



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 Petry, George Norsworthy, Jean Cherry, Back Row (left to right)—Dr. Harry Waller, Chairman, Roland Vanzant, Guy Albee, Curly G. Gentry, Maurice Phillips, Ernest Coffee, Tom and Williams, Bert Fisher, Ben Rider, Mario Alfonso, Don Richardson, Ernest Phillips, James Craven, John Holmes. Not in the picture—Frank English, Donald Padgett, Robert Johnson, William H. Gentry.

JOURNAL
of the
SIXTEENTH SESSION

of the
**Florida Annual
Conference**

(SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION)

of
The Methodist Church

THE 110th YEAR OF METHODISM IN FLORIDA

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

Edited for the Conference by
DON A. COOKE
225 East Duval Street
Jacksonville, Florida
PRICE \$1.00

Sessions Held at
CITY AUDITORIUM
LAKELAND, FLORIDA
Florida Southern College, HOST
JUNE 9-13, 1954

JOHN WILLIAM PEARSON

Pearson, son of James and Margaret Thomas in Brunswick County, Virginia, May 3, 1883. He attended the Morgan Training School, Fayetteville, Vanderbilt University, Tennessee. In 1926 he received doctor of divinity from the Central College in

retired in 1953 after a successful ministry of forty-eight years in the following churches: South End Methodist, St. Paul Methodist, Springfield, Missouri; Ensley Methodist, Birmingham, Alabama; Johnson Memorial, Huntington, West Virginia; Barton Heights Methodist, Richmond, Virginia; Lynchburg, Virginia. In 1944 he was transferred to the Florida Conference and served the First Methodist, Clearwater; Allendale Methodist, Clearwater; and New View Methodist in St. Petersburg.

He was very active in civic and church affairs. He served on boards and committees of the Methodist Church, and to the General Conference in 1937 at the time of the centennial. He was the author of Sunday School lesson materials for the Methodist Schools.

Pearson was a delegate to the Rotary International Convention in London, Belgium, following which he traveled to London and Egypt. However far his interest extended, he always held first place in his love and devotion.

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

As a man of sterling character. He had a great sense of humor and an interesting conversationalist, and because of his congenial manner he was well liked by his brethren. He was a strong preacher, endowed with a brilliant mind, who knew and loved good books. He had a wide knowledge of the Bible and was in demand as a teacher, especially in the Workers' Training Schools. He loved the Methodist work, and he made his life a contribution to its advancement.

On the days of his illness his mind was still very active, and he could see the birds and the trees from his bedroom window, and he would compose some appropriate piece of poetry. He would sing to the sermons over the radio on Sunday morning, and following the broadcasts he would write a note of some particular thought in the sermon. As his illness drew to a close, his thoughts turned to his native land, and his memories of his years of service there seemed to be fresh and clear.

He went quietly and triumphantly to his reward. His funeral services were conducted at the First Methodist Church in Clearwater, 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

exercised patience. He was always considerate of the feelings of others. He served gladly wherever he was appointed and did constructive work in the churches he served. Brother Rogers was optimistic about the future of the church because he had faith in the young preachers, and his attitude was a challenge to them. We can be certain that our Heavenly Father received him into his heavenly home saying, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant".

Brother Rogers is survived by his widow, who lives at Umatilla; one daughter, Mrs. Clyde Black of Shreveport, Louisiana; one son, George Shivers Rogers of Greenville, South Carolina; six grandchildren; one brother, F. H. Rogers of Tahlequah, Oklahoma; and two sisters, Mrs. W. D. Stall of Ada, Oklahoma and Mrs. E. C. McMichee of Sapula, Oklahoma.

JOHN B. GILL, JR.
BERRY D. BOURN

ALBERT PRESTON SMITH

Albert Preston Smith, son of Robert Preston and Katie Bell Smith, was born in Allen, Mississippi, on September 22, 1890. He was graduated from Ruskin Cave College, near Nashville, Tennessee, with the class of 1917. Shortly after graduation he entered the ministry and served pastorates in the Tennessee Conference from 1917 to 1925 when he was transferred to the Florida Conference. He served the following Florida appointments: Parrish and Ellenton; Bushnell; Murry Hill, Jacksonville; Anderson Memorial, Jacksonville; Winter Garden; Ft. Lauderdale; Madison; Trinity in Tampa; and Tarpon Springs.

Leading his parishioners in the way of Christian Living, Brother Smith served them completely. He lived strenuously in the ministry, for to him it was a serious task, something he tried to do well and in which he succeeded.

In 1947, because of failing health, Brother Smith was retired at his own request. It was a great disappointment to him that he could no longer be active in the work he loved. However, he preached whenever he was able and at the time he was called to his Father's Home he was supplying the Curlew Church in the Tampa District.

It was my great pleasure to have known Brother Smith since childhood, through all of which time there existed between us a close intimate friendship. He worked hard to secure an education to prepare himself for the ministry, the work he wanted most to do. In fact, I think he believed he was doing the work that had been close to his father's heart, something his father had wanted to do but had never been able. In preaching the gospel, I believe he was trying to fill a place for himself and also for his father.

He was a devoted father, a loyal husband and a consecrated Christian. Those who knew him best loved him most, which is an indication of his sterling qualities of character.

Brother Smith was married to Miss Rose Redding on August 25, 1916 at Clarksville, Tennessee. From this marriage five children were born. He is survived by Mrs. Smith, who was a devoted wife, four children and five grandchildren. Following his retirement, he made his home in Largo, close to his son, Lt. Col. Robert C. Smith.