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of

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Being also the 91st year of the organization of the Blue Ridge-Atlantic Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the 79th year of the organization of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the 141st year of the organization of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, the 4th year of the organization of the North Carolina-Virginia Annual Conference of the Central Jurisdiction, and the 1st session of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.)

Edited for the Conference by

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the work he accomplished in his ministry that stretched from the outer banks to the western foothills of the Smoky Mountains. During his nearly forty years in the ministry there were exceptionally fruitful years as measured by Conference statistics. There were other years when there was outstanding work in church-building enterprises but every year was characterized by a sincere desire to be where his Lord would lead him and do what He would have him to do.

God gives a thirst in this world and satisfies it with water. He gives us hunger and satisfies that hunger with food. He gives us a capacity to work and satisfies that capacity with making us fellow workers with Him. God gives us deep spiritual longings that are not satisfied with anything in this world, and He gives us capacities for some kind of work that cannot achieve their highest possibilities in this life. This life is an anticipation of a larger and fuller life that is to come. Kipling beautifully expressed it in his poem "L'Envoi":

"When earth's last picture is painted and the tubes are twisted and dried,
When the oldest colors have faded and the youngest critic has died,
We shall rest, and faith, we shall neet it—lie down for an aeon or two,
Till the Master of all good workmen shall put us to work anew.

"And those that are good shall be happy; they shall sit in a golden chair,
They shall splash at a ten-league canvass with brushes of comet hair;
They shall find real saints to draw from—Magdalene, Peter, and Paul,
They shall work for an age at a sitting, and never be tired at all.

"And only the Master shall praise us, and only the Master shall blame,
And no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame;
But each for the joy of working, and each, in his separate star,
Shall draw the Thing as he sees It for the God of Things as they are."

Very early in the morning of December 6, 1967, a ministering spirit, hovering over the bed of Caleb Jay Winslow and whispered, "The Master is come and calleth for thee." We fancy he answered as he had on other occasions, "Here am I."

"Let us not think of our departed dead
As caught and cumbered in their graves of earth;
But think of death as of another birth,
As a new freedom for the wings outspread,
As a new venture waiting on ahead,
As a new joy of more ethereal mirth,
As a new world with friends of nobler worth,
Where all may taste a more immortal bread."

Certainly he did not regard the evening time of life in any morose light. His "forth" look had something of the glow that St. Paul had as he contemplated the ahead.

"When I come to the end of my way,
When I rest at the close of life's day,
When 'Welcome' I shall hear Jesus say,
O that will be sunrise for me.

"When in His beauty I see the great King,
Join with the ransomed His praises to sing,
When I shall them my tribute to bring,
O that will be sunrise for me.

"When life is over and daylight is passed,
In heaven's harbor my anchor is cast,
When I see Jesus my Savior at last,
O that will be sunrise for me.

"Sunrise tomorrow, sunrise tomorrow,
Sunrise in glory is waiting for me;
Sunrise tomorrow, sunrise tomorrow,
Sunrise with Jesus through eternity."

—JOHN HOYLE, JR.

THOMAS REUBEN WOLFE

November 8, 1877 - January 10, 1968

Thomas R. Wolfe, beloved minister who served in two Annual Conferences of The Methodist Church, lived his 90 years in loving, meaningful, and fruitful service. His life was an eloquent testimony of his commitment to Jesus Christ. All his years, including those of retirement, evidenced his continuing vitality of interest in all good and worthwhile projects.

Born in Monroe, son of Sam and Elizabeth Winchester Wolfe, he was the second son of eleven children. After attending the local schools he continued studies in Weaverville College and Trinity College (Duke University).

In 1902 he united with the Western North Carolina Conference; was ordained a deacon in 1904, and became an elder in 1906. He served consecutively from 1902 to 1909 these appointments: Hot Springs Circuit, Burnsville, Weaverville Circuit, Swannanoa, Granite Falls, Winston-Salem (South Side and Salem). In 1909 he transferred to the Holston Annual Conference serving Williamson, W. Va. (1909-10); Bristol, Tenn. (1910-14); Kingsport, Tenn. (1914-15); Gate City, Va. (1915-19); LaFollette, Tenn. (1919-25); and Big Stone Gap, Va. (1925-27).

He returned to the Western North Carolina Conference in 1927, and in the next twenty years ministered on these charges: Mt. Pleasant, 1928; Madison, 1928-30; Granite Falls, 1930-32; Sylva, 1932-36; Kernersville, 1936-41; while retired, Stoneville, 1947-50.

While in Gate City, Va., he married Stella Virginia Kane on July 19, 1920. For forty years these two shared in life's joys and sorrows, and gave ample evidence of their mutual and radiant witness. To them were born three daughters: Mrs. John S. Hodges of Hickory, Mrs. John M. Cline of Greensboro, and Mrs. Dave C. Wright, Jr., also of Greensboro. His dear wife, three lovely daughters, eight grandchildren, and three brothers survive.

His death came in Morehead Memorial Hospital after a brief illness. Funeral services were conducted on January 13 in the Hodgkin Memorial Methodist Church, Stoneville (of which he was the pastor emeritus), by J. G. Winkler, R. L. Phillips, and Worth R. Clem Goforth, and burial was in the Oakwood Cemetery of Hickory.

T. R. Wolfe was a gentle man, showing this quality in his great love of nature. He was "like a tree, planted by the rivers of water." His friend, the late L. B. Hayes, said of him: "There was a natural simplicity and grandeur about him that came only to a man in happy harmony with nature. . . . He knew the proper fruit for each season and produced a good yield of harvest out of his own character and conduct."

There was a certain ruggedness in his being which supported him in life's hardships and rigors. To know him was to know he was a stalwart soul, nourished by a sturdy faith in Biblical truths. T. R. Wolfe knew how to stand, how not to be tossed about. All who knew him never doubted his sincerity and his willingness to place his life being upon his convictions.

I knew him most intimately in his rich and faithful participation at the Pleasant Camp Ground in his native Union County. In three series of services when I preached there, I found and felt his strong and warm support. He dearly loved this old camp ground and his life will continue to bless it.

Only once from 1902 to 1967 did he miss a session of his Annual Conference, and that was in 1967 when illness prevented his attendance. This denotes that quality of loyalty and faithfulness which adorned his long ministry. This good soldier of the cross was a man whose life was a white in cherished memory, with certain assurance that we have served with one of our noble ministers.

—WILSON O. WELDON