

Folks and Facts

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPER MEETING

Wednesday, April 24th
6:00 P. M.

Adult I is in charge of preparing the dinner.

Mrs. Ada Hodges writes from 369 Heath Drive, Augusta, Ga., that a quick recovery is being made from her operation.

Mrs. Phyllis Sanford was elected at the Business Session, April 11th, to serve as Beginner Co-Ordinator for our Sunday School.

Intermediate I had 49 members present for a total of 83% last Sunday. Mrs. Irene Taylor is the Superintendent of this Department.

PORTSMOUTH MINISTRY

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member of numerous committees. When occasions arose for him to preach, he was widely appreciated by his fellow Baptists.

Following his retirement, as he and his wife established their home in downtown Portsmouth, they were frequent worshippers at Court Street Baptist Church. His sermons on occasions when he supplied the pulpit were warmly received by the congregation. He was respected and loved by our people. Mr. Pleasant was often sought by Tidewater Baptist Churches for supply and interim work. He showed himself an effective minister in all these engagements.

Bob Pleasant was a faithful and attractive servant of Jesus Christ and my life he enriched because of my associations with him.

Wilbur Kersey, Pastor
Court Street Baptist

Sympathy to:

To Katharine Anne Hughes, our pastor's wife, who lost her sister, Mary, through a tragic auto accident on April 12, 1968. Mary Read Saunders was a professor of English at Northeastern State Teacher's College, Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She was an active Baptist and taught a Sunday School class of college students, plus giving her talents to various other Christian service, including the Baptist Student Union.

SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS

The Cantata "No Greater Love" by John W. Peterson, sung by the Church Choir on the last Lord's Day evening was enriching to the soul. We are all indebted to Mr. Chauncy German, Director. A word of gratitude is extended to the Church Choir, Mrs. Gwen Whitehurst, organist, Mr. Ron Alexander, Narrator. (Ron is an announcer for a T. V. Station), and Mr. Joe Hughes, pianist.

The 8:30 Morning Easter Service was blessed by a large congregation. Rev. W. A. Richardson, Pastor, Great Bridge Baptist Church brought a message on "The Resurrection."

The many Easter lilies in the sanctuary added to the beauty of worship last Sunday. The two baskets on either side of the Altar were placed there by the family of Rev. Robert M. Pleasant.

CHURCH STAFF

Frank Hughes, Jr. Pastor
Mrs. Mary Morgan, Church Secretary
Mrs. W. L. Fulcher ... Finan. Secretary
Mrs. Harvey Whitehurst, Sr., Organist
Chauncy German, Dir., Church Choir

CHURCH OFFICERS

N. J. Babb S. S. Supt.
John Haas T. U. Director
Mrs. Noel Hobbs W.M.U. Pres.
Julian Parcell Chm. of Deacons
Henry Krick Treasurer
Mrs. Annie Tayloe Clerk

THE MESSENGER

of the

South Norfolk Baptist Church

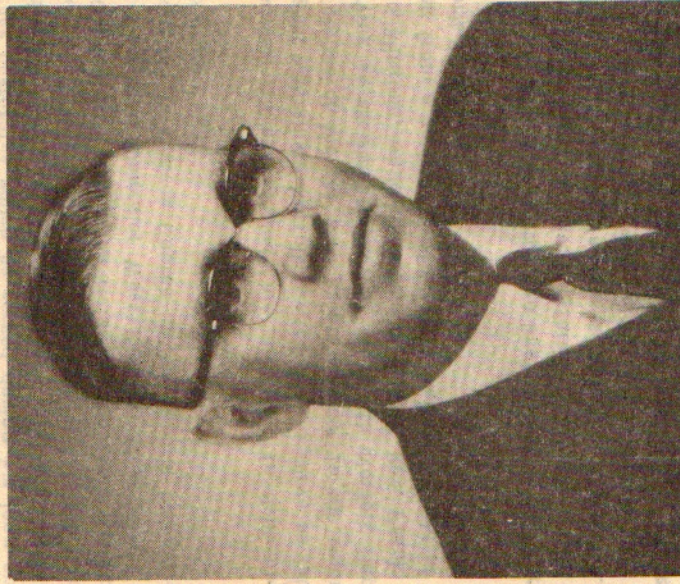
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In Memoriam



Rev. Robert Melvin Pleasant

"Whereunto I am appointed a preacher . . .

For the which cause I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have Committed unto him against that day."

II Timothy 1:11-12

REV. ROBERT MELVIN PLEASANT

Robert Melvin Pleasant was born at Limestone, Tennessee, a son of Mr. William F. and Mrs. Ethel Wolfe Pleasant. He attended the public schools at Limestone, and later studied at Bluefield College, Richmond College, and the Southern Baptist Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky. His first pastorate was with the Ceres Baptist Church, Mountain State Association. Later he served churches at Peterstown, W. Va. While a student at the Seminary he served churches at Scottsburg and North Vernon, Indiana.

On May 6, 1931 he married Miss Bertie Virginia Weymouth of Callio, Virginia. Other pastorates which he served during his long and successful ministry, and all in Virginia were as follows: Calvary Baptist Church at Radford; Wakefield, Denron and Surry Churches, Denbigh; Rocky Mount, Beulah, and Glade Hill; Campostella Heights, (Woodland Heights), Norfolk; Keene Street Church at Danville; West Point at West Point; and for ten years he served the Westhaven Church in Portsmouth, before retiring from the active pastorate.

This, however, did not conclude his ministry. In September 1965 the Riverside Baptist Church at Norfolk invited him to serve as interim pastor which he did for seven months with great success. In the summer of 1967 he began serving as assistant pastor at the South Norfolk Baptist Church of Chesapeake, Virginia, while their beloved pastor, Rev. Frank Hughes, Jr. was recovering from a serious illness. This position he held at the time of his death, April 9, 1968.

It has been my good fortune to have known Brother Bob during most of his ministerial life. He was indeed a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, and wherever he went he always served with distinction. He led in many building campaigns and always did a constructive work. He had a pastor's heart, and at the same time did the work of an evangelist, as he went many places holding revival meetings.

Surely there is a "Great Cloud of Witnesses" who thank God for the work and influence of this good man. The poet has expressed it so well when he wrote: "They never quite leave us, these friends who have passed, through the portals of death to the sunlight above; A thousand sweet memories are holding them fast, to the places they've blessed with their service and love."

E. M. Richardson, Jr.
Riverside Baptist Church
Norfolk, Virginia

PLEASANT'S LAST SERMON

"Every Man Stood In His Place," is a great subject and the Bible text is found in Judges 7:21.

The last time The Man of God stood to preach on January 28, 1968, at 7:30 P. M. he used the topic given above. The sermon was broadcast live over WXRI-FM Radio. The next day he had a heart attack and appeared to be recovering satisfactorily when the fatal attack on April 9, 1968, came.

Brother Pleasant had been a great blessing in the South Norfolk Church — preaching, visiting, etc. during the recovery of the pastor. The church held him in high esteem and developed a great love for him and his wife Virginia.

Rev. David White paid a great tribute to this wonderful minister in his reference to a contrast with an Old Testament Text, "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?" 2 Samuel 3:38.

The work of this gifted minister cannot be expressed by spoken word or pen. The encouragement he offered to the troubled, the hope to the discouraged, and proclaiming the gospel are intangible things. Yet they are powerful experiences, and meaningful for time and eternity. Hence, we might well say he continues to preach even in death! In his last sermon he emphasized the point that no man could stand in the place of another man in regard to his relationship with God. You must stand in your place in the church or there will be a vacancy. If you are not loyal to the Christian life and Christian worship, then your place will be void.

Brethren, the message of this last sermon is a way of life for you and echoes what the New Testament says about being faithful unto death.

From the pen of Annie Johnson Flint the necessity of your position in the kingdom is clear:

"Christ has no hands but our hands
To do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but our tongues
To tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help
To bring them to His side.
We are the only Bible
The careless world will read;
We are the sinner's gospel,
We are the scoffer's crud
We are the Lord's last message
Given in deed and word."

FUNERAL SERVICE

The service for Robert Melvin Pleasant was conducted on April 13, 1968 at 11 A. M. in the South Norfolk Baptist Church, Chesapeake, Virginia. Chauncy German was soloist and Bill Richards was organist. Great hymns were woven into a worship service conducted by Dr. T. L. Russell of Portsmouth, Virginia; Frank Hughes, Jr., pastor, South Norfolk Church, and David White, pastor, Monumental Heights Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia.

A large group of ministers attended the service and the following served as pallbearers: Rev. Samuel Tatem, Calvary Church, Newport News, Rev. George Wollett, Beachlawn, Virginia Beach, Dr. Walker N. Stockberger, Trinity Church, Norfolk, Va., Rev. Wilbur Kersey, Court Street Church, Portsmouth, Mr. T. W. Whitehurst, Norfolk, Va., Rev. E. M. Richardson, Jr., Riverside Church, Norfolk, Va.

Rev. Pleasant is survived by his wife, Bertie Virginia and one son, Robert W. Pleasant, a lawyer, living in Chicago, Illinois.

The body was laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Norfolk.

PORTSMOUTH MINISTRY

The Reverend Robert M. Pleasant was Pastor of Westhaven Baptist Church from 1955 through 1964. During his ministry there a new educational building was constructed and dedicated. He demonstrated a loving concern for the elderly through visitation. He is remembered fondly by those whom he counselled. His preaching was Biblically centered and applied to life. He was known in the community-at-large as a broad-minded and generous man.

Mr. Pleasant was active in the life and work of the Portsmouth Baptist Association. He was chairman and

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