



**CANDIDATES RECEIVED ON TRIAL — 1954**  
 Front Row (left to right)—David J. Cathcart, Registrar; R. C. Joyner, Eugene Kerrick, Homer Bain, Jr., Luther Stokes, Morris Gaskins, Richard Pebray, George Norsworthy, Jean Guerry, Back Row (left to right)—Dr. Harry Waller, Chairman; Roland Vanzant, Guy Athearn, Curtis Garrett, Maurice Phillips, Ernest Coffee, Ronald Williams, Robert Fisher, Ben Ridge, Mario Alfonso, Don Richardson, Herman Murdock, Robert Johnson, Arthur Brandenburg, James Holmes. Not in the picture—John Hughlett, Donald Padgett, Robert Johnson, Arthur Brandenburg, James

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**SIXTEENTH SESSION**  
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JOHN W. BRANSCOMB, *Presiding Bishop*  
 DON A. COOKE, *Secretary*

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## JOHN WILLIAM PEARSON

John William Pearson, son of James and Margaret Thomas Pearson, was born in Brunswick County, Virginia, May 3, 1883. He received his education at the Morgan Training School, Fayetteville, Tennessee, and Vanderbilt University, Tennessee. In 1926 he received the degree of doctor of divinity from the Central College in Fayette, Missouri.

Dr. Pearson retired in 1953 after a successful ministry of forty-three years serving the following churches: South End Methodist, Nashville, Tenn.; St. Paul Methodist, Springfield, Missouri; Ensley Methodist, Birmingham, Alabama; Johnson Memorial, Huntington, West Virginia; Barton Heights Methodist, Richmond, Virginia; Centenary Methodist, Lynchburg, Virginia. In 1944 he was transferred to the Florida Conference and served the First Methodist Church in Tampa; First Methodist, Clearwater; Allendale Methodist and the Clearview Methodist in St. Petersburg.

Dr. Pearson was very active in civic and church affairs. He served on many Boards and Committees of the Methodist Church, he was a delegate to the General Conference in 1937 at the time of unification, and he was the author of Sunday School lesson materials used in Methodist Schools.

In 1927 Dr. Pearson was a delegate to the Rotary International Convention in Ostend, Belgium, following which he traveled to Europe, Palestine and Egypt. However far his interest extended at times, his church always held first place in his love and concern.

He was married to Lillian Blackwood and from this marriage three children were born: James Blackwood Pearson, Mrs. John M. Bates and Mrs. Thomas N. Green. In April 1945, Dr. Pearson married Emily Frances Phillips who survives him. He is also survived by his three children, seven grandchildren and four sisters.

Dr. Pearson was a man of sterling character. He had a great love for people, was an interesting conversationalist, and because of his brotherly and congenial manner he was well liked by his brother ministers. He was a strong preacher, endowed with a brilliant mind and a scholar who knew and loved good books. He had a wide knowledge of the Bible and was in demand as a teacher, especially in our Christian Workers' Training Schools. He loved the Methodist Church and its work, and he made his life a contribution to its usefulness.

During the last days of his illness his mind was still very active, and as he watched the birds and the trees from his bedroom window, he would very often compose some appropriate piece of poetry. He also enjoyed listening to the sermons over the radio on Sunday mornings, and often following the broadcasts he would write a note of appreciation for some particular thought in the sermon. As his active ministry drew to a close, his thoughts turned to his native Virginia and the memories of his years of service there seemed precious to him.

On June 3, 1954 he went quietly and triumphantly to his reward. Funeral services were conducted at the First Methodist Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, by Dr. R. C. Holmes, assisted by Dr. Robert

L. Allen and the Reverend J. F. Talton. Interment was in Spring Hill Cemetery, Lynchburg, Virginia.

Your friend and my friend has gone, but his work and his spirit will live on.

"Soldier of Christ, well done;  
Praise be thy new employ  
And while eternal ages run,  
Rest in thy Saviour's joy."

R. L. ALLEN

## JAMES W. ROGERS

Brother James W. Rogers always took a great interest in the young men who entered the ministry from the churches he served. Like Paul he considered them to be his sons in the gospel, and was proud of them. All of them looked to him for guidance, and they were always given the most helpful counsel. He felt a kinship with all his brethren in the Methodist ministry and had close friendship with both young and old.

James Washington Rogers was born in Boonville, Mississippi on November 12, 1881, the son of a Methodist minister. At the age of 72 he died on March 20, 1954 at 2:15 a.m. in the Waterman Memorial Hospital of Eustis, Florida, after an illness of several weeks. He had been in frail health for three years.

Funeral services were held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 21 in the First Methodist Church of Tavares, Florida, which was the last pastorate Brother Rogers served before his retirement in June 1952. The church was filled with friends, some of whom had traveled a great distance to be present. Dr. O. E. Rice, district superintendent of the Orlando District, officiated at the services, assisted by Rev. Lee Davidson, Rev. Paul M. Stewart, and Rev. B. B. Osgood. A quartet sang two of his favorite hymns, "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" and "Be Still, My Soul." He was especially fond of the first of these hymns. The following morning another service was held in Alachua where he served a four year pastorate. Officiating at this service were Rev. W. M. Irwin, Rev. John A. Briley, and Rev. Murdock A. Shaw. Interment was in the Alachua cemetery, by the side of his son, James Herbert Rogers, who had passed away three years earlier.

Brother Rogers served the church in the active ministry for 48 years, having joined the North Mississippi Conference on December 8, 1904. Four days prior to this he had married Miss Jessie Phillipa Shivers, who was by his side during his entire ministry. In 1910 he transferred to the East Oklahoma Conference where he became a presiding elder at the age of 32. In 1918 he transferred to the Little Rock Conference, and in June 1928 to the Florida Conference. In Florida he served the following charges: Delray Beach; Ocoee-Zellwood; Haines City; Highland Avenue, Tampa; Wauchula; Monticello; Cocoa; Brooksville; Alachua; Mulberry; and Tavares. Following his retirement he served the Montverde charge for one year.

No one was ever more dependable, steady, and faithful than was Brother Rogers. He loved the work of the ministry and the brotherhood of Methodist preachers was dear to him. He always