



LL—BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE
Birmingham, Alabama

Journal
of the
North Alabama Conference
of
The United Methodist Church

SIXTH SESSION
June 4-6, 1973

held at

BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE
Birmingham, Alabama

BISHOP CARL J. SANDERS, President
PAUL M. GAUNTT, Secretary

*The One Hundred-fourth Session of
The North Alabama Conference
Organized 1870*

*The Ninety-seventh Session of
the former Central Alabama
Conference*

Entrance of Methodism into Alabama Through
Matthew P. Sturdivant, 1808
Alabama Conference, Methodist Protestant Church
Organized 1829

Alabama Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church
Organized 1832

North Alabama Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South
Organized 1870

Editorial Committee

PAUL M. GAUNTT, Chairman

Calvin M. Pinkard
Otis R. Flournoy, Jr.

M. L. Gunnin
Ed Montgomery

that Christ could take the seeds and enable them to grow
never retired, for after the heart attack, he went to
Methodist church of Fairfield.
ered is the work and life of a faithful servant. Brother
ry 9, 1973 and on February 12, his pastor, Rev. Robert
services at Angwin Mortuary. Brother Nolen leaves one
and as he planted this seed into Brother Nolen's life, he
grow and plant other seeds.

*scratched cross I bear till death shall set me free; And then
my crown to wear, For there's a crown for me.*
-Thomas Shepherd

Jimmy Johnson

WILLIAM C. POTTER

es Potter was
nty, Alabama on
July 27, 1908 he
abeth Bolen. To
children were
e May, William
rchibald, Clyde



began his work
Church at the
in 1919 as a
sequently he
Edwardsville,
d Chaview. In
from the
nd became a
ongregational
r Methodism
id in 1941 he
ed supply pastor, serving in the next years at Shady
trict), Arkadelphia, Waterloo, and Belle Green
his beloved wife necessitated that he locate in 1948
ned to the active ministry in 1953 and served Forest
e Cullman Circuit, from whence he retired in 1956.
he enjoyed retirement with its various activities, and
s. Mattie Potter died on September 26, 1966.
7, William married Alma Exa Vann and together
ppy years. In his eighty-fourth year William's body
The loving care of his wife and his children eased the
s. On August 18, 1972 William's body died, but his
orial service was conducted by the Reverend L.C.
nd D. Tommy Bell at Fairview United Methodist
na and his body was laid to rest in the church

lship of Brother Potter one of the special privileges
aw him scarcely more than a year, I found in him

many characteristics of a true man of God. He had compassion, zeal and an
expectant faith! Even in the last year of his life, he discussed with me his
hope to preach a series of revival services in our church! Truly, as long as
his body would permit, he was willing and anxious to serve his Lord!

Brother Potter loved God's word and he loved to sing. A favorite
scripture lesson was the Twenty-third Psalm. He truly felt that goodness
and mercy would follow him all the days of his life, and that he would dwell
in the house of the Lord forever! He had strength in his life because he felt
the presence of Christ. I can see his eyes sparkle as he would hear (or sing)
again the words of his favorite hymn:

*I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses.
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the son of God discloses.
And He walks with, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am his own.
And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.*

Gone he is from our midst, no more to smile a friendly smile, or to do a
kindly deed; no more to help with the services of the church. Yet present
still, in the lives of many because of his love of Christ our Lord and his
witness among us! Surely, God must have said unto him: "Well done, good
and faithful servant."

Joseph P. Rush

JOHN JONES WEBB

John Webb, better known as
Jack Webb, was born May 26, 1885
at Beaufort, North Carolina. He died
August 3, 1972 at Tusculumbia,
Alabama. Funeral Services were
held at First United Methodist
Church, Sheffield, Alabama. Rev.
J.P. West, Jr., officiated; burial was
in Oakwood Cemetery Sheffield.

He was married to Ellis Corena
Jones November 6, 1972 at West
End Methodist parsonage. Rev.
W.W. Dorman, Pastor, officiated.
Dorothy Elizabeth Webb was born
March 29, 1914. She was the only
child by this marriage.

Jack Webb attended the old
Howard College which is known
today as Samford University, from
1902 to 1906. He was ordained in the
session of the North Alabama
Conference, the year we do not
have. He served forty years in the
Methodist itinerant ministry of the
North Alabama Conference with a few years of this spent in the North
Arkansas Conference. His ministry started October 6, 1914 at the Glen Adie
Methodist Church in Anniston. In 1917 he served Edwardsville Circuit; in
1919 Heflin; 1921 Alexandria, 1922 Hokes Bluff; 1923 Brookwood; 1926
Kennedy; 1929 Kelloman. The years between 1931 and 1942 (approximate)
he spent in the North Arkansas Conference serving Berryville; Kinsett,



Bald-Knob, Huntington and Branch.

Jack's companion died June 12, 1940 at Huntington, Arkansas and she is buried there.

After he came back to the North Alabama Conference from Arkansas he served Calera and other churches.

He had to retire in 1940 because of illness.

After his transfer to Branch Church in Arkansas he was remarried and later transferred back to North Alabama.

His home was blessed by other children, the names of which we were unable to secure for this memoir.

Jack, after retirement lived in one unit of the Rhodes apartments and was very active in the work of First Methodist Church of Sheffield and it was his desire to be buried in this City.

He liked it to be known that he made major repairs or completely built 24 churches in his life's ministry.

Jack Webb, whom I knew personally and counted as a dear friend, was a noble servant in the kingdom of God. He was always willing to go wherever the Bishop appointed him without complaint. He served a number of different churches and I dare say that he ever made over \$3,000,000 a year in his entire ministry and not many years at that. At most he served for about \$2,000.00. He seemed thrilled in the place he was assigned if it had a special challenge and in all that he served he found a special challenge. We loved him deeply and was thankful for his willingness to go where the church asked him to go. He served well and I know that he is enjoying God's beautiful city.

GRADY WILSON WILLIAMS

Rev. Grady Wilson Williams was born in Jefferson County, Alabama, July 3, 1903. His parents were Wood and Mollie Hicks Williams.

On August 7, 1927 he was married to Miss Dovie Crawford in Wylam, Alabama. Four children were born to this devoted couple. They were Louise Williams Huff, Margaret Wilson Curtis, a missionary to Rhodesia, Jack Armand Williams, and Betty Williams Atkinson.

He joined the church at an early age and gave witness to his faith and dedication by serving effectively in numerous official positions in his local church. He was active in the Clay Church in Albertville District when God laid upon his heart and his mind a strong awareness of an enlarged area of spiritual service.

In 1959 the Albertville District granted him license to preach. From this time until the Annual Conference of 1971 he gave dedicated service as a Lay Pastor. The United Methodist Church must always be grateful for this man, and others, who work in secular employment all week and give spiritual service through pastoral leadership on weekends. When a serious

