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THE 103rd YEAR OF METHODISM IN FLORIDA

—○—
ARTHUR J. MOORE, *Presiding Bishop*

DON A. COOKE, *Secretary*

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ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA
June 4 to 8, 1947

LEONARD MALCOLM REID

Leonard Malcolm Reid, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Reid, Sr., was born December 10, 1903, at Arrington, Alabama. He attended high school in Alabama. The family came to Florida in 1913, and lived near old Pisgah, east of Bowling Green. Leonard was a good, sincere, hard-working boy, always faithful in attendance of his Church.

He served in the armed forces of America, in France during the first World War. After returning home from the army, he felt the call to the ministry, and attended old Southern College at Southerland.

He was admitted into the Florida Conference on trial 1922, and in full connection 1924, and ordained elder 1926. He married Miss Vera Hart, a young school teacher, at Cross City, Florida, who was a faithful, devoted wife to the end. Leonard suffered from effects of service in the Army, and was compelled to retire after 16 years' service in the Conference. He was for a long time in the Government Hospital in Lake City. After his health improved, he moved to Tampa, where his wife worked for the Government. After some time last summer in Bay Pines Hospital, it was found necessary to operate on him, but this did not relieve the sufferer, and on July 9, 1946, after giving his wife the assurance that he was going Home, and would await her coming, he quietly slipped out of the body of suffering, and went to be with the Lord. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. E. Watt Smith, his pastor, a close friend of the family, who joined him a few weeks later in Heaven. His body was carried back to Bowling Green, Florida, and was laid to rest by his devoted mother and father in Bowling Green cemetery.

J. W. AUSTIN

E. WATT SMITH

He was my friend. I met him in the mountains. It so happens that he was the first member of the Florida Conference I met. In the Summer of 1925 while I was working at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, it was my privilege to meet Rev. E. Watt Smith. Telling him of my plans to be a minister, he invited me to consider coming to Florida to become a member of the Conference. Three years later, upon graduation from the Seminary, I remembered the words of my friend and decided that it would be a good thing to come to Florida if all the members of the Conference were like Brother Smith. This episode was the beginning of a friendship that lasted the years. Now he has entered the mountain places of God and if he could speak to us now he would be more enthusiastic still in urging his brethren to come into the places of the Heavenly Fellowship.

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. ALTON MURPHY

E. Watt Smith was born in Delaware, Kentucky, near Owensboro, January 13th, 1886. In his early childhood he felt the mystical emotions in his heart which formed the call of God to the ministry. When he was fourteen years of age he experienced the glorious conversion that resulted in his becoming a candidate for the ministry of Christ. He kept it a secret for some time, but hearing a sermon on the subject, "Let your light shine", he could resist no longer and he became like a light on a hill, a burning and a shining light. He held that light high. It went out in the pulpit on the night before he died, but I hasten to say that his light still shines. Though dead, yet he lives. Though his earthly light was extinguished by the hand of death, the Source of all Light replaced his torch with a flame of heavenly light which is still shining, and the darkness cannot put it out.

Brother Watt started his ministry quite early, being called the "Boy Evangelist of Kentucky". During his college experience he held services regularly, always ready to serve his Lord. He received his education for the ministry at Vanderbilt Training School (then near Elkton, Ky.) and at Vanderbilt University. He was admitted on trial in the Louisville Conference in 1907 and was ordained deacon that same year. In 1909 he was ordained an elder and served for fifteen years in the Louisville Conference.

He was united in marriage to Mary Lena Powell on October 31st, 1906 in Smith Mills, Ky. Those of us who had the privilege of intimate fellowship with the family knew the beauty of this marriage. Across the years they lived in harmony, peace and love, the embodiment of the Gospel they both preached and lived. Truly his wife complimented him in the ministry and they were strengthened for the great task because of each other. One child blessed this union, George Watt Smith of Clearwater, Florida. This son is a living testimony to the Christian home which he knew through the years.

In June of 1921 Brother Smith transferred to the Florida Conference and served six years at Sarasota. Then came three full and eventful years at Trinity Church, Tallahassee. A testimony to the light of his life during that ministry came to me recently from a former director of student work among Methodist girls at the college when she said that the noblest Christian she had ever known was E. Watt Smith. He served for four years on the Bartow District. Bradenton was the scene of his next pastorate for four years, after which he came to Tampa Heights for two years and then experienced a return to Sarasota for two years and thence to his Leesburg pastorate where he served for a quadrennium. In the early part of this pastorate he experienced an illness that necessitated his temporary retirement and it seemed that the end of his ministry had come, but he rallied and then gave two more magnificent years of service to Christ, the Kingdom and the Church. In June of 1946 he was appointed to Trinity Church, Tampa, and his heart was thrilled. After getting off to

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a fine start there however, he suffered a heart attack and shortly slipped out of the earthly tabernacle and mounted the throne which the Father had waiting for such a noble son, such an earnest preacher of the Gospel. His memorial service was conducted in Trinity Church under the direction of Dr. Harry H. Waller, District Superintendent of the Tampa District, assisted by Dr. E. J. Pendergrass who led the prayer, and John Branscomb who spoke in tender words of the man who was universally loved in our conference.

The date of his translation was Sept. 2, 1946, and his resting place is in Clearwater, Florida. E. Watt Smith was a true Christian, a man of integrity, a worthy preacher, a tender-hearted pastor, a friend of young preachers, an indefatigable worker and a child of God. Peace to his ashes. Everlasting life to his soul.

JOHN BRANSCOMB

FRANCIS EDWIN STEINMEYER

"One of the best men I ever knew!" These were the words that spontaneously leaped to my lips when I heard that my good friend of almost a lifetime, Frances Edwin Steinmeyer, had left us for the celestial Home.

This noble man was born in Sumter, S. C., September 5, 1870. With his parents and the other children of the family he came to Florida as a small boy. His parents were Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Steinmeyer, hero and heroine of the Methodist itinerancy, his father serving many years as a member of the Florida Conference.

Converted in his youth, he early felt a call to preach while a student in Emory College, Oxford, Georgia. He did not yield to that call, however, until six years later, in 1897, when he finally did say yes to God and gave himself completely in consecration. I well remember when he made this full surrender of himself to Christ, and how he came into an exceptionally remarkable experience of spiritual joy and energetic purpose. Through the fifty years since that experience he had as a young man in Leesburg, Florida, he has not wavered in his dedication and, through his fellowship with Christ, has maintained to an unusual degree the glow of that vivid experience.

He was admitted on trial into the Florida Conference in 1898; ordained deacon in 1900; ordained elder in 1902; and received into full connection in 1900.

He served the following charges, all in the Florida Conference: Summerfield Mission, Webster Circuit, Rochelle Circuit, Leon Circuit, Quincy Circuit, Sycamore, Havana, Citra, Apalachicola, Sanford, Live Oak, Tampa Heights, Tampa; Springfield, Jacksonville; Kissimmee, Largo, Tallahassee District, Winter Haven, Madison.

- SMITH, E. WATT**—Admitted on trial, Louisville Conference, 1907; Ordained Deacon, 1907; Elder, 1911; Received into full connection, 1909; Transferred to Florida Conference, 1921. Appointments: Sarasota, 1921-1926; Tallahassee, 1927-1929; P. E. Bartow District, 1930-1933; Bradenton, 1934-1937; Tampa Heights, Tampa, 1938-1939; Sarasota, 1940-1942; Leesburg, 1942-1945; Trinity, Tampa, 1946—
- *SMITH, M. L.**—Admitted on trial, Florida Conference, 1921; Ordained Deacon, 1923; Elder, 1936; Received into full connection, 1923. Appointments: Starke; Aucilla; Daytona Beach; Mayo; Citra; Reddick; Bradford and Ft. White; Seville and Pierson; Edgewood, Tampa, 1930-1932; Trenton, 1933; Lake Butler, 1934; Seville Memorial, Key West, 1935-1936; Trilby, 1937; Northside, St. Petersburg, 1938; Webster, 1939; Retired, 1940.
- SNOW, E. E.**—Admitted on trial, Western North Carolina Conference, 1924; Full connection, 1926; Ordained Deacon, 1926; Elder, 1929; Transferred to Florida Conference, 1943. Appointments: Tarpon Springs, 1943-1945; Snyder Memorial, Jacksonville, 1946—
- *SOPER, M. A.**—Admitted on trial, Central New York Conference, 1900; Received into full connection, 1902; Transferred to St. Johns River Conference, 1924. Appointments: Eustis, 1924-1926; Allendale, St. Petersburg, 1927-1929; School, 1930-1932; Davenport, 1933; Hastings, 1934; Redlands-Florida City, 1935; Port Richey, 1936; Canal Point, 1937; Retired, 1938.
- SPOTTSWOOD, C. L.**—Admitted on trial, New Mexico Conference, 1941; Full connection, 1943; Ordained Deacon, 1943; Elder, 1944; Transferred to Florida Conference, 1942. Appointments: Montverde-Zellwood, 1942-1943; Bayshore, Tampa, 1943-1945; Director Wesley Foundation, Gainesville, 1945; Missionary to Philippines, 1946—
- SPENCER, H. A.**—Admitted on trial, Western Virginia Conference, 1903; Ordained Deacon, 1904; Elder, 1908; Received into full connection, 1906; Transferred to Florida Conference, 1915. Appointments: New Smyrna, 1915-1917; Wesley Memorial, Jacksonville, 1918-1919; Springfield, Jacksonville, 1920-1922; P. E. Gainesville District, 1923-1924; Tallahassee, 1925-1927; College Heights, Lakeland, 1928; Sarasota, 1929-1931; Avondale, Jacksonville, 1932-1934; Palatka, 1934-1937; Ft. Pierce, 1938; Arcadia, 1939; Starke, 1940-1941; Dania, 1941-1945; Wagg Memorial, West Palm Beach, 1945—
- SPIVEY, LUDD M.**—Admitted on trial, St. Louis Conference, 1912; Ordained Deacon, 1914; Elder, 1916; Received into full connection, 1914; Transferred to Alabama Conference, 1922; Transferred to Florida Conference, 1925. Appointments: President of Southern College, 1925—
- SPRINGFIELD, W. T.**—Admitted on trial, Florida Conference, 1940; Full connection, 1942; Ordained Deacon, 1941; Elder, 1942. Appointments: Inverness, 1940-1942; High Springs, 1942-1944; Chaplain, 1944-1945; Green Cove Springs, 1946—
- STANDIFER, E. T.**—Admitted on trial, Northwest Conference, 1924; Ordained Deacon, 1926; Elder, 1928; Received into full connection, 1928; Transferred to Florida Conference, 1931. Appointments: Pompano, 1931-1933; Dinsmore-Epperson, 1934-1936; Trinity-Northside, St. Petersburg, 1937; Enterprise, 1938-1939; Jasper, 1940-1943; Seminole, 1943-1944; Chattahoochee, 1944-1945; Auburndale, 1946—
- STANDISH, R. M.**—Admitted on trial, Northeast Conference, 1928; Full connection, 1930; Ordained Deacon, 1927; Elder, 1929; Transferred to Florida Conference, 1942. Appointments: Grace, St. Petersburg, 1942-1945; St. Cloud, 1945—
- STANFIELD, CLAUDE**—Admitted on trial, Florida Conference, 1946. Ordained Deacon, 1946. Appointment: Northside-Clearview, St. Petersburg, 1946—
- STATHAM, J. E.**—Admitted on trial, North Georgia Conference, 1920; Ordained Deacon, 1922; Elder, 1924; Received into full connection, 1922; Transferred to Florida Conference, 1932. Appointments: Bayshore, Tampa, 1933-1936; Delray Beach, 1937-1941; Pahokee, 1941-1942; Chaplain, 1942-1945; Chaplain, Veteran's Administration Hospital, Lake City, 1946—
- *STEINMEYER, F. E.**—Admitted on trial, Florida Conference, 1898; Ordained Deacon, 1900; Elder, 1903; Received into full connection, 1900. Appointments: Summerfield Mission, 1898-1899; Webster Circuit, 1900-1901; Rochelle Circuit, 1902-1903; Leon Circuit, 1904-1905; Quincy Circuit, 1906; Sycamore Station, 1907; Havana, 1908-1909; Citra, 1910; Apalachicola, 1911-1913; Sanford, 1914-1917; Live Oak, 1918-1920; Tampa Heights, Tampa, 1921-1922; Springfield, Jacksonville, 1923-1925; Kissimmee, 1926-1928; Largo, 1928-1929; Tallahassee District, 1929-1932; Winter Haven, 1933-1935; Madison, 1936-1938; Retired, 1940.
- STRADLEY, J. G.**—Admitted on trial, Florida Conference, 1923; Ordained Deacon, 1925; Elder, 1927; Received into full connection, 1925. Appointments: Homestead, 1923-1926; Sarah Wagg, West Palm Beach, 1927-1928; Williston, 1929;