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Northwest Indiana Conference

The Methodist Church

1957

Official Journal of the One Hundred Sixth Session

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Funeral services were held in Winter Park November 6 in charge of her pastor. Dr. Ralph D. Wellons of St. Paul's Church, and Dr. C. Howard Taylor, neighbor and friend of many years. Final services were held at the Flanner and Buchanan Mortuary in Indianapolis November 8 in charge of T. L. Stovall, Secretary of the Preacher's Aid Society, Hugh F. McGlasson, Superintendent of Crawfordsville District, and Claude M. McClure, Chaplain of the Methodist Hospital. Burial was in the family lot in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis.

REV. CHARLES L. HARPER

Rev. Charles Lincoln Harper, retired Methodist minister and beloved pastor emeritus of Congress Street church, died in his home, 2711 South street, at 9:55 a.m. October 26, 1956. He was born March 5, 1861. Rev. Harper had been ill two months and hospitalized for a time.



The oldest Methodist minister in the Northwest Indiana Conference and the oldest male alumnus of DePauw university, Rev. Harper, although unable to attend, was honored at Old Gold Day at the university last Saturday. He was awarded, in absentia, the Goodwin Memorial cane, emblematic of DePauw's oldest living male alumnus. He had succeeded to the distinction upon the death of Judge Charles Baker of Columbus last winter. University officials had planned to present the cane to Rev, Harper in his home here.

Born near College Corner, O., Rev. Harper was a member of a large family of which he was the last to die. Left an orphan at an early age, he was reared by relatives in the Frankfort community. He was graduated from DePauw university in 1889, after working his way through college, waiting tables, carrying newspapers and serving as church janitor.

He had the year before begun his ministry in the church at Brookston and served successively a number of pastorates in the Northwest Indiana conference. Because he bore the middle name of Lincoln, he came to be a great admirer of the former president and Emancipator.

Rev. Harper was officially admitted to the Methodist conference in 1890 and his first conference appointment was to the church then at Shadeland. He subsequently served the churches at Newport, Clinton, Williamsport, New Carlisle, Hebron, Montrose church of Terre Haute, St. Paul's church of Indianapolis, Rensselaer, Delphi, Kentland and Congress Street church. He was recognized for the church edifices constructed and improved during his pastorates.

He was pastor of Congress Street church at the time of his retirement from the active ministry in 1926. He had been pastor of the church four years. He then was appointed chaplain at the State Soldiers home where he served six years before retiring in his South street home.

Rev. Harper remained active in Congress Street church for 30 years after his retirement and always occupied a familiar place as a member of the welcoming committee on Sunday morning. His recent ill ness and enforced absence left a vacancy on the committee that the churchgoers noticed at once. Rev. Harper was the organizer of the We Will class in the church school in 1938 and remained as its teacher for 10 years. When he retired from teaching in 1948, the class honored him by hanging a large picture of him in the class room. Holding him in highest esteem, the class had several times since honored him on his brithday and at other times. On the occasion of his 94th birthday March 5, 1955, the class dedicated the church bulletin to him and inserted a page bearing his picture and a record of his ministry.

Rev. Harper was married in 1890 to Lu Ella Robinson of near Brookston, who died in 1951 at the age of 84. The couple had celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary were held in Winter Park November 6 in charge of her pasterns of St. Paul's Church, and Dr. C. Howard Taylor, neighbor and s. Final services were held at the Flanner and Buchanan Mortname mber 8 in charge of T. L. Stovall, Secretary of the Preacher's Add Glasson, Superintendent of Crawfordsville District, and Claude 1 the Methodist Hospital. Burial was in the family lot in Crown Hill lis.

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the year before her death. She was known as a vocalist. Since Mrs. Harper's death, their daughter, Mrs. Mary Marshall, had lived with her father and cared for him.

Surviving with Mrs. Marshall are two other daughters, Mrs. Ruth Aton, Lafayette, and Mrs. Herbert Heimlich, West Lafayette, and a son, C. Flint Harper, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The funeral was held in Congress Street church. Officiating was Rev. Carl C. Bosse, Congress Street pastor; Rev. Earl Heimburger, former pastor, and Rev. T. L. Stovall, West Lafayette, secretary of the Preacher's Aid Society. Interment was in Rest Haven Memorial park, Lafayette.

RALPH A. ULREY

Rev. Ralph A. Ulrey was born October 15, 1894 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He died April 25, 1957 in Terre Haute, Indiana.

He became a full member of the Indiana Conference in 1921 and served the following charges; Sellersburg, where he built the present church and parsonage; DePauw Memorial at New Albany; East Park in Indianapolis and Greensburg.

He was Superintendent of the Vincennes District from 1940-1945. During this period the Vincennes District made a remarkable record in stewardship and benevolent giving.

After the Superintendency of the Vincennes District, he became pasto rof Bayard Park Church of Evansville which is now the Methodist Temple.

While in the Indiana Conference he served as Secretary of the World Service and Finance Commission. He was also a member of the Board of Conference Claimants and served on many other Committees of the Indiana Conference and the Northwest Indiana Conference.

In 1949 he was transferred to the Northwest Indiana Conference and appointed to Methodist Temple of Terre Haute, Indiana, where he served for 8 years.

Ralph was a faithful pastor, ever about his Master's business—caring for the sick, the bereaved, the children, the aged, the youth. He was always on duty.

All his churches loved him but it is to the glory of Methodist Temple in Terre Haute that they poured out their love in the remarkable way they cared for him in his illness—carried on while he was bedfast and held the church steady for him.

He always sounded a clear note on the Gospel Trumpet and never was it clearer than during the last weeks of his life here on earth.

His precious companion who had come down the years of his ministry close by his side, stayed in the hospital room day and night to the very end; and to her he talked about the verities of eternity with a confidence and an assurance which only the redeemed can have.

He prayed earnestly that he might preach again, and there came to him a comforting assurance that he would. He never came back to his pulpit to preach but his prayer was answered in a far greater way because, with a hospital bed for a pulpit, with constant suffering to endure, and with a certainty that the end was fast approaching; he was like one who stood on the threshold of immortality and looking beyond that open door, turned and flung back to us the message of the absolute proof of the realities we have tried to preach. All of us who were in his room during those last weeks are strengthened in our faith. We are more confident than ever that the eternal gospel which we preach

