

Purity and Its People

A History
of
Purity Presbyterian Church
Chester, South Carolina
1787 – 1987

Edward Hood Dawson

*By order of the Session in commemoration of
the BICENTENNIAL*

Eugene Jordon, a student at the worker for the summer

causing a breakdown in the Session requested, in "Sabbath Observance." wartime travel difficulties. ched twice a day for five bill and allowed him the amount to \$312. Mr. om Georgia, spoke in July hester High School audi-

ed during the war. When auditorium for a special emperance Union, a note red people would use the d an invitation to Purity a special section was set e Session minutes noted was sick and might need inishes the story with the

and trustworthy sexton past twenty years has by both young and old : said of him, "He was

g the war years. William k of the Session, elder of 4. Elder John A. Hafner, same year. John Halsted edicated leader at Purity, in older tradition, regard-Hal stood for prayers and as all but over. A notice 1945, on the proposed

o your own church for y Service at the High e noon hour, go to the

Community Service at the High School. If victory is declared between eight and ten p.m., go to your own church for a brief service.

The Germans surrendered to the Allies at Rheims, France, the next day, May 7, 1945. On May 8, the national dim out was lifted as President Truman proclaimed VE Day. A memorial service was held in front of the Chester County Courthouse on Sunday afternoon, May 13, at 5:30 p.m. The Reverend B.E. Wall, of First Baptist Church, gave the address.

More than 100 members of Purity served in the armed forces during World War II, some for the entire four or more years, others for as little as six weeks.

Three sons were killed in action:

LTJG Robert E. Abell, Jr., U.S. Navy, 1945
1st Lt. John M. Hemphill, Jr., Army Air Corps, 1942
1st Lt. Rufus A. Oliphant, Jr., Army Air Corps, 1943

Three sons were prisoners of war:

J. Willis Hastings
Hugh Wallace Tinsley
Paul Hayne Wilkes, Jr.

Other prisoners of war who later became members of Purity were:

Joe H. Giltner, Jr.
Hugh S. Muldrow
D.C. (Pete) Wylie, Jr.

Members of Purity who served in the armed forces were:

ARMY: (Includes Army Air Corps)
Alexander, Palmer Roddey
Andrews, William H.
Bankhead, Joe C.
Bankhead, J. Boyce
Bankhead, John N.
Bankhead, William Odell
Brawley, Hiram W.
Brawley, Jack T.
Brawley, John R.
Brice, Charles William, Jr.
Brice, William White
Brunson, Emmett W., Jr.
Caldwell, Robert B. Jr.
Carroll, William Boyd

Campbell, John B.
Campbell, Melvin J.
Carson, Richard B.
Craig, Morgan J.
Cranford, Meyer Hope
Crawford, Robert S.
Crosby, John A., Jr.
Cunningham, George L.
Dawson, Edward H.
Gaines, Walter G.
Gladden, C. Banks
Gladden, William Ross
Grant, James F.
Hafner, Robert R.
Hastings, J. Willis

Haile, Edward W., Jr.
Hall, Harold Everett
Hemphill, John M., Jr.
Hemphill, Robert W.
Horner, James H.
Horner, Lawson Clifton, Jr.
Huey, John L.
Huey, Robert F.
Huey, Roy M.
Huey, Septimus A.
Kelsey, Lamar H., Jr.
Kluttz, William B.
Knox, James Blair
Knox, John Milton
Knox, Robert D.
Knox, William A.
Lewis, James S.
Lineberger, Thomas H.
Lindsay, James H., Sr.
McAliley, Charles C.
McConnell, Robert L., Jr.
McCoy, John R.
McCoy, Victor Oswald
McFadden, John C.
McFadden, J. Means
McFadden, Sam F.
McFadden, Stuart Pryor
McSween, Harry Y.
McSween, William C.
Motz, Andrew F.
Oliphant, Rufus Alexander, Jr.
Patrick, Herbert L., Jr.
Pegram, Ward W., Jr.
Perry, Charles F.
Perry, Francis S.
Powell, Fred J., Jr.
Ray, James U.
Rhodes, Jeff R.
Robinson, James M., Jr.
Simpson, John F.

Simril, John W.
Smith, (Miss) Helen
Smith, (Miss) Mildred L.
Smith, (Miss) Ruth A.
Taylor, G. Aiken
Tinsley, Hugh Wallace
Walker, Robert L.
Wallace, Russell S.
Walton, James A.
Walton, Leonard K.
Watson, Harold S.
Wilkes, Paul H., Jr.
Williams, Harry M., Jr.
Woods, William S.
Woodward, Andrew D.

NAVY and MARINE CORPS

Abell, Robert E., Jr.
Brooks, Thomas B.
Douglas, (Miss) Mary C.
Douglas, Robert L., Jr.
Dunbar, James E., Jr.
Ehrlich, Morris J., Jr.
Grant, Jesse C.
Kennedy, Edward, Jr.
Lineberger, Howard P.
Long, George F.
Long, James L.
Long, William B.
McAliley, James W.
McCoy, Alfred
McWater, David A.
Miller, Harry M.
Perry, David C.
Ray, Marcus T.
Ray, William L.
Simpson, Robert A.
Wallace, William R., Jr.
White, Killough H.
Youngue, Stanley W.

At a memorial service held on Sunday, November 3, 1946, a bronze plaque was placed in the sanctuary in memory of the three young men who lost their lives in the war. It reads:

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of the three sons of this Church who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

World War II ended with the U.S.S. Missouri on September 2, 1945. Social and economic conditions would soon challenge the new spirit of optimism that filled the pent-up demand for peace in Europe in May, first a flood of returning men and women, then a new strength and vigor to Purify establish homes. Some of the roots. The community was led by Myron E. Brockman, Superintendent, who published a study school for others who wished to further their education.

Change comes slowly in Purity merely because it is characterized by those who came to Purity had been influenced by viewpoints from their foreign experiences. Some of these which had a leavening effect on the community.

The minister, McLeod, was older than many of the members. His wife, Frances, were the first identified with these young men. They developed programs within the church. He soon discovered that within their ranks. They were active in the church, as well as the department of outreach from Purity to the community.

In a short time, a Young Men's organization and other young men joined. They formed a large group, climbing three flights of stairs to the floor of the Sunday School. It was so crowded that some of the members were not able to attend. Williams was elected the first member of the General Assembly, Solicitor General, Judge. For a period of about a year and its successor class, and James L. Kennedy.