called into the ministry.

He grew up in the Bear Creek Methodist Protestant Church near Quitman and was a member of that church when during the ministry of Rev. A.D. Ashley he felt the call to become a Minister of the Gospel. He was licensed to preach on October 16, 1934 and received on trial in the Methodist Protestant Conference. He was ordained and received into full connection in 1938. When the three branches of Methodism united in 1939 he became a member of the Louisiana Annual Conference of the Methodist Church.

His first appointment to the Antioch-Evergreen-Quitman Circuit permitted him to live in the home where he had grown up in Quitman. But on his second appointment to the Mt. Zion-Montgomery Circuit he found it necessary after a year of driving back and forth to move to Mt. Zion. He installed the first electric lights in the Mt. Zion parsonage. During the forty-four years of his ministry he served the following appointments: Brownville, Gordon Avenue, and Claiborne in the Monroe-West Monroe Area, Quitman-Clay, Chatham-Zoar, and Center Point. He took the retirement relationship at Center Point in 1973 but went on preaching until 1977. While serving the three churches in Monroe and West Monroe, the four sons all graduated from Ouachita Parish High School.

Gerald married the former Mary Whitehead, Donnie married Sue Ann Lovelle, Travis married Anna L. Thorne, and Wade married Cathy Channell. There are seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Brother Brown was soft spoken but forceful when he needed to be. In one of his appointments, he and the Baptist Minister alternated in preaching on the street in front of the local tavern.

He had a great interest in children and youth and set up a welding school at one of his appointments to help the boys learn a trade.

He never lost interest in the plants and animals of the farm, and raised cattle after his retirement.

His love for people was manifested in a statement that he made to his wife as he came toward the end of the way when he said, "If I had it to do over again, I would spend more time in helping people around me to know that they are loved."

But the fact that he did express love so well, was seen in the lives of all of us who have been enriched by him. His deep commitment to the Lord's work was reflected in the many sacrifices that he made for the Kingdom of God. As we celebrated his life in his memorial service, Rev. James Poole pointed out that the words used by St. Paul in his second letter to Timothy describing his own homegoing also applied to this faithful veteran of the cross. For he too could have said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness... and not only to me but also to all those who love his appearing." II Timothy 4:7-8

Merlin W. Merrill

VEVA OZLEY COOKE (MRS. R. LEONARD)

Veva L. Ozley was born in Bienville Parish, near Arcadia, on May 23, 1907. She received her college education at Centenary College and at Louisiana Tech. In 1932 she was married to John DeWitt Caruthers and they established their home in Shreveport. To them were born two sons: John D. Jr., and Robert Mack. Her husband died in 1961. She made her place in Shreveport, giving her time in service to many agencies of the community. She was president of the YWCA Board for twelve years, during which time she directed the fund-raising efforts to build the present Allendale YWCA. Her services included working with the United Way, The Goodwill Industries Board and the Business Girls' Inn. She helped to bring and to establish the American Rose Center in Shreveport. Noel Memorial United Methodist Church was blessed in having the Caruthers family as members. Veva was the Superintendent of the Children's Division for over twenty-five years. She also served on the Administrative Board, the Board of Trustees, the Library Board, the Council on Ministries, the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, the Building Committee and the United Methodist Women. She helped to establish the Noel Neighborhood Ministries. Some of her greatest joys came to her as she served her Lord in the Methodist Church and the Church never had a more loyal member.

On July 10, 1975, Veva married Dr. R. Leonard Cooke. This was several years before Leonard retired from the active ministry of the United Methodist Church. He was the Conference Treasurer with much responsibility. Veva fit right in to this active church life. She had worked with many preachers throughout her life. Now she was married to one and was experiencing a new role of service to her Lord. She and Leonard enjoyed traveling to General and Jurisdictional Church meetings as well as across the Louisiana Conference. Since she had always been involved in church life, she seemed to be interested in everything happening in the church around the world. She was a great preacher's wife.

Veva made her place in the Cooke family in a very short time. During the last few years of her life she was very sick and confined, but those of us who knew and loved her remember that she was a real person with much compassion, who was always loyal to her