

Yearbook and Minutes

1989

NORTH GEORGIA
CONFERENCE

OF

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Held At

Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds
Hiawassee, Georgia

June 13-16, 1989

Bishop Ernest A. Fitzgerald
Presiding

*This session is the 123rd Session of
both the Georgia conference and
the North Georgia Conference. It is the
Seventeenth session since the merger of
these two conferences.*

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PAUL WOHLGEMUTH

Rev. Paul Wohlgemuth was born Feb. 22, 1907, to Louis and Lydia Wohlgemuth in Butler County, Pennsylvania. He learned the meaning of hard work and responsibility at an early age by working on the family farm. He attended school in a one-room country school to which he later returned as a teacher. He took college courses during the summer and evenings at the University of Pittsburgh, eventually graduated from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, and was teaching high school in Leetsdale, Pennsylvania when drafted into the army. It was during this time that many friends and relatives, several of whom were ministers themselves, said, "Paul, you should be a preacher." But Paul was not ready to answer the call to the ministry at that time, and refused the idea that he would ever be a preacher.

In the summer of 1941 Paul came to Macon, Georgia on a troop train and was stationed at Camp Wheeler for basic training. It was during this training that Paul's gentle and caring attitude was assaulted by the cruelty of war and he began to question the direction his life had taken. As Paul related: "I was sitting on my foot locker, resting from bayonet training . . . from learning how to plunge a bayonet into a man or boy who had never harmed me. There I sat in bewilderment! Then the words "To thine own self be true" came to me. Was I being true to myself? Then came these words, from where I don't know, "If the world was a Christian place, you wouldn't be in this situation. If you don't like it, change it."

"What can I do? I asked.

"Be a totally committed Christian. Give Him your life." was the answer,

"But how?"

Again the answer came, "Be a minister in His church."

I couldn't believe what was happening to me. I had fought the call to the ministry for years. Yet here it was. I had no choice. I could not reject it."

Shortly after this experience, Paul met Cornelia Montgomery through friends in the Presbyterian Church he attended in Macon. She further encouraged him to join the ministry. When he was given an early release from the army because of his age, Paul began seminary in Baltimore. He began making plans to attend Candler School of Theology. However, right after Pearl Harbor, Uncle Sam called him back into the army and he put his education on hold for the next four years.

Paul and Cornelia were married Jan. 22, 1942. During the next 7 years, they had 3 daughters - (Karen W. Kregel, Elaine W. King, and Charlotte W. Matchette) - the war finally ended, and Paul could begin his ministry. He had graduated from Candler School of Theology in 1947 and began serving as Student Pastor at Redan/Rock Chapel. He received full connection in 1948 and began serving a variety of appointments: Warm Springs, Chipley, Grantville, Tenth St. of Atlanta, Peachtree Rd. UMC (Associate), Calvary UMC, and Ben Hill UMC.

It was at Ben Hill that Paul met his greatest challenge. The community was rapidly changing and as black families began to attend Ben Hill, many white families fled. Predictions were that the church would close. But through Paul's ministry and diligence, the church survived. Today Ben Hill has over 5,000 members and an average weekly worship attendance of over 2,000.

After his retirement in 1975, Paul joined St. Timothy UMC in Stone Mountain and served as an associate minister until 1979. Paul then became associated with the Pat Galloway Prison Ministries, lending support to convicts and their families.

Paul served the Conference in other ways, also. He was District Director of Youth for the LaGrange District, Certified Instructor of a number of courses for the Christian Workers Training School, and Chairman of the Conference Missions Board.

As a minister Paul gave of himself unquestioningly to the Church always trying to lead by example; always wanting to give 100% to God. Paul shared his religion, his good humor, and his optimism. He

was always ready to listen and direct his family in a kind and loving way. He was the husband, father, and grandfather everyone would love to have.

When people are asked to share a memory of Paul Wohlgemuth, it is his smile and indomitable spirit which are mentioned most often. Paul died Saturday, May 13, 1989, at Emory University Hospital after a long battle with brain cancer. To the end he never gave up planning the things he would do when he got better - forever planning a way to better serve God.

-Charlotte Matchette

MADIE JONES WOLFE

Mrs. Madie Jones Wolfe was born July 2, 1889, in Floyd County, Georgia. She was the third child of five children born to the late George and Hattie Phelps Jones. December 6, 1908, she married Reverend John Thomas Wolfe. There were nine children born to this union. Namely: Elliot G., Irwin L., Lloyd W., Waldron M., Ida M., Nellie C., Marjorie, Roy J. and Ray.

Reverend John Thomas Wolfe was a Methodist Minister of the old Georgia Conference. He and Mrs. Wolfe traveled to many appointments assigned to him as pastor. Some of the appointments were: Fairburn, Georgia; Mallileu Chapel, East Point, Georgia; Luthersville, Georgia; Oak Hill, Covington, Georgia; Grace, Covington, Georgia; East Atlanta and Newnan, Georgia. Reverend Wolfe died January 10, 1949.

Mrs. Wolfe was a devoted wife, mother and Christian. She believed in education and six of her children graduated from college. She joined Warren United Methodist Church, 1935. She was very active in Church School, served as a Communion Stewardess, member of the Ministers Wives, Woman's Society and United Methodist Women. Mrs. Wolfe always found time to visit the sick, and divided her gifts with the needy. She continued attending church until her death November 18, 1988, in Camden, New Jersey. She celebrated her 99th birthday July 12, 1988, Moorestown, New Jersey, with her daughter Nellie.

Surviving are four children: Lloyd, Ida, Nellie and Roy; two sons-in-law, Woodrow Ross and Clyde Gaylord; four daughters-in-law, Rosine Wolfe, Henrietta Wolfe, Fredricka Wolfe and Elise Wolfe; ten grandchildren; three great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and a host of relatives and friends.

She was funeralized November 26, 1988, at Warren United Methodist Church, 181 Ashby Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia. The Reverend Wimby Hale, Jr. officiated and gave the Eulogy. Other participants were: Bishop L. Scott Allen, The Reverends C. S. Stinson, A. C. Epps, and J. D. Grier, Mr. Robert Lewis, Dr. Icey Johnson, David Stills, Organist, Ushers, Communion Stewardess and Friends.

-Ida M. Ross

HARRY LEE WOOD, SR.

Born: August 24, 1907
Tate, Georgia
Family: The fifth of ten children born to John Calvin and Fannie Jenkins Wood
Married: Effie Mae Dunn, April 8, 1933
Tate, Georgia