

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION**  
**Western North Carolina**  
**Conference**  
**Methodist Episcopal Church**  
**South**



**Broad Street Church**  
**Statesville, N. C.**  
**1925**

admitted on trial at the Conference held at Mount Airy, and served the following charges:

1907-08, Mount Airy Circuit; 1909, Evangelist for Mt. Airy District; 1910-13, West Asheville; 1914-15, First Church, Lenoir; 1916, Spring Garden Street, Greensboro; 1917-20, Tryon Street, Charlotte; 1921-24, Centenary, Winston-Salem; 1925, Broad Street, Statesville.

In vigorous health he came to Broad Street Church, Statesville, where for five months his labors were exceedingly arduous. His heart was set on so preaching and visiting, that a great revival would come to his people in the early spring. His last work was in preparation for this long hoped for revival. That meeting was never held. To his soul-hungry congregation who shared his earnest desire for a great spiritual outpouring, there came a revival of another kind. As they tenderly ministered to their sick pastor, they received a work of grace in their hearts which spread throughout the congregation, kindling in them a great love and loyalty for their Church and a desire for service.

In his parsonage home on May 21, 1925, Zeb Barnhardt, valiant soldier of the cross, peacefully breathed his last and entered into the reward of a faithful ministry.

The funeral service was conducted from Broad Street Church, his presiding elder, Rev. D. M. Litaker and Rev. J. B. Craven, presiding elder of the Charlotte District, officiating. Fifty of his comrades from all parts of the Conference attended, marching in a body from his home to the Church. The ministers association of Statesville, the Rotary Club and the various Church organizations also attended in bodies.

The Board of Stewards constituted both the active and honorary pall bearers. Flowers of rare beauty surrounded his casket. He sleeps in the beautiful cemetery east of the city.

Mrs. Kate Wagg Barnhardt, wife of the deceased and their seven beautiful children are left to "carry on," to live up to the standard which he cherished for his family. It was his dearest ambition to personally lead each of his children to Christ. In his wife, Brother Barnhardt found a true companion and co-worker. Her deep spirituality and devotion to his interests characterized all her work.

To us who feel the loss of a comrade now promoted to higher service, he left the rich legacy of a strong and beautiful character. Zeb Barnhardt, as he was affectionately called, was a noble man in the kingdom of God. His life and his work were pitched on

a high and commanding plane. As a preacher he was brave, hard working and courageous. His sermons showed much study and application, were strongly intellectual and deeply spiritual, with a pronounced evangelistic appeal. His doctrinal viewpoint was Methodist of the most orthodox type.

The Quarterly Conference of Broad Street Church appointed a committee to prepare a paper expressing the congregation's high appreciation of their pastor, which follows: "Rev. Z. E. Barnhardt, our pastor, crossed over the great divide between earth and heaven on May 21, 1925, and now rests with the saints and prophets of his God. He kept the faith of our fathers and the divine truth as revealed by the word of God. We in Quarterly Conference assembled, herewith, give expression of appreciation of his labor of love among our people and testify to his noble life. Like Enoch of old, 'he walked with God and was not, for God took him.'"

E. G. Gaither, W. T. Nicholson and W. D. Turner, Committee.  
D. M. LITAKER.

### REV. L. A. FALLS

Rev. Lee A. Falls was born in Double Shoals, N. C., August 19th, 1864, son of Robert and Rebecca Baxter Falls; his aged mother survives him. Theirs was a model Christian home of the old type. Bible reading, song and prayer were not neglected.

He was educated at the Kings Mountain Military School, Shelby and Rutherford College. After completing his education, he taught school for a time. He was married to Miss Alice Self Hoyle, December 30, 1886. To them were born six children, three of whom are living: Robert B. Falls, of Raleigh, N. C.; C. Gault Falls, of Los Angeles, Calif.; and Mrs. Gertrude Adams, of Norwood, N. C.

His first wife died February 19, 1920. On May 30, 1923, he was married to Miss Myrtle Lillian Baber, of Rutherford County, who survives him.

He died May 26, 1925, and was laid to rest in the cemetery at Kadesh Church, Belwood, N. C., near the home of his boyhood. The service was conducted by his presiding elder, Rev. W. A. Newell, assisted by a number of his brethren.

He joined the North Carolina Conference at its session in New Bern in 1888, and served the following charges, all within the bounds of the present Western North Carolina Conference:

Mills Springs Circuit, 1889-91; Stanley Creek Circuit, 1892-95; Brevard Circuit, 1896-98; Thomasville Station, 1899-1901; Brevard Street, Charlotte, 1902-05; Main Street, High Point, 1906-07; Walnut Street, Greensboro, 1908; Belmont Park, Charlotte, 1909-12; Brevard Street, 1913-16; Mooresville Station, 1917-20; Dilworth, Charlotte, 1921; Brevard Station, 1922-23; Epworth Church, Concord, 1924; Kernersville, 1925.

During his pastorate, he builded new Churches at Brevard Street, Charlotte; Main Street, High Point; and Belmont Park, Charlotte.

He gave the Church a long service of nearly thirty-seven years, and surely no man has given more faithful or efficient service, always to the satisfaction of the people served. Possibly no form of his service was greater than that which he rendered the young people of his Church by his eleven years of service on the Epworth League Board. No man among us was more dearly loved by the people he served than Brother Falls. He served missions, circuits, and stations, and was never a misfit. He could see and meet the needs of his people in any class of work. He was a good organizer; knew how to organize his people for the best work, and knew where to stop organizing.

He was a great preacher in the best sense. He was a great station preacher and pastor, who understood the details of that particular work, knew what to do and did it.

As a man he had no superior. He believed something and knew what that something was; was ready to show where he stood and why. He stood for every good cause until it won out or lost. If the cause of truth and righteousness must go down in defeat, Lee A. Falls would have nothing better for himself than to go down with it.

For several years his health was not good. More than once he found it necessary to take treatment in the hospitals, but came out to work, and perhaps sometimes too soon. He loved to work. He suffered patiently and worked faithfully while waiting for the Master's call until he heard it in his parsonage home in Kernersville, May 26, 1925.

His work here is done, but has not Christ a place for his workmen worthy of great souls redeemed by His blood? Did he not say, "Where I am, there shall my servants be?" and there with his Lord we may expect to find our dear Brother Falls.

R. M. HOYLE

### REV. OSCAR C. FORTENBERRY

Rev. Oscar C. Fortenberry was born in Cleveland County, N. C., Jan. 11th, 1885, and was, at his death, Feb. 13th, 1925, just a little more than forty years of age.

In 1897, at the age of 12, he was converted and joined the Methodist Church. On Feb. 18, 1906, he was happily married to Miss Lottie Buff. Six children God sent to bless this union. They with the widow survive.

His call to preach came somewhat late but was clear and unmistakable. It found him engaged in the mail service for the government, and with a family to support. God's call, however, was answered with a hearty, "Here am I, send me." Feeling that his educational preparation had been inadequate, he moved to Rutherford College and entered school. After a period of study there he was admitted on trial at the Conference at Charlotte in 1913.

His appointments and years of service were as follows: Wilkes Circuit, 1914; Lowell, 1915; Cherryville, 1916-17; Lincoln Circuit, 1918-21; Troutman, 1922; Lowesville, 1923-25. He was a Shelby District product, and with the exception of two years, spent his life there.

Hundreds of grateful people in Lincoln, Gaston, and Cleveland Counties remember him as a true friend and spiritual guide.

He was never strong physically. The year 1918 he planned to rest, and took a nominal appointment as Junior Preacher at Lincolnton, but early that year Brother J. P. Davis died on the Lincoln Circuit. He was not a man to turn down a call to service and back into the work he went. He not only filled the year here but the quadrennium.

The last year of his life he suffered much. Not long before his death he said to the writer, "I suffer nearly all the time." He went to his pulpit at times in such shape as most of us would have gone to bed. He preached some times in pain. At the Conference at Greensboro he suffered an attack which made it necessary for him to be carried home.

His suffering was borne without a murmur. One could but be impressed with his Christian fortitude and resignation. On his return from the hospital, after his first attack, he said to me, "I have had such fellowship with the Saviour that my illness has been a blessing and not a hardship." In it all he saw God's hand