UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MISSION BIOGRAPHICAL SERIES

BISHOPS – MISSIONARIES

ID#

187
PURCELL, BISHOP CLARE
Purcell, Bishop Clare

Died - February 8, 1964.

    p.249-281.
BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Bishop Clare Purcell
1801 Sixth Ave. N., Birmingham, Alabama
Resident bishop Birmingham area of
The Methodist Church

ForSON.L1

Born: Nov. 17, 1884, Columbia, Alabama
Parents: William Henry and Mary (Callen) Purcell
Married: Ida West, Roanoke, Ala., December 28, 1910
Children: William Wood Rowe Purcell, John R. Purcell, Mrs. Alexander M. Smith II.

EDUCATION:

Vanderbilt University 1910, B.D. Vanderbilt 1916; LL.D. University of Alabama
1940; LL.D. Duke University 1943.

MINISTRY:

Licensed to preach July 6, 1906 by the Lafayette, Ala., District Conference (now
Roanoke). Joined Worth Alabama Conference at Gadsden, November 1906. Served the
following pastorates in Alabama: Wadewee, 1906-17; Madison, 1910-13; Owenton (now
McCoy Memorial) Birmingham 1913-15; Sylacauga First Church, 1915-18; Hartselle,
1919-20; Talladega, 1920-24; Tuscaloosa, 1924-27; Jasper, Ala., district 1927-31;
Gadsden First Church 1931-38. Elected bishop in 1938 and assigned to the Charlotte
Area (North Carolina); assigned to Birmingham Area June 1948. Elected president
of the Council of Bishops for 1955-56.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

Served as chaplain 131st Infantry U.S. Army with AEF 1918-19. Member General
Conferences 1930, 1934, 1938. Member Southern Commission on Interdenominational
Relations and Church Union. Member Commission on Unification representing the
U.S. Church, South. Member Council on World Service and Finance since 1940 and
President since 1948. Member Board of Education and Board of Missions, 1940-52;
Member of Board of Finance, U.S. Church, South, 1930-34; member of Board of
Trustees of Lake Junaluska Assembly since 1938 and chairman from 1938-48. Was a
member of the General Commission on Army and Navy Chaplains.

MEMBERSHIP:

Phi Delta Theta, Theta Phi (honorary). Mason, Knights of Pythias

AUTHOR:

Contributor to church periodicals

Died February 8, 1964

###
BISHOP CLARE PURCELL
DEAD AT SEVENTY-NINE

Retired Methodist Bishop Clare Purcell, Birmingham, Ala., died Feb. 8 at Carraway Methodist Hospital, Birmingham, of a heart attack. He was seventy-nine.

Bishop Purcell was a leader in the unification of three branches of Methodism to form The Methodist Church in 1939.

At one time, he was president of the Methodist Council of Bishops, and he was for several years president of the Methodist Council on World Service and Finance. He held many other offices during his career.

The funeral was Feb. 10 at Highlands Methodist Church, Birmingham. It was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Guy R. McGowan, Highlands pastor, and Methodist Bishops Nelson B. Harmon, Charlotte, N. C., and Paul Hardin, Jr., Columbia, S. C. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham.

Licensed to preach in 1908, Bishop Purcell retired fifty years later in 1958. A native of Columbia, Ala., he served several churches in Alabama. He was elected bishop in 1938 and assigned to the Charlotte Area, where he served ten years. He then went to the Birmingham Area and continued in that assignment until his retirement.

Survivors include his widow, three children, and several grandchildren.

WORLD OUTLOOK

Retired Bishop Dies

Retired Methodist Bishop Clare Purcell, 79, Birmingham, Ala., died February 8, at Carraway Methodist Hospital, Birmingham, of a heart attack.

Bishop Purcell was a leader in the unification of three branches of Methodism to form The Methodist Church in 1939.

He formerly served as president of Methodist Council of Bishops and was president several years of Methodist Council on World Service and Finance.

Bishop Purcell was elected bishop in 1938, and served the Charlotte and Birmingham Areas before retiring in 1958.

Survivors include his widow, three children, and several grandchildren.

Bishop Purcell was a leader in the unification of The Methodist Church.

At one time, he was president of the Council of Bishops, and was for several years president of the Council on World Service and Finance.

The funeral was held February 10, at Highlands Church, Birmingham.

Surviving are his widow, three children, and several grandchildren.
Badges for delegates, and officials' place cards for committee rooms, will be under leadership of Dr. J. W. Sprinkle, pastor of Kesler Park Methodist Church.

Mr. Smith will be responsible for arrangements in First Methodist Church and for hotel-type plans.

Registration of delegates will be under the guidance of the Rev. Henry Mood, pastor of First Methodist Church, Irving. Checking of credentials will also come under his leadership.

The pastor of Oak Cliff Methodist

Methodist Events

MAY
May 1-3 National Youth Week
May 3 Children's Day
May 6 Boys' Camp, Fair
May 10 Mother's Day
May 10 Evangelistic Homecoming
May 15-18 Christian Camp, West
May 16-17 TM Sunday School Convention
May 15 Baptist Sunday
May 16-17 Mission Sunday
May 18-20-21 Conference in New York
May 20 Volunteers in Denver
May 21-22 Alabama Sunday
May 21-22-23-24-25-26 North Texas Annual Conference
May 25-26-27 North Texas Annual Conference

15
CLARE PURCELL, unlike his three alumni predecessors, was not reared in a parsonage. His birthdate was November 17, 1884 and his birthplace was Columbia, Alabama, located in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Birmingham-Southern in 1916 after he had graduated from Vanderbilt University's School of Theology and had served as pastor in the North Alabama Conference. His alma mater conferred on him in 1929 the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In World War I he was a chaplain in the United States Army. He was called to higher service on February 6, 1944. He was elected bishop in the spring of 1938 at the last General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which was held in the Municipal Auditorium of Birmingham. This was a most dramatic assembly and one in which I was a participant, having been elected a lay delegate from the North Alabama Conference. Distinctly do I remember that John W. Fraser, number one clerical delegate from the Alabama-West Florida Conference, came to my seat on the opposite side of the hall and far to the rear of the assigned seats of his delegation for a consultation concerning the vote on unification. His vote was to be the very first one, because of the alphabetical arrangement of the conference delegates. After our conference he indicated that he would cast his ballot for unification. I recall that all the members of his group followed his example and voted "yes" except one clergyman. Our whole delegation from the North Alabama Conference voted in favor of unification. Particularly dramatic was the agility of Clare Purcell of our delegation in hastening to the dais to speak "in favor" after some notably eloquent speakers, mostly from Mississippi and South Carolina, had appealed for the defeat of the motion to unite. In his peroration Clare admitted that he had grown up in a strong "secession" community and that one or two of his uncles paid the supreme sacrifice for the Confederacy on the gray battlefield of Gettysburg. However the time had come for all to forget "bygones" and come together as a single group of brotherly Methodists. This stirring speech brought about his election to the episcopate on an early ballot. A very humorous aftermath was the observation of a pastor in North Alabama who said, when asked to join all of us
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the liquor traffic. He
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page 7

Christian

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BISHOP CLARE PURCELL

Clare Purcell belonged to the Lumber River Scots and fulfilled the adage of Edmund Burke: "The only deservers to be remembered who treasures up and preserves the memory of his ancestors." This story of Purcell family of this generation of Clare Purcell has been preserved by his descendants, the Sleezers, the McIntyres and the Purcells. The Purcell name can be traced to Chancellor of the University of Prance. In the 15th century, the Purcell family first appeared about 1630 A.D. According to legend, they were descendants of the Irish Chieftain, Sir Hugh Purcell who founded a family in the Lumber River in the county of Scotland and Hoke in eastern North Carolina. They were granted the Gladshow, the McIntyre and the Purcell families.

In 1891, John B. H. McCoy in 1891 at The Annual Conference met in Washington.

In 1892, J. H. Purcell was appointed to the Madison Circuit where he took his bride on January 1892. His last name is of the Madison Circuit where he took his bride on January 1892. His last name is still an open question.

The Purcell family traces its ancestry to the Purcell family who came to America from Ireland in 1700. They apparently came first to Pennsylvania and Virginia, and one to North Carolina.

William Henry Purcell, the son of William Purcell, was born in Robeson County, R. C. on March 30, 1445. He attended the University of North Carolina and left to join the Confederate Army. After the war, he returned to North Carolina. He was married at the age of 26 to six children. Clare Purcell, the youngest, was born Nov. 13, 1454.

Clare Purcell was 14 years of age when the Purcell family moved to Roanoke, Ala. There he attended Normal College where he excelled in all the academic programs. In his senior year, he had 75 average. It was at Roanoke Normal College that he met his wife, Mary Alice Cullen, daughter of Rev. Dr. Thomas Arnold Cullen. To this union were born six children. Clare Purcell was 14 years of age when the Purcell family moved to Roanoke, Ala. There he attended Normal College where he excelled in all the academic programs. In his senior year, he had 75 average. It was at Roanoke Normal College that he met his wife, Mary Alice Cullen, daughter of Rev. Dr. Thomas Arnold Cullen. To this union were born six children. Clare Purcell, the youngest, was born Nov. 13, 1454.

In 1894, he was appointed to the Madison Circuit where he took his bride on January 1892. His last name is still an open question.

In 1892, J. H. Purcell was appointed to the Madison Circuit where he took his bride on January 1892. His last name is still an open question.

BISHOP PURCELL

Clare Purcell gave himself completely to the Methodist Church that he loved so well. He knew the history of Methodism in every detail. He loved its doctrines and the doctrines obeyed his Disciples. He was a beloved Bishop to his Preachers. He never failed to do them, even in one Annual Conference.

In 1836, he was appointed to the Rockford Circuit which he served only a short time before deciding to continue his education at Vanderbilt University where he received his Bachelor of Theology degree in 1836. He was appointed to the Madison Circuit where he took his bride on January 1892.

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Ham Henry was born in Robeson County, N.C. on March 20, 1845. He attended the University of North Carolina and left it to join the Confederate Army. After the war, he and two brothers came to Alabama to take charge of a 3,000-acre plantation near Columbia, Ala., which his father had purchased before the war.

William Henry Purrell moved from his plantation to Columbia where he was engaged in the warehouse and transfer business. About 1869, he moved to Roanoke, Ala., where he was engaged in the insurance and cotton warehouse business. In 1870, he married Mary Eliza Callen, daughter of Dr. Thomas Arnold Callen. To this union were born six children. Clarence Purrell, the youngest, was born Nov. 17, 1884.

Clarence Purrell was 14 years of age when the family moved to Roanoke. They attended Roanoke Normal College where he excelled in all phases of the academic program. In his senior year, he had a 57 average. He was at Roanoke Normal College when he met Ada West, whose family had moved to Roanoke and three other children of the family might attend Roanoke Normal College. On December 28, 1906, Ida West and Clare Purrell were married in Roanoke, Ala., at the First Methodist Church.

After graduating from Roanoke Normal in 1889, he worked in the freight offices of the Central of Georgia Railroad in Roanoke, and later in Birmingham and Columbus, Ga. In 1906, he enrolled as a student at Emory — at Oxford where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta. For health reasons, he did not continue at Emory. But in that same year, he was granted a license to preach by the Lafayette District Conference. The Rev. Robert W. Anderson was the presiding elder.

In November, 1906, he was admitted to the North Alabama Conference on trial at its session in Gadsden and was appointed to the Wedowee Circuit, which he served only one year. He was ordained a Deacon College, which degree was awarded to him in June of 1910. He had already completed work on his BD degree at Vanderbilt University and that degree was awarded to him also in June of 1910, after he received his AB degree.

He remained at Owenton until 1915 when he was moved to Sylacauga First Church where he served with great distinction until late in 1918 when he entered the service of his Country as an Army Chaplain. He served with the 11th Infantry and spent the winter of 1918 with the Army of Occupation in Luxembourg. Returning from his tour of duty with the Army, he served the First Methodist Church of Hartselle for 18 months. At the Annual Conference of 1920, he was assigned to the First Methodist Church of Taladega where he did a monumental work which included the building of a beautiful and serviceable church plant.

In 1924, he was transferred to Tuscaloosa where he remained until 1927 when he was assigned to the Jasper District as Presiding Elder. After 4 years in this capacity, he was assigned to the First Methodist Church of Gadsden where he served for almost seven years, 1931-1938. He was greatly beloved as Pastor and Preacher. On May 5, 1935, with the endorsement of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in session at the Municipal Auditorium in Birmingham, Ala., he was elected to the Episcopacy and consecrated a Bishop on May 4. The records revealed that he was elected by the largest margin ever given one in the Methodist Episcopal Church South. He had worked on the Commission on Union of the Methodist Church South. His speech before the General Conference of 1938 made a profound impression on the Conference and was creditable with having far-reaching influence.

His work in Gadsden had been of outstanding caliber that the entire city joined in appropriate ceremonies to honor a beloved Pastor. His work had been elevated to higher realms of recognition and he was invited to lecture to the Board of Trustees of Birmingham-Southern College. It was attended by more than 2,000 people from all walks of life. This testimonial gave occasion to many to pay tribute to one who has devoted to one who has devoted his life to serve the Church and the Church's best interests. Brotherly but firm, courteous but courageous, scholarly but unpretentious, with a knowledge of Methodist law and Discipline unsurpassed in present day Methodist, he has so won the respect, the confidence, the admiration, the abiding affection of his brethren, lay and clerical, that his decisions are accepted without question by A.District Superintendent who served under him said, "So far as (Continued on page 16)
Obituaries

The Advocate prints obituaries of 250 words or less free of charge. We are
compelled to make a charge of five cents per word for all additional words.

Initials and dates are waived. We cannot accept obituaries written in
pencil.

Rev. W. H. Saxon, Sr.

William Herbert Saxon, Sr. expired his heavenly translation on February 11, 1964.

For some 44 years he had been a faithful and dedicated minister of Jesus Christ in the Methodist
Church. He began his ministry in the Tennessee Conference, served
some 10 years in the Memphis
Conference, and then transferred to the
North Alabama Conference, from
which he retired in 1938.

Brother Saxon was a man well
prepared for his life's work. He
held earned degrees from Louisiana State University and Vanderbilt. Athens College conferred on him an
honorary Doctor of Divinity in lieu
of his effectiveness as a preacher of the
gospel of Christ.

No one ever had a better help
teach than Doctor Saxon. His
loyal and faithful wife, Mrs. Lena K.
Saxon, was always at his side as a
constant source of strength and help.

Two sons, Ben and Bill
made a heritage of culture and
spiritual idealism that none can
forget.

Dr. Saxon was first and always a
minister of the Gospel. He was a
reverent par excellence; a true
evangelist with a true heart, who
loved the lost; a good shepherd who
knew his flock and was known by
them. Wherever he was sent he en-
rolled in diligent labors, strengthen-
ing the church, adding to the mem-
bership, visiting the sick and
widowed, witnessing to the lost,
and praying aloud, that in the Holy
Spirit might gain entrance into
every heart. Needless to say his
ministry was greatly blessed, and
he was loved and held in high esteem
by all his parishioners.

Upon retirement Dr. and Mrs.
Saxon chose to make their home in
Talladega, and became affiliated with First Church. Almost im-
mediately he was elected treasurer of the
Kentucky Conference where his gracious
turns, scholarly mind and Godly spirit soon endeared him to all those who
knew him. His prayerful presence
was always a source of strength and
courage to the Pastor. He was
always the Pastor's closest friend
and closest helper. For a few years the
Saxon served as an interim pastor at
Grace Presbyterian Church. He en-
tered into this his last endeavor wholeheartedly and gave it his best

BISHOP PURCELL

(Continued from page 15)

I was concerned, he was "Mr. Meth-
odist." He was a Bishop—be
was made for the Episcopacy."

He possessed an unusual ability for
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measured, deliberate performance in
the business of the Church and her
many Conferences. He had a peculiar
gift of insight into the abilities
and personalities of men as well as
curches. Patience was one of his
great virtues. Few were the times
when his remarks were too much of
his rugged gift failed him. Through long and often weary-
ring sessions of Cabinet and Confer-
ence meetings, his noise and his

known by his friends, was a truly
dedicated servant of the Lord. He
was the most humble and sincere
person I ever knew. He sought to
see the good and the beautiful in
everyone and in every situation.
He loved every one and was in turn
loved by every one. Those of us
who are the closest to him are agreed
that there was no more deeply
dedicated minister in our conference.

Brother Saxon was stricken with a
heart attack while visiting his oldest
son in Talladega, Alabama. While the
hospital his condition was pronoun-
ced critical by the Doctors attending
him. His recovery, however, was so
quick that within a very few days
he was up and walking about the
hospital contemplating a joyful return
to his son's home. He was stricken
with a heart attack while visiting his
oldest son in Talladega, Alabama.

He was stilled by the inevitable
courage and confidence. Talking
freely concerning death, he sug-
gested arrangements relative to his
funeral service and other matters.
He assured those at his bedside, in-
cluding his pastor, that it was not
likely to take place at all. With as
much confidence of life as if he had not
been about to start on a short journey,
he moved a fuel of farewell and slipped away to be with the Lord.

Funeral services were held from
the First Methodist Church in Elba,
along with an overflow crowd of 2,000,
which included representatives
from all the conferences of the
South. The remains of Brother Tubb
were laid to rest in the beautiful Evergreen Cemetery in Elba, Alabama, at a
service in the Father's House, where
there will be no more death, neither
sorrow nor crying, neither shall there
be any more pain. He has gone to claim his inheritance which is incorruptible
and unfading and that fadeth not away.

Rev. Ford W. W. Tubb

Lord Washington Tubb, son of
William Westra and Ada Tula
Carter, was born January 5, 1900, at
Brant, Perry County, Alab-
am, and was the oldest in the family of five sons in Farms Church,Victoria,
October 4, 1963.

Brother Tubb was married on
November 1, 1931, at Elba, Alabama,
to Frances Evelyn Bryan, daughter of
Raymond Victor Bryan and Mary Evelyn Ruder Bryan. To this union was
born two sons; Lord Bryan Tubb, now
living in Arlington, Vir-
ginia, and William Curtis Tubb, now
living in Daytona Beach, Florida.
In addition to his wife and two sons
he is survived by a grandson, Lord
Bryan Tubb.

He attended the public schools in
Perry County, Alabama, and
was graduated from Chocowinity
High School at Butler, Alabama, in
1923. He studied at Presbyterian
South in College, where he received
his AB degree in 1926; and

Brother Tubb was admitted on
trial by the Alabama Conference of
The Methodist Church, South, in
1927. He was ordained Deacon at the Conference of 1931. He received his
牌照 as deacon in 1931. He was
admitted into full connection at
the conference held in Detroit,
1933, Lord, as he was affectionately

-T. P. C.

again next morning. The tomb
is not a blighted alley; it is a through-
fare. It closes on the twilight; it
opens on the dawn. The funeral service for the Church was to be lead by a Re-Commissioned
Elder, Rev. Ford W. W. Tubb, who
had been commissioned as a Missionary to the Annual Conference at New
York. This glad service was held at the
Center Point Methodist Church.
With Bishop Alfred, Jr., and Rev. Harold Spradley, is the Past-
tor's Church.

On Monday, February 2, 1964, he
attended the funeral of the Rev.
Alfred, Jr., at the Norwood United Methodist Church. On Friday eve-

William Nathaniel Caldwell

William Caldwell was the only
child of Mr. and Mrs. Geo.
Caldwell. He was born November 22, 1926, in Mountville, Ala. No
time was he the pet of his home, but the pet of many friends. William
was the joy of his old grandpa, who made his home with them. He
was given tender care and careful
training. He was wise and good natured, brought up to respect other
people's rights, and was loved by his
playmates. He was faithful to
attend Sunday School, and grew up
to love the church. He attended school in Mountville until he was
10 years of age, when after the death
of his father and his grandfather, hap-
ening within less than a year apart,
he moved to Greensboro with his
mother. He attended school in
Greensboro, graduating from High
School in the class of 1944. He at-
tended the University of Alabama,
graduating with B. S. degree in 1950,
majors in geology. His work carried
him into different localities. While superintending a building in Delta, Utah, he suffered a heart
attack and quickly passed into eternity October 24, 1963. His dece-
ey was notified by phone; his aunt,
Mrs. J. H. Scales, went as quickly as possible to carry to him, to find he had gone home to
Eden. She arranged all business
tails, and his body was brought
home. Funeral services were con-
ducted in his home by his father,
Rev. Edmund O. Bradley of the
Methodist Church, and his body was
sent to rest in Oak Hill Cemetery, October 27, 1964, to await the Resurrection
Day, when Christ shall come again,
and call His own.

William never forgot the careful
kindness of the good people in his
Home to his mother was beautiful. She
has sweet memories to treasure
through the years, till she can join
her son again, where partings are
no more. A truly noble son, a noble
man has gone to his reward. By his
kind understanding, he made friends of the men working with
him, who spoke words of sympathy for his mother, and sorrow for their
loss.

"Seeing William grow through childhood, youth, into manhood, a
love of life, of friends, of nature,
for his having lived in it. This
was carpe diem, and to each day
there is true—it is true to God, to Mother, to my
fellow man and true to myself!"

One of his last words to his
\textbf{PITTSBURGH REPORT (Continued from page 6)}

The End of the World

in the Household of God. And the
deadly shadows lift.

And the weary soul is

and "Lifelong Friend."

such proofs of love divine, had I a
thousand hearts to give, Lord, they
should all be thine.

In addition to this hymn so ap-
propriate for that hour, there
were also the words of Grace Goodhue
Cooledge — words loved by Bishop
Sweeting and often used and

"Her son are forever our sons:
God hath not taken back his gift;
They have given us increased joy.
Not a soul shall fail them now.
When the waiting is ended,
And the deadly shadows lift.
And the weary soul is

And the weary soul is

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BISHOP PURCELL
(Continued from page 15)
I was concerned, he was "Mr. Methodist. He was a BISHOP — he was made for the Episcopal Church." He possessed an unusual ability for gracefull firmness — for steady, measured, deliberate dispatch in the business of the Church and many Conferences. He had a peculiar gift of insight into the abilities and personalities of men as well as churches. Patience was one of his great virtues. Few were the times when this remarkable gift failed him. Through long and often wearying sessions of Cabinet and Conference, meetings, his pace and his gracious patience were always in evidence. His keen sense of humor often relieved the tension in such situations. Time was never too short nor the hour too late to give full and complete attention to every pastoral appointment.

His knowledge of the Church and her history was full and complete. The Methodist Church was his life, his whole life and he made it his business to know all of her business. He was the epitome of the Christian Ministry. He looked the part, he acted the part, he spoke the part. He was his very carriage and dress and demeanor revealed the warm Christian spirit that resided in his body. His personality radiated a genuine, dedicated spirit that served God and Man so well for almost 80 years.

He attended the public schools in Perry County, Alabama, and was graduated from Chocowin County High School at Butler, Alabama, in 1823. He studied at Birmingham-Southern College, where he received his B.A. degree in 1959. He was ordained Deacon at the Conference of 1911. He received his Elder's Orders and was admitted into full connection at the conference held in Dothan, Alabama, in 1953.

Loyal, as he was affectionately flled and loved not away.
—Thomas S. Harris

PITTSBURGH REPORT
(Continued from page 8)
costs for ministers.
A note of levity was introduced by Bishop Gerald Kennedy in his comments on the new hymnal, which he regards most highly. Observing that there are more "gospel" hymns in the new volume, he noted that some offerings were rejected, one of which was entitled, "I want to be a Jesus cowboy in the Holy Ghost corral."

—T. C.
again next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It cloaks on the twilight; it opens on the dawn."

His last formal service for the Church was to lead a Re-Commissioning Service for Frank and Joyce Alford who had been commissioned as Missionaries at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Missions. This glad service was held at the Center: Point Methodist Church where Mrs. Alford's father, the Rev. Harold Spradley, is the Pastor. On Monday, February 2, 1964, he attended the funeral of the Rev. Daniel E. Draper at the Norwood Methodist Church. On Friday evening, he was struck and carried to Carraway Hospital, Purcell, where he expired on Saturday, February 6, at 4 p.m.

Funeral services were held at Highlands Methodist Church where Mrs. Purcell holds her Church Membership. Officiating at the service were Dr. Guy McCowan, Pastor of Highlands Methodist Church.

His mortal remains were deposited at the grave of "Florwood Cemetery" among the beauties of the Silvertown City but his soul ranges with the best in the eternal City of God where the Father waits to welcome the children home. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." —Alfred D. Montgomery

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BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
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IN MEMORIAM
MRS. CLARE PURCELL

Honorary pallbearers were the
ministers of the North Alabama Con-
fERENCE and the Alabama-West Florida
Conference.

Mrs. Purcell was the former Ida
Barnes West, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.
Robert Toombs West, of Wedowee,
Alabama. She was married to the Rev.
Clare Purcell in 1910 and for the next
twenty-eight years contributed signifi-
cantly to the life and work of churches
in the North Alabama Conference, until
Dr. Purcell was elected to the Method-
ist episcopacy in 1938, and assigned to
the Charlotte Area.

After ten years in the leadership
of Western North Carolina Methodism,
Bishop and Mrs. Purcell returned to
North Alabama in 1948, when he was
named resident bishop of the Birming-
ham Area. Bishop and Mrs. Purcell
continued to make their home in Birming-
ham following his retirement from the
active episcopacy in 1956. From 1948
Mrs. Purcell was a member of the
Highlands Methodist Church of Birming-
ham.

Mrs. Purcell is survived by two sons,
Col. W. W. Purcell, Augusta, Georgia,
and Mr. John R. Purcell, Tuscaloosa;
a daughter, Mrs. A. M. Smith (Ida
Claire), of Elgin, South Carolina; five
sisters, Mrs. John R. Taylor, Mrs. John
H. Hornsby, Mrs. H. Blount Braswell,
and Mrs. Hugh Darden, all of West
Point, Georgia, and Mrs. Isaac And-
rews, of Spartanburg, South Carolina;
two brothers, Mr. Rufus West, of
Gainesville, Florida and Dr. Hugh West,
of Deland, Florida; ten grandchildren
and two great-grandchildren.

In his message at the funeral service
Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson paid tribu-
tue to Mrs. Purcell's contribution to
the ministry of Bishop Clare Purcell
and her service to Christ and The
Methodist Church. In the tribute Bishop
Goodson represented the Western North
Carolina Conference, in which he had
served under Bishop Purcell, 1936-48;
the Council of Bishops of The Method-
ist Church, of which Bishop Purcell
was president, 1955-56; the North Ala-
bama Conference, which Bishop Purcell
joined in 1936 and from which he was
elected to the episcopacy, and over which
he presided, 1948-56, and the Alabama-
west Florida Conference, of which
Bishop Purcell was also president during
1948-56.

The North Alabama Conference, the
Birmingham Area and all The Method-
ist Church are richly and enduringly
blessed in the works, the witness and
the abiding influence of Bishop and Mrs.
Clare Purcell.
not upon any mountain, more powerful than
any sign from heaven.

So that forever since, in the minds of men,
By some true instinct has this life survived,
Preeminent in one thing most of all.-The Cross of Christ is more to
us than all His miracles.

See it finally in Its luminous appeal.
How do we explain the melancholy at-
traction of Jesus, the strange, abiding
persistency of the Cross? "If I be lifted
up I will draw all men unto me." How
could He ever say that or even think It?
It is against all human logic: that a cross
should ever be the symbol of faith, that
the spectacle of one murdered as a crim-
inal should become the focal point of wor-
ship; that two thousand years after the
event men and women of reasonable in-
telligence should sing:

In the Cross of Christ's glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time,

For those who still seek a sign from
heaven, here is one, more divine than any
miracle.-The magnetism for Christ, the
luminous appeal for cross, the hold
of Christ on the human heart.

To be sure, there are not a few who
regrettfully believe that it was wasted
suffering, that it's a helpless force again-
the might of power, that it can win no
victories except moral victories; that the
saints of the world, as Francois Malrieu
lamented, can expect no other fate and

The Selma District METHODIST YOUTH
FELLOWSHIP held a council meeting on
February 4-10 P.M. at the First
Methodist Church in Prattville. Plans
were made for the Spring Rally; and the
work done by the sub-districts on the
district project was reviewed.

The council includes the district
and sub-district officers, but any interest-
ed M.Y.F. member is welcome to attend.
The district president, Lee Martin, urges
all who possibly can, attend the
District M.Y.F. council meetings regular-
ly.

DR. ALBERT L. BRANSCOMB was the
after-dinner speaker recently at the
annual Leaders' Night. Banquet of
the Civilian Club at Oneonta. Mrs.
Branscomb was a guest at the banquet
also. Dr. Branscomb served as pastor
of the Leader Memorial Methodist