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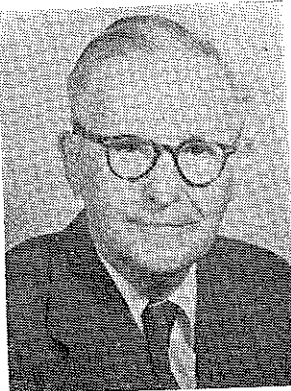


George R. Stuart Auditorium
LAKE JUNALUSKA, N. C.

GIDEON IRELAND HUMPHREYS

November 5, 1881 - April 5, 1963

Dr. Gideon Ireland Humphreys, distinguished educator and religious leader, died April 5, 1963, having lived to the advanced age of eighty-one years. Although he had lived in Gainesville, Florida, during the years of his retirement, he kept his membership in the Western North Carolina Conference.



He was a native of Elton Head Manor in Southern Maryland. He was a graduate of Western Maryland College and Westminster Theological Seminary and held honorary Doctor of Divinity and Doctor of Laws degrees from Western Maryland College.

A biographer seeking to catalog the outstanding achievements of this distinguished leader among men would perhaps divide the story into three chapters.

The first chapter in the public life of Dr. Humphreys had to do with his leadership in the Methodist Protestant Church as a member of the Maryland Conference, the largest and strongest conference in that denomination. As an able young minister his gifts and his dedication were recognized early in his ministry. He was given responsible appointments in Washington, Baltimore and Salisbury, Maryland, in each of which he served with distinction. His brethren elected him president of the Maryland Annual Conference which position he served for three years, the limit according to the law of the Church. During this period of his life and after church union he represented Methodism on many of its boards and committees. He was a member of the Unting Conference, and although at that time he had become known primarily as an educator, he was seriously considered for the Episcopacy. What he was appreciated for his brilliant mind and great gifts as ever he served as a minister he was appreciated for his brilliant mind and great gifts as a preacher. He served for several years as president of the General Board of Education of the Methodist Protestant Church, which position he held when the second chapter in his life of public service began.

In 1930 High Point College, struggling to survive the throes of an economic depression which had paralyzed the economy of our nation, turned to Dr. G. I. Humphreys for leadership during the difficult years ahead. The college was young, small, and deeply in debt, and supported by a church of limited resources. Many friends of the college definitely felt that the future was hopeless. Dr. Humphreys accepted the challenge of becoming its president, and with faith and courage he accepted the challenge of seeking a solution to the almost insurmountable problems and difficulties. During the dark days that followed he gave of himself untiringly and unselfishly and helped to boost the morale of his associates by his optimism and cheerful spirit. Any man of lesser faith and determination would have given up. He was deeply dedicated to what he believed to be right and was willing to bet his professional career on the future of High Point College. His shrewd business management and his sincerity inspired confidence. Not only did he keep the college alive during those difficult days, but during the nineteen years that he served as its president he saw the student enrollment grow from three hundred to above eight hundred. He saw a tremendous expansion in its physical facilities, and when he retired from the presidency the college was completely free of indebtedness. It is a very real sense this college stands today as a monument to his faith, courage and leadership, and to the loyal cooperation of those who were associated with him during this period of financial struggle. The Methodist Church will be forever in their debt.

When Dr. Humphreys retired in 1949 he moved to Gainesville, Florida, where he made his home until his death. As a citizen of Gainesville he became a servant of many churches as he participated in the religious life of the community. He was called upon often by churches of various faiths whenever temporary needs arose for the service of an able preacher. There, as in every community where he has lived, he leaves behind a host of friends who join his wife, Mrs. Alma Olsen Humphreys, and the children who survive in a deep feeling of loss in his passing.

—J. CLAY MADISON

EDWARD LOVE KIRK

April 5, 1889 - July 17, 1962

The influence of Christian parents in a country home across the road from Stony Hill Methodist Church near Albemarle, and the revival meetings of more than fifty years ago made a profound impression upon Edward Love Kirk until something stirred in his soul and he decided to be a Methodist preacher.



This decision was so powerful that he began at once to prepare himself for the Methodist ministry by attending school in his native county. He graduated from Emory and Henry College in 1916 and was sent to Marion Mills charge that year. Following this appointment he served with great success Kings Mountain, and East End, Gastonia. He then transferred to the Southwest Missouri Conference. After serving there for five years he came back to the Western North Carolina Conference and served with distinction Cherryville, Salisbury: Park Avenue, Cliffside, Winston-Salem; Maple Springs, Charlotte: Brevard Street, Andrews, Salem, and Hiddenite.

He married Miss Cornelia Johnson at Morrisville, Missouri, on November 27, 1917. She proved to be a loving, sympathetic and inspiring wife. Their only child, Miss Janella Kirk, lives at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Edward Love Kirk was born in Stanly County, April 5, 1889, and died July 17, 1962, at Chattanooga, Tennessee. His parents were Thomas Postell and Martha Jane (Parker) Kirk.

The funeral was conducted at Stony Hill Methodist Church, near Albemarle, on July 20, by the pastor, James R. Faggart, assisted by W. Harold Groce and the writer. A large number of friends and ministers were present to express their love and appreciation for one of the most beloved and successful ministers of our conference.

We miss him and hope to meet him again.

"He who on our earthly path
Bids us help each other—
Who his well-beloved hath
Made our elder brother—
Will but clasp the chain of love
Closer, when we meet above."

—H. G. ALLEN

ARNOLD ALEXANDER LYERLY

June 30, 1909 - August 13, 1962

Arnold Alexander Lyerly was born and grew up to young manhood in the broad vistas of God's wide open spaces near Woodleaf, N. C. His destiny was to become an Ambassador of God to many people. His travels carried him afar.

It becomes my solemn and sacred privilege at the request of Mrs. Arnold Lyerly to write this memoir.

Although we lived in adjoining counties we never met until we were students at Duke University. Since then, we have been mutual friends and our paths have crossed many times. We entered Duke University the same year and received our Bachelor of Divinity degree on the same occasion. Bishop Clare Purcell ordained us as Elders. Then we were admitted into full connection in the same class. We were engaged in evangelistic services together a few days after graduation. Our philosophy of life and Christian beliefs have been very much the same, especially relative to the major social problems.

Arnold Alexander Lyerly, son of the late Mrs. Annie Elizabeth Steele and Lewis Edward Lyerly, was born on June 30, 1909, in Rowan County, near Woodleaf. At the age of 53, while visiting his son in Shreve-

