

The Journal
of the
South Georgia
Annual Conference
of the
United Methodist Church
1973



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McRae, Georgia

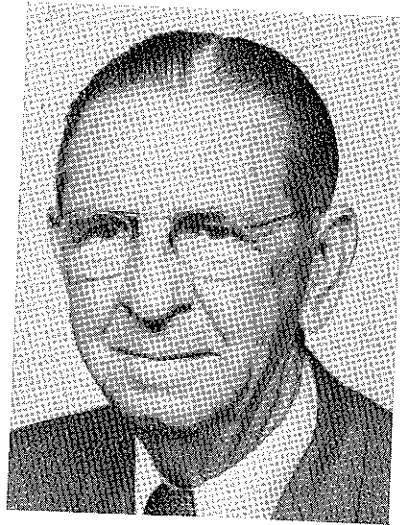
PART III—BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
APPOINTMENTS, DIRECTORIES,
RESOLUTIONS, AND MEMOIRS

(This is the third of three parts of the South Georgia Conference Journal to be published for 1973. Part I contained the Statistical Reports and was published in April 1973. Part II contained the Reports of Conference Boards, Agencies, Commissions, and Committees, and was published in May 1973. The subscription price of \$3.00 includes all three parts. Additional copies may be ordered from the Editor.)

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JAMES ALTON DAVIS

Every minister remembers gratefully some other, usually older minister, who was his spiritual parent, his encourager to accept and follow God's call into the ministry. It is a remarkable fact that many ministers think of Alton Davis as the man and minister who, more than any other, was friend, counselor and brother, guiding and encouraging them in their early years in the ministry.

And many ministers recall finding the Davis home, presided over graciously by his dear companion of the journey, Grace Matthews Davis, ever open with warm friendliness, helpfulness, and Christian love.

One young minister who spoke at the funeral service said that he had often thought of himself as a kind of Timothy to Brother Davis' Paul. And a minister friend wrote: "My prayer is that God will work through me to influence someone's life as much as Brother Davis has my life."

Many a South Georgia child and youth—now in adult years—look back with love and appreciation on happy days spent in camps and retreats at Dooly Campground in particular where Brother and Mrs. Davis gave themselves in most humble and loving service for the youth. No minister and wife team worked more beautifully and sacrificially together in the cause of Christ and for the building up of the church than did Grace and Alton Davis. Their spiritual children rise up and call them blessed!

Such is the legacy of Alton Davis, minister of the Gospel, worthy servant of the Christ he loved.

Alton was born August 31, 1896, in Carsonville, Taylor County, Georgia, son of James Richard Davis and Frances Elizabeth Sealey Davis. He was a graduate of Candler School of Theology at Emory University and joined the North Georgia Conference in 1927. He served churches in Griffin, LaGrange, Atlanta, and Clayton.

He became a member of the South Georgia Conference in 1935 and served faithfully and well the following churches: Leslie-Leesburg; Hawkinsville, First; Hamp Stevens, Columbus; Blakely, First; Asbury Memorial, Savannah; First Street, Macon; East Highlands, Columbus; Claxton, First; Jesup, First; Mulberry, Associate, Macon.

In 1963 Alton retired from the Conference, but continued until a few weeks before his death, to serve appointments in the Conference. These include Peavy Memorial, Cordele; Wenona-Arabi; Rebecca and Elko-Snow.

Death came on February 10, 1973. Funeral services were held in the Lee Street United Methodist Church on February 13 with the Pastor, Rev. Vance Matthis, officiating, assisted by Rev. Ned Steele, Dr. David

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One young minister who spoke at the funeral service said that he had said of Timothy to Brother Davis: "My prayer is that God will work in you as much as Brother Davis has

worked in you. Youth—now in adult years—look back on their happy days spent in camps and conferences, particularly where Brother and Mrs. Davis were, with love and loving service for the youth. They remember more beautifully and sacrificially the building up of the church and their spiritual children rise up and

remember the minister of the Gospel, worthy

of Carsonville, Taylor County, Georgia. Frances Elizabeth Sealey Davis, a Ph.D. in Theology at Emory University, died in 1927. He served churches in Georgia.

He served the Georgia Conference in 1935 and served churches: Leslie-Leesburg; Columbus; Blakely, First; Asbury; East Highlands, Columbus; Associate, Macon.

He served the Georgia Conference, but continued until a few years later in the Conference. These were: Mona-Arabi; Rebecca and Elko-

Funeral services were held in the church on February 13 with the Pastor, Rev. Ned Steele, Dr. David

Duck, Dr. Leonard Cochran, Rev. John Shell and Rev. James T. Pennell. Burial was in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Americus.

He is survived by his wife, Grace; one daughter, Mrs. Joyce Davis (A. S.) Dehner; two sons, Alton, Jr. and Raymond B. Davis; a sister, Mrs. Annie Glazier; several grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

The memorial service was a celebration of triumph and victory. Present in addition to many brother-ministers were numbers of "his people" from the little charges that he and Grace served in the retired years, as well as from most of his pastorates before retirement. People were there from churches he had served forty years ago. Friends from both Georgia conferences came to pay tribute to one of God's choice men, one of His true ministers.

In the last illness Alton expressed a longing to get better so that he might get back to the churches. God called him to a higher field of service, and he is still about his Father's business.

Alton would have us all remember that it is not how long we live, but how we live that counts—by giving, serving and loving our fellow-man.

A stanza from a hymn he loved to sing summarizes the faith by which Alton walked:

"What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace, with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms."

NED STEELE and
FREDERICK WILSON

JOSEPH WESLEY JONES

This man possessed a vigorous dedication to Christ. The gift of an outgoing accepting personality was also a refreshing personal characteristic of Joseph Wesley Jones. When assigned to a church, Joe always gave himself in total joyful service to God's people. Under his leadership, many congregations in Georgia and Florida felt the eternal effects of a good man's ministry.

Joe erected in every community served lasting symbols of God's promise, hope and praise. Some monuments were wood, steel and stone. More important most of these memorials were temples of the human spirit constructed in response to the communication of the gospel. Eighteen hundred and forty-nine persons turned life in a new direction under Joe's proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.



From 1950 to 1966 Joe served churches in the Florida Annual Conference. In this conference he served as a member of the Board of Ministerial Training. From 1960-1964 he was elected registrar of this important work. Every new minister entering the conference established a respect