

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MISSION BIOGRAPHICAL SERIES

BISHOPS – MISSIONARIES

ID#

187

PURCELL, BISHOP CLARE

Purcell, Bishop Clare

Died - February 8, 1964.

Obituary - Southeastern Juris. Conf. Journal, 1964.
p.249-251.



Commission on Public Relations
and Methodist Information

RALPH STOODY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
180 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 11, N. Y.
OREGON 5-7238—WATKINS 9-7542

NEW YORK • CHICAGO • NASHVILLE

THE GENERAL NEWS SERVICE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

From
O. B. FANNING, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Box 871—PHONE 7-6400
1001 19TH AVE. S., NASHVILLE, TENN.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

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

PERSONAL:

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:

A.B. Birmingham Southern College 1916, D.D. 1929. Diploma in Theology from
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 North Alabama Conference at Gadsden, November 1906. Served the
following pastorates in Alabama: Wedowee, 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 SERVICE:

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
M.E. 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, M.E. 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.

MEMBER:

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

AUTHOR:

Contributor to church periodicals

Died February 8, 1964

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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 B. McGowan, Highlands pastor, and Methodist Bishops Nolan B. Harmon, Charlotte, N. C., and Paul Hardin, Jr., Columbia, S. C. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham.

Licensed to preach in 1906, Bishop Purcell retired fifty years later in 1956. 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 Caraway 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 1956.

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

MAY, 1964 Vol. 8, No. 5
TOGETHER is an official organ of The Methodist Church, issued monthly by The Methodist Publishing House, 201 Eighth Avenue South, Nashville, Tenn 37203 Publisher, Lovick Pierce

Subscription \$5 a year, in advance.
Single copy 50 cents.

Group subscriptions for Methodist churches through TOGETHER FAMILY PLAN (percentages based upon full church membership recorded in Conference Minutes):

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| | Subscription Rate | Quarterly @ | |
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| Thirty percent | \$2.52 | 63¢ each | |

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Together / May 1964

L. W. Allen

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

16 (160)

*Clare Purcell
Feb 8, 1964*

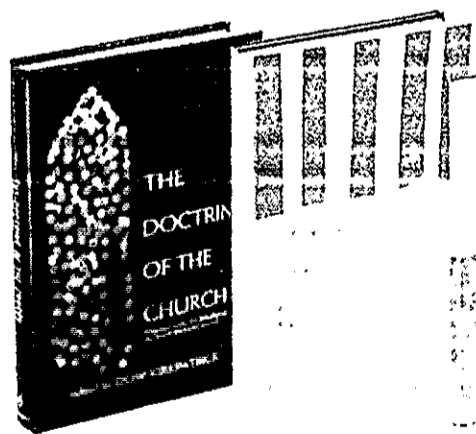
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At one time, he was president of the Council of Bishops, and was for several years president of the Council on World Service and Finance.

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

Surviving are his widow, three children, and several grandchildren.

THE METHODIST READER



APRIL 1964

Church, Dallas.

Badges for delegates, and officials' place cards for committee rooms, will be under leadership of Dr. J. W. Sprinkle, pastor of Kessler Park Methodist Church.

Mr. Smith will be responsible for arrangements in First Methodist Church and for hotel typists.

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

... have been associated together in various organizations: the Harvard Workshop for Presidents, and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

(159) 15

Methodist Events

MAY

- May 1-8—National Family Week
- May 3—Children's Day
- May 3—Rural Life Day
- May 10—Mother's Day
- May 10—Rejuvenation Home Outings
- May 10-17—Christian Family Week (hosted by the Christian Home)
- May 11-12—TM Student Meeting, Dallas
- May 15—Pentecost Sunday
- May 15—Ministry Sunday
- May 18—Southwest Texas Annual Conference begins in San Antonio
- May 22—Aldersgate Sunday
- May 25-29—Northwest Texas Annual Conference
- May 26-30—North Texas Annual Conference begins in Dallas

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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 8, 1964.

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. Frazer, 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 noisily 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 gory battlefield of Gettysburg. However the time had come for all to forget "by-gones" and come together as a single group of brotherly Methodists. This stirring speech brought about his election to the bishopric 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

in the North Alabama delegation in buying a wrist watch to be presented to fellow delegate Purcell at a special breakfast a day or two later: "What! Give Clare a watch! He should give each of us a watch for electing him bishop!"

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(Formerly The Alabama Christian Advocate)
Printed and Mailed by

Sand Mountain Publishing Co., Albertville, Ala., 35950

Second Class Postage paid at Albertville, Alabama 35950 (Originally
entered at Birmingham). Published weekly--except 1st Tue. in Jan., June
and Aug., 2nd and 3rd Tues. in Aug., last Tue. in Dec. (46 Issues per
year) by the Methodist Christian Advocate

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Obituaries

The Advocate prints obituaries of 200 words or less free of charge. We are compelled to make a charge of two cents per word for each additional word. Omit initials and dates as words. We cannot accept obituaries written in poetry.

BISHOP CLARE PURCELL

Clare Purcell belonged to the Lumber River Scots and fulfilled well the admonition of Edmund Burke, "He only deserves to be remembered who treasures up and preserves the history of his ancestors." This history Clare Purcell knew and treasured. The Lumber River Scots were those families which settled in the basin of the Lumber River in the counties of Scotland and Hoke in eastern North Carolina. Included in this larger family were the McLeans, the Torneys, the Gilchris, the McIntyres and the Purcells.

The Purcell name can be traced to Charlemagne, King of France. In Normandy, the Purcell name first appeared about 1035 A.D. According to family tradition, one Hugh Purcell was the first to land when William the Conqueror invaded England. This Hugh Purcell is believed to have been the grandson of Charlemagne. Sir Hugh Purcell founded a baronial family upon the lands he received as a grant from William the Conqueror. Later, the Purcell took part in the invasion and settlement of Ireland. In the annals of the Irish, the Purcell family ranks high in various lines of human endeavor. The family, though originally Scots, has generally considered itself to be Irish.

Clare Purcell traced his ancestry to Malcolm Purcell who came to America from Ireland at 1750. He apparently came first to Pennsylvania then to Virginia and on to North Carolina at 1765.

William Henry Purcell, Clare Purcell's father, was the great-grandson of Malcolm Purcell. William 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 Purcell moved from his plantation to Columbia where he was engaged in the warehouse and transfer business. About 1868, he moved to Roanoke, Ala., where he was engaged in the life insurance and cotton warehouse business. In 1870, he had married Mary Eliza Callen, daughter of Dr. Thomas Arnold Callen. To this union was born six children. Clare Purcell, the youngest, was born Nov. 17, 1884.

Clare Purcell was 14 years of age when the family moved to Roanoke, Ala. There he attended Roanoke Normal College where he excelled in all phases of the academic program. In his sophomore year, he had a 97 average. It was at Roanoke Normal College that he met Ida West whose family had moved to Roanoke that she and other children of the family might attend Roanoke Normal College. On December 28, 1910, Ida West and Clare Purcell were married in Roanoke, Ala., at

responsibility. He was assigned to the Charlotte area where for 10 years he led Carolina Methodism to great heights. During his tenure there, he presided over the Western North Carolina Conference, 1938-47; the North Carolina Conference, 1940-43; the South Carolina Conference, 1938-39; 1944-47 and the Upper South Carolina Conference, 1938-39; 1944-47. It was under his leadership that the two South Carolina Conferences became united into one Annual Conference.

After 10 years on the Charlotte Area, he was assigned to the Birmingham Area in 1948 and served until his retirement in 1956. After his retirement, he and Mrs. Purcell continued to live in Birmingham where their gracious presence blessed all they touched. Bishop Purcell's counsel continued to be sought by many, including his successors in the Episcopal Chair.

During his retirement, he rendered an indispensable service as he faithfully labored to help build a better Carraway Methodist Hospital, serving in the capacity of President of the Board of Directors. A new wing of the hospital was named in his honor, the Purcell Wing.

In retirement, he continued his usefulness in many areas, particularly in the area of dedicating church properties, the last of which was an Educational Building which he dedicated at Hayden, Ala., Sept. 22, 1963. It was his 379th such dedication as a Bishop.

Not long after arriving in Charlotte to preside over the affairs of the Charlotte Area, Dr. L. B. Abernathy, a member of the Western North Carolina Conference, said to Bishop Purcell, "Bishop, we have everything in North Carolina Methodism except a Home for the Aging." With that conversation, initial steps were taken that led to the building of The Methodist Home, a home for the aging in Charlotte. When he returned to Alabama to lead his home Conference, he inspired the building of another home for the aging in Birmingham-Fair Haven.

As the resident Bishop of the Charlotte Area, he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Lake Junaluska. During these years, he led a program that helped free Junaluska from debt and launched this fine assembly on another era of great service to Methodism.

Bishop Purcell made notable contributions to the general Church in his years of service on the general Commission on World Service and Finance. He served 10 years as the Vice President of that Commission and eight years as President. One of the major efforts of his life was put into the work of the Survey Commission which was named by the General Conference of 1948 and reported to the General Conference of 1952. He served as Vice Chairman with Bishop J. Ralph Magee as Chairman. This Commission surveyed and studied in detail the entire structure and organization of The Methodist Church. Out of this extensive study came the present Coordinating Council.

In the Summer of 1953, Bishop and Mrs. Purcell made an Episcopal Visitation to Europe, during which time they visited the major centers of Methodist work.



BISHOP PURCELL

who spoke were Dr. J. D. Hunter, life-long friend, Bishop Arthur Moore and Senator John Sparkman.

Clare Purcell gave himself completely to the Methodist Church and he had much to give. He knew the history of Methodism in every detail. He loved her doctrines and always obeyed her Discipline. He was a beloved Shepherd to his Preachers. He made it his business to know them well. He always handled their names with reverence and admonished his District Superintendents to do likewise.

He brought to the ministry a trained mind that matched his dedicated spirit. He carried within him a sense of the important as well as a response to the urgent. His words were never idle. They were always weighed and were always to the point. His preaching material was always carefully prepared and delivered with precision. One of his finest pulpit utterances came in 1946 while he was serving as President of the College of Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and Bishop of the Charlotte, N. C. Area. He was invited to deliver the sermon for the first broadcast of The Methodist Hour. He chose for his subject, "The Church That Is To Be." Here he gave a picture of the Church that he believed would be useful to Christ: "Reverential of the historic past, free from the fetters of tradition, transcendent above all divisive barriers, spacious like a great cathedral, offering sanctuary to all men of the Christ spirit, ecumenical in compassion, affirmative in message, passionately evangelical and secure in the hope of eternal life. The gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

In addition to the earned degrees of A. B. from Birmingham-Southern and B. D. from Vanderbilt, he received the following honorary degrees: D. D., Birmingham-Southern, 1929; Doctor of Laws, University of Alabama, 1940; Doctor of Literature, Athens College, 1954; Doctor of Divinity, Emory University, 1957.

He was a Mason and a Shriner, a member of Knights of Pythias.

Dr. M. E. Lazenby who, at the insistence of and with the help of Bishop Purcell, wrote the History of Methodism in Alabama and West Florida, used Clare Purcell as the subject of his last editorial utter-

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After graduating from Roanoke Normal in 1903, he worked in the freight offices of the Central of Georgia Railroad, first 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 Dea-

ham College, which degree was awarded to him in June of 1916. He had already completed work on his BD degree at Vanderbilt University and that degree was awarded to him also in June of 1916, 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 131st 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 Talladega 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 for almost seven years, 1931-1938, he was greatly beloved as Pastor and Preacher. On May 3, 1938, with 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, 1938. 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 credited with having far-reaching influence.

His work in Gadsden had been of such outstanding caliber that the entire city joined in appropriate ceremonies to honor a beloved Pastor and city leader who had been elevated to higher realms of re-

lead his home Conference, he inspired the building of another home for the aging in Birmingham-Fair Haven.

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In the Summer of 1953, Bishop and Mrs. Purcell made an Episcopal Visitation to Europe, during which time they visited the major centers of Methodist work.

In 1954, Bishop Purcell was made an honorary citizen of Korea by President Syngman Rhee for his work in the relief campaign for Korean war refugees.

In April, 1955, with the Council of Bishops meeting in Seattle, Washington, Clare Purcell received the highest honor that can come to a Methodist. He was elected President of the Council of Bishops. On June 27th, Alabama Methodists and many beyond the State recognized this great honor with a Service of Recognition held on the campus 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 altogether worthy to occupy this highest post our church can offer. Among those

ident of the College of Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and Bishop of the Charlotte, N. C. Area. He was invited to deliver the sermon for the first broadcast of The Methodist Hour. He chose for his subject, "The Church That Is To Be." Here he gave a picture of the Church that he believed would be useful to Christ: "Reverential of the historic past, free from the fetters of tradition, transcendent above all divisive barriers, spacious like a great cathedral, offering sanctuary to all men of the Christ spirit, ecumenical in compassion, affirmative in message, passionately evangelical and secure in the hope of eternal life. 'The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'"

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Dr. M. E. Lazenby who, at the insistence of and with the help of Bishop Purcell, wrote the History of Methodism in Alabama and West Florida, used Clare Purcell as the subject of his last editorial utterance prior to his retiring as the editor of the Alabama Christian Advocate. He said of him: "For 46 years we have served under the leadership of Methodist Bishops. We have never known one who, we believe, has tried more conscientiously 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 Methodism, 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 questioning."

A District Superintendent who served under him said, "So far as
(Continued on page 16)

Obituaries

The Advocate prints obituaries of 200 words or less free of charge. We are compelled to make a charge of two cents per word for each additional word. Count initials and dates as words. We cannot accept obituaries written in poetry.

Rev. W. H. Saxon, Sr.

William Herbert Saxon, Sr., experienced 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 1958.

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 meet than Doctor Saxon. His devoted and faithful wife, Mrs. Lena E. Saxon, was always at his side as a constant source of inspiration and help. His two sons, Ben and Bill share in a heritage of culture and spiritual idealism that none can pass.

Dr. Saxon was first and always a minister of the Gospel. He was a preacher par excellence; a true evangelist with a passion for winning the lost; a good shepherd who knew his flock and was known by them. Wherever he was sent he engaged in diligent labors, strengthening the church, adding to the membership, visiting the sick and the lonely, counselling the confused and bewildered, witnessing to the lost, and praying always that 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 parishoners.

Upon retirement Dr. and Mrs. Saxon chose to make their home in Talladega, and became affiliated with First Church. Almost immediately he was elected teacher of the Kate Clardy Class where his gracious manners, scholarly mind and godly spirit soon endeared him to every member. His prayerful presence was always a source of joy and encouragement to the Pastor. He was always the Pastor's closest friend and helper. For a few months Dr. Saxon served as an interim pastor of Claiborne Purcell Church. He entered into this his last endeavor wholeheartedly and gave it his best

BISHOP PURCELL

(Continued from page 15)

I was concerned, he was "Mr. Methodist. He was made a Bishop — he was made for the Episcopacy."

He possessed an unusual ability for graceful firmness — for steady, measured, deliberate dispatch 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 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 noise and his

efforts. In the brief time he served he endeared himself in an unforgettable way to the membership of the little church.

The last rites for Dr. Saxon were conducted in the First Methodist Church of Talladega on February 14 with the pastor in charge, D. P. Doyle, assisted by Dr. T. A. Edgar and Dr. P. D. Wilson. Interment was in beautiful Pine Hill cemetery near Talladega.

We do not feel that Dr. Saxon has left us. He is in but another room of the Father's House. We confidently expect to see him again when the shadows flee and the "morning breaks eternal bright and fair."

Rev. D. P. Doyle

C. C. Gaunt

H. H. Thornton

—Committee

First Methodist Church
Talladega, Alabama

Rev. Loyd Washington Tubb

Loyd Washington Tubb, son of William Wesley and Ada Estelle Carter Tubb, was born January 5, 1900, at Brent, Perry County, Alabama, and died while visiting his oldest son in Falls Church, Virginia, 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; Loyd Bryan Tubb, now living in Arlington, Virginia, and William Curtis Tubb, now living in Daytona Beach, Florida. In addition to his wife and two sons he is survived by a grandson, Loyd Bryan Tubb, Jr.

He attended the public schools in Perry County, Alabama, and was graduated from Choctaw County High School at Butler, Alabama, in 1923. He studied at Birmingham-Southern College, where he received his AB degree in 1930.

Brother Tubb was admitted on trial by the Alabama Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1927. He was ordained Deacon at the Conference of 1931. He received his Elders Orders and was admitted into full connection at the conference held in Dothan, Alabama, in 1933.

Loyd, as he was affectionately years.

His going has taken from the scene one of the giants against the sky. His years spanned the Church's greatest age and the imprint of his hand and his day are indelibly stamped upon this Church which he loved so well. The Methodist Church is his monument. Her success is his epitaph.

On June 29, 1960 Bishop Purcell delivered the address at the Memorial Service of the North Carolina Annual Conference. The title of his address was A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE LIFE. He concluded that address with some words he had long revered:

"Think of standing on a plain and

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 everything and in every situation. He loved every one and was in turn loved by every one. Those of us who knew him best were agreed that there was no more deeply dedicated minister in our conference.

Brother Tubb was stricken with a heart attack while visiting his oldest son in Arlington, Virginia. At the hospital his condition was pronounced critical by the Doctors attending him. His recovery, however, was so rapid that within a very few days he was up walking about the hospital contemplating a joyous return to his son's home. He was stricken a second time with a condition which had little or no connection with his first attack. A hurried examination revealed the fatal seriousness of his condition. The Doctors advised him and his loved ones that the end could not possibly be far away, hours at best. Brother Tubb faced the inevitable with courage and confidence. Talking freely concerning death, he suggested arrangements relative to his funeral service and other matters. He assured those at his bed side, including the Doctors, that it was not bad to die, not at all. Then with as much ease as if he had been leaving for a short journey, he waved a fond farewell and slipped away to be with God.

Funeral services were held from the First Methodist Church in Elba, Alabama, with his District Superintendent, Dr. E. L. Hardin, in charge. Others participating in the service were the Rev. David Carter, Dr. W. B. Atkinson, the Rev. H. P. Childs and the writer. The mortal remains of Brother Tubb were laid to rest in the beautiful Evergreen Cemetery in Elba, Alabama, but he lives on 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 undecayed and that fadeth not away.

—Thomas S. Harris

PITTSBURGH REPORT

(Continued from page 6)

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—(T. P. C.)

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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 3, 1964, he attended the funeral of the Rev. Daniel E. Draper at the Norwood Methodist Church. On Friday eve-

William Nathaniel Caldwell

William Caldwell was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Gewin Caldwell. He was born November 22, 1926, in Moundville, Ala. Not only was he the pet of his home, but the pet of many friends. William was the joy of his old grandfather, who made his home with them. He was given tender care and careful training by a wise and good mother; brought up to respect other people's rights, and was loved by his little playmates. He was faithful to attend Sunday School, and grew up to love the church. He attended school in Moundville until he was ten years of age, when after the deaths of his father and grandfather, happening 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 attended the University of Alabama, graduating with B. S. degree in 1950, majoring in geology. His work carried him into different localities. While superintending a building job in Delta, Utah, he suffered a heart attack and quickly passed into eternity October 24, 1963. His mother was notified by phone; his aunt, Mrs. J. H. Seale, went as quickly as plane and car could carry her to him, to find he had gone home to God. She arranged all business details, and his body was brought home. Funeral services were conducted in his home by his pastor, Rev. Edmund O. Bradley of the Methodist Church, and his body was carried to Moundville and laid to rest in Oak Hill Cemetery, October 27, 1963, to await the Resurrection Day, when Christ shall come again, and call His own.

William never forgot the careful training of his home. His devotion 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 under him, who spoke words of sympathy for his mother, and sorrow for their loss.

"Seeing William grow through childhood, youth, into manhood, a boy and a man of clean lips and clean life, we feel the world is better for his having lived in it. The measuring rod for his life: "I will be true—true to God, to Mother, to my fellow man and true to myself!"

—His first Sunday School Teacher 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 appropriate for that hour there were also the words of Grace Goodhue Coolidge — words loved by Bishop Purcell and often used by him:

"Our own are forever our own;
God hath not taken back his gift;
They may pass beyond our vision
But our souls shall find them out
When the waiting is all accomplished,
And the deathly shadows lift,
And glory is given for grieving,
And the surety of God for doubt,
So, sorrowing hearts who dumbly
In darkness and all alone
Sit missing a dear lost presence
And the joy of a vanished day,
Be comforted with this message
That our own are forever our own,
And God who gave the precious ones

Upon retirement Dr. and Mrs. Saxon chose to make their home in Talladega, and became affiliated with First Church. Almost immediately he was elected teacher of the Kate Clardy Class where his gracious manners, scholarly mind and godly spirit soon entered him to every member. His prayerful presence was always a source of joy and encouragement to the Pastor. He was always the Pastor's closest friend and helper. For a few months Dr. Saxon served as an interim pastor of Claire Purcell Church. He entered into this his last endeavor wholeheartedly and gave it his best

BISHOP PURCELL

(Continued from page 15)

I was concerned, he was "Mr. Methodist. He was made a Bishop — he was made for the Episcopacy."

He possessed an unusual ability for graceful firmness — for steady, measured, deliberate dispatch 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 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 poise 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, his very carriage and dress and demeanor revealed the warm Christian spirit that housed itself in his body. His personality radiated a genuinely 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 Choctaw County High School at Butler, Alabama, in 1923. He studied at Birmingham-Southern College, where he received his AB degree in 1930.

Brother Tubb was admitted on trial by the Alabama Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1927. He was ordained Deacon at the Conference of 1931. He received his Elders Orders and was admitted into full connection at the conference held in Dothan, Alabama, in 1933.

Loyd, as he was affectionately

years.

His going has taken from the scene one of the giants against the sky. His years spanned the Church's greatest age and the imprint of his hand and his day are indelibly stamped upon this Church which he loved so well. The Methodist Church is his monument. Her success is his epitaph.

On June 29, 1960 Bishop Purcell delivered the address at the Memorial Service of the North Carolina Annual Conference. The title of his address was A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE LIFE. He concluded that address with some words he had long revered:

"Think of stepping on shore, and finding it home;
Of taking hold of a hand, and finding it God's hand;
Of breathing new air, and finding it celestial air,
Of feeling invigorated, and finding it immortality;
Of waking and finding it heaven."

The last article he wrote was on the subject, "I Am the Resurrection." This brief article he brought to a close with the words of Victor Hugo: "For half a century I have been writing my thoughts in prose and in verse. History, philosophy, drama, romance, satire, ode and song — I have tried it all. But I feel that I have not said the thousandth part of what is in me. When I go down to the grave I can say: 'I have finished my day's work,' but I cannot say: 'I have finished my life.' My day's work will begin

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On Monday, February 3, 1964, he attended the funeral of the Rev. Daniel E. Draper at the Norwood Methodist Church. On Friday evening, he was stricken and carried to Carraway Hospital, Purcell, where he expired on Saturday, Feb. 8, 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 McGowan, Pastor of Highlands Methodist Church, Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr. and Bishop Nolan B. Harmon. The Scriptures read and the prayers uttered were all in keeping with his life and his worthiness but the words of the hymn, Majestic Sweetness, seemed made for the hour: "To Him I owe my life and breath, And all the joys I have; He makes me triumph over death, He saves me from the grave. Since from His bounty I receive

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

"Seeing William grow through childhood, youth, into manhood, a boy and a man of clean lips and clean life, we feel the world is better for his having lived in it. The measuring rod for his life: "I will be true—true to God, to Mother, to my fellow man and true to myself!"
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And the joy of a vanished day,
Be comforted with this message
That our own are forever our own,
And God, who gave the gracious gift,
He takes it never away."

His mortal remains were deposited in the earth of Elmwood Cemetery among the beauties of that Silent City but his soul ranges with the blest in the eternal City of God where the Father waits to welcome His children home. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

—Allen D. Montgomery

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**IN MEMORIAM
MRS. CLARE PURCELL**



Mrs. Clare Purcell, widow of Bishop Clare Purcell, died on Friday, January 27, 1967 in Carraway Methodist Hospital, Birmingham, after a lengthy illness.

Graveside services were held at Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, on Sunday, January 29 at 2 p.m. Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson, resident bishop of the Birmingham Area; the Rev. Harold C. Martin, minister of the Highlands Methodist Church, Birmingham; and Dr. Guy McGowan, former pastor of the Highlands Methodist Church, officiated.

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

Mrs. Purcell was the former Ida Bernice 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 significantly to the life and work of churches in the North Alabama Conference, until Dr. Purcell was elected to the Methodist 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 Birmingham Area. Bishop and Mrs. Purcell continued to make their home in Birmingham following his retirement from the active episcopacy in 1956. From 1948 Mrs. Purcell was a member of the Highlands Methodist Church of Birmingham.

Mrs. Purcell is survived by two sons, Col. W. W. Purcell, Augusta, Georgia, and Mr. John R. Purcell, Trussville; a daughter, Mrs. A. M. Smith (Ida Claire), of Elkin, South Carolina; five

sisters, Mrs. John R. Taylor, Mrs. John A. Hornsby, Mrs. H. Grady Bradshaw, and Mrs. Hugh Darden, all of West Point, Georgia, and Mrs. Isaac Andrews, 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 tribute 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, 1938-48; the Council of Bishops of The Methodist Church, of which Bishop Purcell was president, 1955-56; the North Alabama Conference, which Bishop Purcell joined in 1906 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 Methodist Church are richly and enduringly blessed in the works, the witness and the abiding influence of Bishop and Mrs. Clare Purcell.

Methodist Christian Council Feb. 14, 1967

... 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 attraction of Jesus, the strange, abiding persistence 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 criminal should become the focal point of worship, that two thousand years after the event men and women of reasonable intelligence should sing:

In the Cross of Christ I 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 of Christ, the luminous appeal for dress; the hold of Christ on the human heart.

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

... dying in the dark, praying for His enemies, that spans the generations with a strong, magnetic power to make us feel as that Roman soldier felt, that we are being silently judged by Him, that this dying on a hill was an act of God that involves and includes us all, and that in a death cry of deepest debasement we can hear:

The sound of invisible trumpets blowing
Round two slabs of wood, right-angled,
hammered

By Roman nails and hung on a Jewish hill. - E. J. Pratt, POETRY

The Selma District METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP held a council meeting on February 4 at 2:30 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 is made up of the district and sub-district officers, but any interested M.Y.F. member is welcome to attend. The district president, Lee Martin, urges that all who possibly can attend the District M.Y.F. council meetings regularly. - Mary Holley

DR. ALBERT L. BRANSCOMB was the after-dinner speaker recently at the annual Ladies' Night Banquet of the Civitan Club at Oneonta. Mrs. Branscomb was a guest at the banquet also. Dr. Branscomb served as pastor of the Lester Memorial Methodist Church of Oneonta during 1958-1961.

ALASKA, August 4-14. The tour will provide a look at the 49th state, and how the church is providing medical, evangelistic, social welfare and educational services in isolated areas such as Nome and in such cities as Ketchikan and Anchorage. Approximate cost: \$840. Leader: Rev. James S. Pemberton, Jr. Room 1309, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10027.

World Methodist Tour, October 9 - November 9 (Bible Lands Extension of tour, November 9-18). Visits to five developing nations overseas and to a special home mission area in the United States will give members of this tour an opportunity to study the church's mission in varied situations. They will see how the church is trying to meet the problems of hunger, illiteracy and leadership training, and how it is seeking to witness countries where Christianity is a minority faith. The tour will leave San Francisco and will include Hawaii, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, the Philippines and India. For those desiring it, there will be an extension to include the Bible Lands of the Near East. Approximate cost: \$2,290 (Bible Lands Extension \$395 additional). Leader: Rev. Walter M. Albritton, staff member of the Alabama-West Florida Conference Council. (See page 6 for full details.)

For
COLDS
take 666

