

**Journal**  
OF THE  
**TENNESSEE  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE**

OF  
**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

OFFICIAL RECORD  
OF THE  
EIGHTH SESSION

HELD AT  
Martin College

Hosted by: First United Methodist Church,  
Pulaski and Martin College  
Pulaski, Tennessee

June 15-18, 1976

BISHOP H. ELLIS FINGER, JR.  
*Presiding*

W. EDWIN GILBERT  
*Secretary*

PRINTED BY  
THE UNITED METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE  
NASHVILLE, TENN.

make us all who we are. She completed her education, which is always a great event.

She was married on September 17, 1907, to James E. Trotter, and that was a great event. They had three children, Ouida (Mrs. J. C. Gregory), James S., and Alma (Mrs. Clyde Lowe) and those were great events.

Yet there was always more to her life than a happy marriage and a happy home. There was the guidance of God directing her as she and Brother Trotter took to the itinerant road. For nearly 35 years she was the parsonage wife. Not only did she rear her children well, but also shared the work of her husband wherever they were and wherever she could. Across those 35 years there were many things that gave her great pleasure in addition to her family. She was especially active in her work with the young people on the charges they served. Equally important to her ministry was her love for the work of United Methodist Women.

After Brother Trotter's retirement they settled in Lewisburg near their daughter, Alma. Here they enjoyed many years of retirement. She never gave up her activities nor her desire to be well groomed and attractive. Although there were some periods of serious illness, their retirement days were relatively happy and productive.

Her death on March 10, 1976, was marked by sadness of course, but also by a true joy, that she had completed her course upon this earth. It was a kind of magnificent graduation to be celebrated. We are thankful for the life of Mrs. Trotter and will remember her with love.

—LUKE N. DUNN

#### ORA D. BOOTS, JR.

Ora D. Boots, Jr., was born August 29, 1929 in Lexington, Kentucky, the son of the late Ora D. Boots, Sr., and Mrs. Boots, who survives. He attended the public school of Lexington, and graduated from college in Dallas, Texas. He also attended Vanderbilt University Divinity School upon his response to the call of the ministry. Brother Boots was killed by a bolt of lightning on Memorial Day, May 31, 1976 while fishing on Percy Priest Lake. His first wife, Mrs. Jackie Crump Boots, preceded him in death in 1969. Three children: Cindy, Karen, and Stephen, were born of this marriage, and they survive. In 1970 Ora married Sarah E. Shelton, who survives. Ora and Sarah had one daughter, Lynn, who also survives.

While Brother Boots was listed "Part-time Lay Pastor" his love and dedication to the Christian faith and the churches he served was truly "full-time." He had served the Lewisburg Chapel-Clay Hill Circuit, Culleoka Circuit, and was serving his second pastorate on the Diana Circuit. He was ready to begin his sixth year at the time of his death. The love and support of the people whom he served reflect his genuine, humble, and total commitment. His love and devotion to his family, his ministry, and to all of life, along with his strength, faith and dedication will continue to be a blessing and inspiration to many in the future.

—BILLY CRAIGHEAD

#### WINNIE CRAFT FLOWERS

Winnie Gordon Craft was born in South Central Kentucky on March 9, 1899. At the age of 20 she was married to Bradley L. Flowers. Soon there were children to share the experiences of their moving from parsonage to parsonage as they served Methodist churches in the Louisville Conference and the Cookeville District of the Tennessee Conference.

Upon Brother Flowers' retirement in 1958, they moved back home to Kentucky and chose a house on Tennessee Road in Albany; this, perhaps, to symbolize the ministry which they had known in both states.

Mrs. Flowers was in ill health most of those retirement years and spent the last six years confined to bed, comforted by her companion's love and care. She was

permanently released from pain through the grace of God on November 13, 1975. Funeral services were held by her pastor, the Reverend Russell East, at the First United Methodist Church in Albany, and her body was laid to rest in the Chestnut Grove Cemetery near Burkesville, in her native state.

—L. C. TROUTT

#### GEORGE EDGAR HOLLEY

George Edgar Holley was born on January 25, 1875 in Kemp, Texas, the son of George Jethro and Martha Jackson Holley. On March 21, 1902, he married Mary Etta Shoffit, also a native of Texas, who died December 31, 1965. They had three sons, James Eldred, Horace Gibbs, and Robert Lee.

After his wife's death, he made his home at McKendree Manor for the last ten years of his life. He felt that this was truly his home and wanted to stay there until his death, which he was privileged to do.

Admitted on trial in the North Texas Conference of the Methodist Church in 1898, he served churches in Texas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. He came to Nashville in 1922 with the Methodist Board of Missions for Good Will Industries. He also served as pastor of Sixty-First Avenue United Methodist Church and as assistant pastor of Monroe Street United Methodist Church. He also worked at the Upper Room until his retirement.

Brother Holley taught the Men's Bible Class of Monroe Street Church until he was 90 years of age, which was a great source of joy to him.

A reception was held on the occasion of his 100th birthday and friends and relatives came from several states to help him celebrate.

He was a gentle and loving person and loved by all who knew him. He had a deep faith and looked forward with great anticipation to being with His Heavenly Father.

Brother Holley died on May 10, 1976 at the age of 101. The funeral service was conducted by Reverend James A. Hardaway. He was buried in Woodlawn Memorial Park in Nashville.

—JAMES A. HARDAWAY

#### JAMES ELIZAH TROTTER

"The best portion of a good man's life are his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love." Wrote Wordsworth many years ago. This veteran of 35 years on the itinerant road has left his mark upon those 13 appointments to which he was assigned. The souls to whom he ministered across his life time remember something special about him; his concern for them when they were in trouble, his ministry to them in sadness or any of a million other ways one becomes beloved. But I remember the kind of man he is; his absolute unwillingness to speak ill of anyone; his total willingness to accept his appointment and serve it as best he could. He would not enter a conversation that smacked of bitterness nor complaint. He knew the score, but he also knew his higher and prior commitment was to God and he would not belittle his calling with complaints.

Brother Trotter seemed to me to have learned a mysterious secret—he seemed to me to have opened the door to life. He knew how to love, how to pray, how to laugh, how to live with God, how to serve Him, glad to live, but not afraid to die. I have this feeling about Brother Trotter that when he stands before God he will say—"When did I ever see Thee hungry and feed Thee or sick and visit Thee?"—and to Brother Trotter and all who possess genuine humility God will say, "Enter into My joy." Brother Trotter will say that because he viewed his call from God as a glorious gift—and could never have thought that God owed him anything. He did not serve God for what he might get out of it—but he served God as if it were a great honor. He was a friend of God's—not a hired hand.

Brother Trotter was born in Dickson County (Slayden) Tennessee, August 5, 1889,