

In Witness to the Resurrection  
and  
In Celebration of the Life  
of  
The Reverend Oscar Edmonds



Macedonia Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA)  
Decatur, AL  
Saturday, October 3, 2009  
1:00 pm

The Reverend Dr. G. Lynne Herring, Celebrant  
The Reverend Dr. Henry L. Bradford, Jr.; and The Reverend Joel P. Rice, Officiants  
Miss Venessa Falice Edmonds, Eulogist

“I will lift up mine eyes to the hills from which cometh my help”  
Psalm 121:1



The Reverend Oscar Edmonds  
1921-2009

“For I am ready to be offered and my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me on that Day and not to me only but unto all them that love His appearing.” II Timothy 4:7-8

# “A Committed Servant to the End”

The Reverend Oscar Edmonds, 88, died peacefully on Sunday, September 27, 2009. Mr. Edmonds was born on January 30, 1921, in Morgan County to Mr. and Mrs. George Edmonds, Jr., who preceded him in death. He was the second oldest of eight children. He was educated in the Alabama Public School System under the tutelage of Miss A.C. Banks. He grew up during a time of segregation and depression. Yet he committed to achieving success when this was extremely difficult to attain as an African American. According to Booker T. Washington, “Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has had to overcome while trying to succeed.” Mr. Edmonds overcame various obstacles and committed to fulfilling God’s plan for his life. Committed to growing in God’s calling, he furthered his education at Alabama A&M University’s Pastoral Institute 1964-1968 under direction of the Reverend Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr. Additional studies were completed at Memphis Theological Seminary. Mr. Edmonds served in World War II in Company A, Second Battalion, First Regiment, IRTC. He tested and qualified as a sharpshooter. In this capacity, he not only fought for his country, but he also fought against people opposed to him fighting for his country. Nonetheless, he was steadfast in completing this charge. Later, he continued his career at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. Here, he retired after 36 years of service as an Area Manager.

Mr. Edmonds exemplified this level of commitment in every area of his life—the most important being his dedication to serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He accepted Christ on Thursday, August 23, 1937, and was baptized at Hills Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA) by the Reverend Jenkins Blackburn. He began to fully understand the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, “A great man stands on God.” This understanding grew into a strong faith in God that was evident in Mr. Edmonds’ life and further articulated in his first sermon, which was taken from Psalm 121 and entitled, “I Will Lift My Eyes.” He continued to lift his eyes to the Lord for 53 years as he stood on God and proclaimed His Word. He truly exemplified what it means to be a Christian leader. According to C.P. Hia, the name, “Christian,” means an “adherent to Christ,” i.e., one who holds fast to Christ. Mr. Edmonds drew nigh to the Lord for guidance and wisdom as he pastored God’s people. His congregation lovingly comments that he had a “pastor’s” heart. If his congregation was involved, he was there. He fulfilled his Christian duties as an ordained minister of Sacraments and the Word of God. His ordination charge was given by the Reverend John Paige.

Mr. Edmonds’ various Christian leadership positions began in the local church and expanded throughout the nation. He was elected as Commissioner to the General Assembly, the highest governing body of the CPCA. As Commissioner, he traveled throughout the United States. Some locations include Chicago, Illinois; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Memphis, Tennessee; and Nashville, Tennessee. Even when not serving as Commissioner, he continued to actively participate in General Assembly meetings. He served on the Judiciary Standing Committee of the Alabama Synod. Additionally, he served the Tennessee Valley Presbytery as Vice Moderator (October 1985 – July 1987) and Moderator (July 1987 – July 1989). He also served on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and the Committee on Ministry, both auxiliaries within the Tennessee Valley Presbytery and Huntsville Presbytery.

Mr. Edmonds did not restrict himself to church affiliations, but let his light shine throughout the community so that others could see his good works and glorify our Father, which is in Heaven. As such, he ministered throughout the community, mentoring young men and women. With a passion to care and guide our youth, he also served as a liaison for Morgan County Community Action and the Decatur City School System. During this time, he worked with Superintendent Dr. Byron Nelson and Alabama Representative Paul Parker to ensure children had transportation to and from school.

Affectionately known as “Hawk,” Mr. Edmonds enjoyed his days as a Decatur Dodger (a Negro Baseball League). Research has determined God created the hawk’s eye so that this bird would have one of the keenest visions among the other animals. In a similar manner, Mr. Edmonds was given this nickname because of his keen eyesight for the ball, which is the target or prize in baseball. Those who knew Mr. Edmonds will agree that his eye was on the prize. But this prize was not a physical or materialistic object—this prize was the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Memories will be forever cherished by Mr. Edmonds’ beloved wife of 50 years, Anne Burks Edmonds of Decatur, AL; a daughter, Venessa Edmonds of Decatur, AL; a niece, Monique Hobbs of Atlanta, GA, raised under the guardianship of Mr. Edmonds; two sisters, Mary E. Adkins of Chicago, IL, and Rubye Grigsby of Indianapolis, IN; two aunts, Jeretta Fort of Bonita, LA, and Darlene Wynn of Decatur, AL; one grandson, Anthony Malone (Sherice) of Louisville, KY; and a host of nieces, cousins, CPCA family members, and close friends. In addition to Mr. Edmonds’ parents, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Evelyn Edmonds Malone (Bennie).

A Service of Resurrection  
for  
The Reverend Oscar Edmonds

The Reverend Dr. G. Lynne Herring, Celebrant

The Prelude

Deacon Derrick Davis  
Musician of Elkmont CPCA

**\*The Processional**

The Reverend William Robinson  
Past Moderator of the Alabama Synod

Acolytes  
Celebrant  
Past/Present Moderators of the CPCA  
Past/Present Moderators of the Synods of the CPCA  
Past/Present Moderators of the Presbyteries of the CPCA  
Ministers, Elders, and Deacons of the CPCA  
Visiting Clergy and Ecumenical Members

Elected and Public Officials  
Former Decatur Police Chief Joel P. Gilliam  
Active Pallbearers/Honorary Pallbearers  
Active Flower Bearers/Honorary Flower Bearers

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Malone, Jr.  
The Reverend and Mrs. Henry Ewing  
The Reverend and Mrs. McKinley Jones  
Elder and Mrs. Danny Barnes  
The Edmonds Family

**\*The Pastoral Call to Worship**

Celebrant and Congregation

*Praise be to God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our sorrows, so we can comfort others in their sorrow, with the consolation we have received from God. We believe that Jesus died and rose again; and so it will be for those who have died in Christ. God will raise them to be with the Lord forever. Comfort one another with these words.*

**\*The Hymn of Adoration and Praise #105**

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Choir and Congregation  
Ms. Kristil Battle, Musician of Hills Chapel CPCA

The Invocation

The Reverend Dr. W. H. Ragland, Jr.  
Pastor of King’s Memorial United Methodist Church

The Selected Hebrew Scripture Readings

The Reverend Dr. Mitchell Walker, Sr.  
Past Moderator of the General Assembly

The Musical Ministry

“Jesus Precious King”

Elkmont CPCA Choir

The Selected Gospel Readings

The Reverend Michael Jones  
Moderator of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery

The Tributes:

The CPCA  
The Alabama Synod  
The Tennessee Valley Presbytery  
The Florence Presbytery  
The Huntsville Presbytery  
The Alabama Fork CPCA  
The Elkmont CPCA  
The Hills Chapel CPCA  
The Little Star CPCA  
The City of Decatur  
The City of Elkmont  
The Burks Family

The Reverend Dr. Theodis Acklin  
The Reverend James Robinson  
The Reverend Critis Fletcher  
The Reverend Willie Montgomery  
Elder Craig White  
Elder Mattie Jones  
Elder George Lockett  
Sister Dora Powers  
The Reverend James Miller  
Councilman Billy Jackson  
Councilman Robert Bassham  
Master Kedric Burks

The Selected Epistle Readings

The Reverend Endia Scruggs  
Past Moderator of the General Assembly

The Tributes From the State of Alabama:  
The State of Alabama/Alabama Senate

The Honorable Senator Arthur Orr

The Alabama House of Representatives

The Honorable Representative Bill Dukes

The Tributes From the U.S. House of Representatives:  
Offices of The Honorable Parker Griffith and The Honorable Artur Davis

Mrs. Peggy Towns

The Special Musical Ministry "Total Praise"

Faith, Hope, and Love &  
Members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Mrs. Lovie Swoope, Directress

The Family Testimony

Miss Venessa Falice Edmonds

The Instrumental Tribute

Mr. Kendall Shoulders

The Musical Ministry "I Know It Was the Blood"

Elkmont CPCA Choir

The Words of Comfort

The Reverend Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr.  
Past Moderator of the General Assembly

The Message

The Reverend Joel P. Rice  
Past Moderator of the General Assembly of Dallas, Texas

**\*The Affirmation of Faith**

Celebrant and Congregation

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

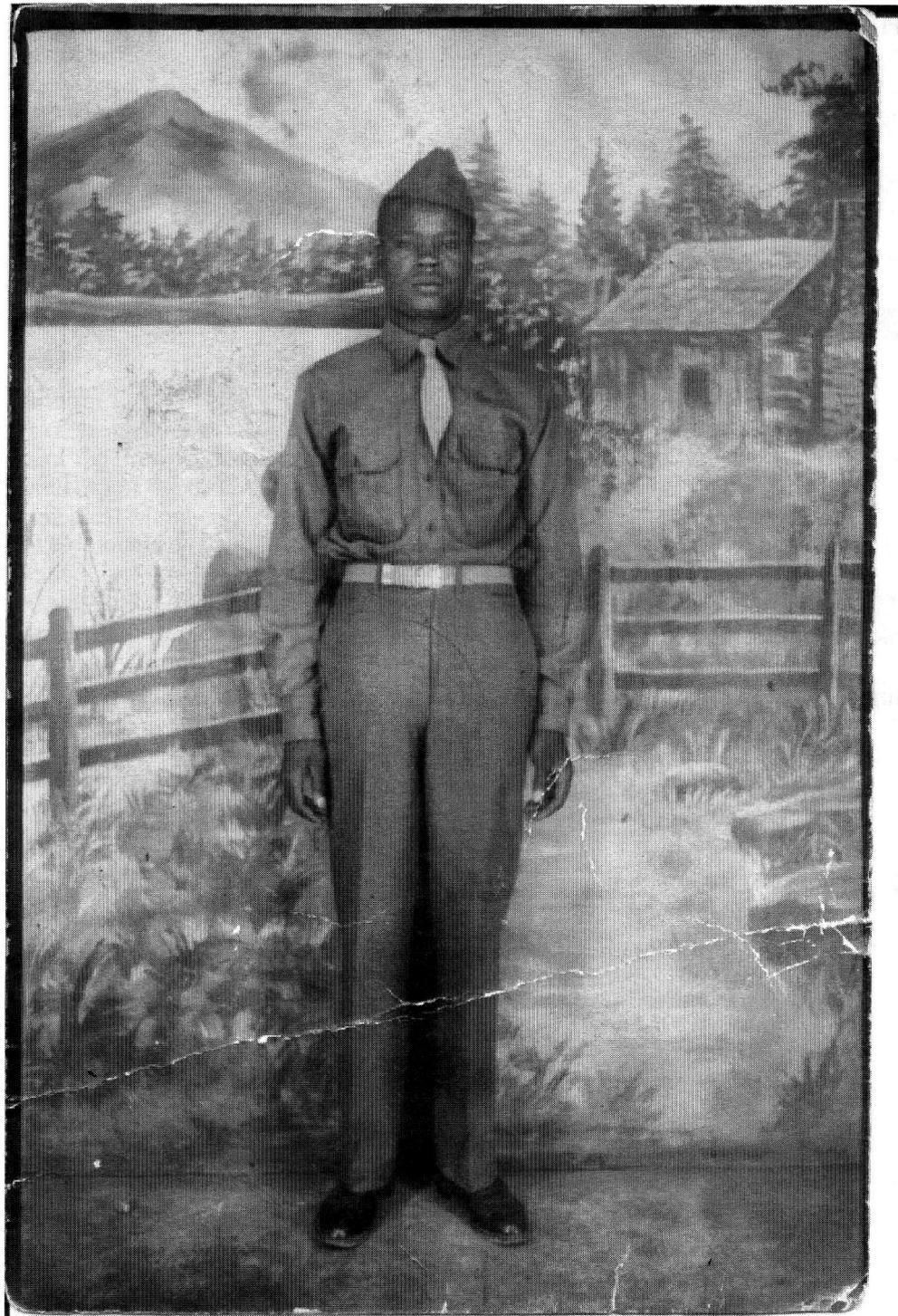
**\*The Recessional**

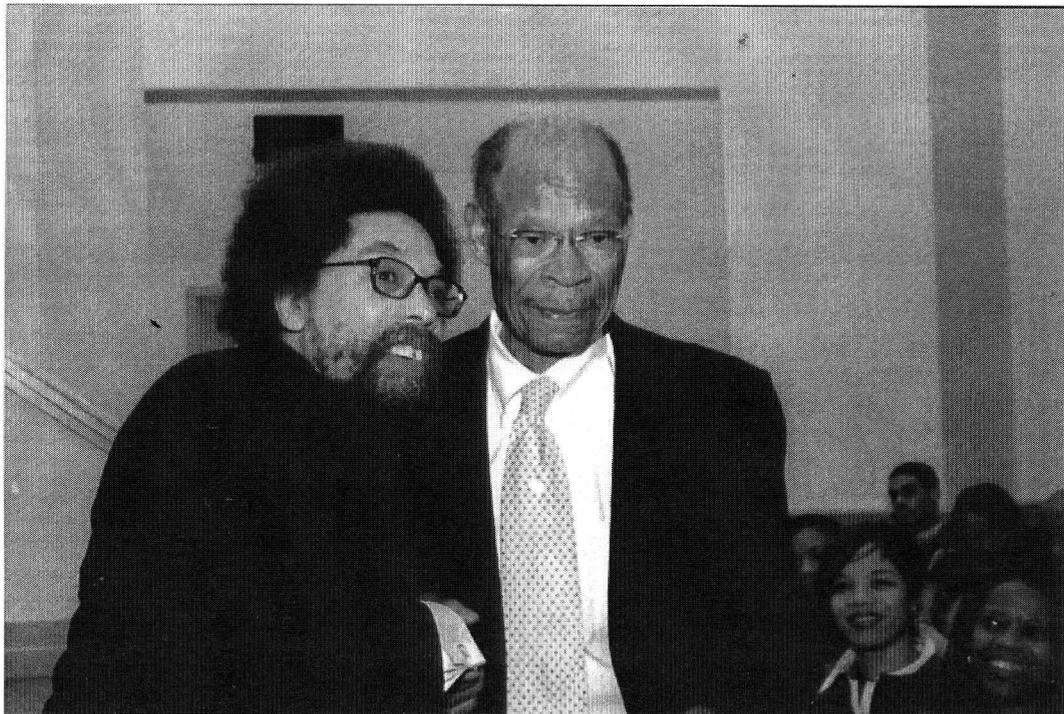
The Reverend Willie Cowan  
Pastor of Hills Chapel CPCA

The Postlude

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

\*Please stand.





**Active Flower Bearers**

Godly Women of Alabama Fork CPCA and Elkmont CPCA,  
and The National Cumberland Presbyterian Women

**Honorary Flower Bearers**

Members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

**Active Pallbearers**

Men Mentored by The Reverend Oscar Edmonds From the Cedar Lake Community  
Mr. Paul Butler; Mr. Curtis Fletcher; Mr. Benjamin Garth; Mr. Bobby Humphrey; Mr.  
Charles Mosley; Mr. Wayne Mosley; Mr. Craig Scott; and Mr. Hubert Scott, Jr.

**Honorary Pallbearers**

Youth of Elkmont CPCA, Elders and Deacons of Alabama Fork CPCA and Elkmont  
CPCA, and The American Legion Post #15

**Interment**

Roselawn Cemetery

**Repast**

Hills Chapel CPCA

**Acknowledgement**

May the peace of God bless and keep you for the kindness you have  
shown during our time of loss.

The Edmonds Family

People's Funeral Home, Directing

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*A Celebration of Service  
to Christ, the Church  
and the Community*

In Memoriam of  
*The Reverend Oscar Edmonds*

ELKMONT CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN AMERICA  
ELKMONT, ALABAMA

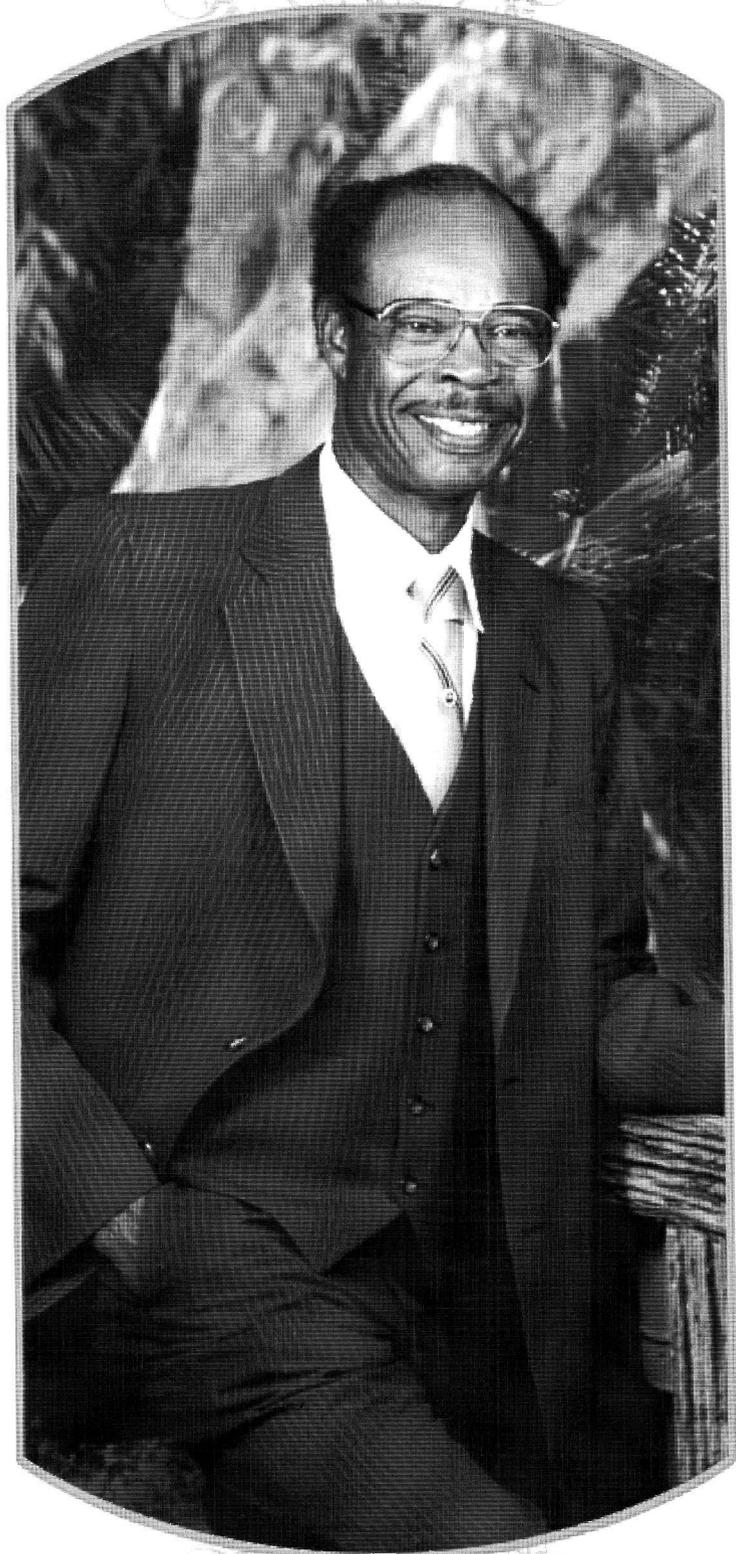
SUNDAY, THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF  
JANUARY 2010  
ANNO DOMINI

TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

*"And how shall they preach, except they be sent?"*

Romans 10:15

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*"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart,  
which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."*

Jeremiah 3:15

The grandson of a former slave, Oscar Edmonds was born in Morgan County, Alabama on January 30, 1921 to Mr. & Mrs. George Edmonds, Jr. He went to be with his God on September 27, 2009. He departed this life as he had lived it-with peace of mind, a loving spirit, a courageous heart, and a complete trust in his God. Dedicated, sacrificial, experienced, and team-spirited are all traits ascribed to individuals born during the 1920s. This generation is known as the "Greatest Generation." Edmonds professed a personal faith in Jesus Christ at the age of 16 years. He was baptized and joined in Christian fellowship with the Hills Chapel (Colored) Cumberland Presbyterian Church where he was later ordained as a deacon. He was a genteel, warm, humble, and no-nonsense man.

He was educated in the Alabama Public School System. He was a World War II veteran. He retired from the Goodyear Plant after 36 years of service as an Area Manager. In 1956, Edmonds accepted the call to the ministry. He was ordained by the Huntsville Presbytery on May 21, 1956. To equip himself to better serve, he attended the Pastors' Institute at Alabama A & M University. These studies were conducted under the auspices of the college in collaboration with the Department of Religion of Tuskegee Institute. Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr., served as the coordinator. Additional studies were completed at Memphis Theological Seminary, American Baptist Theological Seminary of Nashville, and Samford University. Due to his quest for knowledge, he registered for a computer class in 2000 and attended numerous workshops and seminars. Elder Danny Barnes states: "Rev. Edmonds was a smart man with a keen mind."

In the Old Testament these words are found: "Do not despise the days of small beginnings." Elder Edmonds' first pastorate was in 1956 at Little Star (Colored) Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The 1950s were economical hard times for many people. Most ministers were not willing to serve in rural areas due to the economic hardships. Much like the call of the Cumberland Presbyterian founders, pondering who would be willing to carry the Word of God to those on the Frontier, Edmonds heeded the call to carry God's Word to the rural areas.

On May 8, 1959, Elder Edmonds married the former Anne Burks. Many young couples adopted them as role models. Reverend Edmonds often said he was glad he did not have to worry about his home life because "Miss Anne" was going to take care of that. He spoke of his gratitude to God for blessing him with Anne.

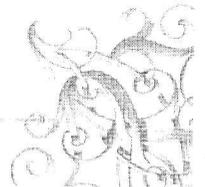
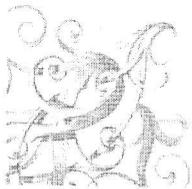
Only when one has walked in the shoes of another can one completely understand the experiences of that person. During economic hard times and a shortage of ministers, many churches met bi-monthly. Matthew 7:1 states: "Judge not, that ye be not judged." Edmonds' next call was to Alabama Fork (Colored) Cumberland Presbyterian Church located in rural Limestone County. There he found a small group of determined believers. While Alabama Fork was known as a Mission Church because of the small membership, they were a dedicated and faithful group. God's fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control was evident in the life of Alabama Fork. "Every good tree bears good fruit." Pastor Edmonds often said: "It does not take great numbers to accomplish things for God. It only takes dedication." This was evident when the church decided to build a new sanctuary. Young and old, male and female banded together and built the new edifice. Many days after working all day, Edmonds would journey to Athens where he helped physically build the church. They all, including Edmonds, submitted themselves to the leadership of Elder Herron Davis, the builder of the church. Together, they accomplished their goal. A member recalls, "We know Reverend Edmonds did not stay with us for the money; he stayed because he loved and was committed to us." He remained in faithful service for 51 years. The Apostle Paul reminds us: "One plants, another waters, but it is God who gives the increase."

In 1967, Elder Edmonds was called to Elkmont (Second) Cumberland Presbyterian Church. This church was located on the Alabama-Tennessee line. Edmonds thankfully stated that he could only recall having two flats during all the years of traveling. He traveled from South Alabama to Detroit, Michigan, proclaiming the Word of God. He served Elkmont for 42 years. By far, serving as a Shepherd and Pastor was his gift. He took care of his flock. It has been said: "Love sacrifices

others and promotes their well-being” and how true this is for a Pastor. A Baptist deacon once asked; “Edmonds, what was the secret of staying at a church so long?” Edmonds responded: “I have not always been right, nor have they, but we have tried to work together and God blessed our efforts.” He tried to shield his members from false teachings. He told his members: “Contrary to what you hear, God is not your bell-hop boy. You cannot boss him around and give him orders. He is God and should be respected as such.” Reverend Edmonds felt it was always necessary to teach the fundamental truths of the Bible. A member gives this testimony: “Reverend Edmonds gave us a good foundation. If we do not build upon it, that is our fault.” Romans 12 speaks about spiritual gifts. Edmonds believed in allowing intergenerational participation in worship. He gave opportunities for the lay members to use their gifts to lead morning worship and bring glory to God. A phone tree ministry and Matthew 25 ministry were approved by the session. Lay members were appointed to coordinate both ministries. Ezekiel 44:23 states: “And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and clean.” As a pastor sometimes it is necessary to correct errors. He always corrected with love. Edmonds once observed a lack of reverential respect for God and His righteousness. During a communion service, there was a lack of solemnity. Edmonds observed careless and irrelevant behavior and a member recalls: “Boy did he correct us. Afterwards, we behaved like little angels.” Spiritual growth was important to Edmonds. He wanted his members to grow in the Lord. He often purchased books and presented them to the members. Some of the topics were stewardship and healthy marriages, to include the resources, Seven Spiritual Truths of Experiencing God and A Year With the Bible. At the end of the year, he would ask the members: “What vision do you have for **your** church and what do you see God doing in the life of the church?” Next, he would ask them to sign a Commitment Covenant for the upcoming year. During Lent, there was always a Lenten Study and a type of fast. When receiving new members, he always believed the candidate should sit in the chair **facing** the altar; since the altar represented Christ, he felt the person should never turn their back to Christ/altar. On the second Sundays after worship, Pastor Edmonds and Elder Joe McWilliams visited the community and Limestone County. They visited the unchurched and sought the needs of the community. During his tenure as pastor, he had the pleasure of shepherding five generations of two families.

He believed in supporting his Judicatories. Dr. Mitchell Walker, Sr. reflects: “Edmonds was a warrior until the end and he was a good preacher.” He was sent as a commissioner to the General Assembly numerous times. He served on the Alabama Synod’s Judiciary committee and the Huntsville Presbytery’s Judiciary, Memorial, and Education committees. Edmonds was a founding leader of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery. Additionally, he served as the Vice Moderator and Moderator of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery. He also served on the Committee for Preparation for Ministry and the Committee on Ministry, both within the Tennessee Valley Presbytery and Huntsville Presbytery. He served as a mentor to many sons and daughters in the ministry. Many called him their “Father in the Ministry.” He took them under his wings and guided them, many times serving as an advocate on their behalf. Also, several ministers were called under his leadership as a pastor. One of his greatest joys was co-teaching school of methods with his daughter. The subject was: “What Do Cumberland Presbyterians Believe?” Oscar’s credo of life was: “The one thing I love more than preaching, is more preaching.”

In the Cedar Lake and Limestone communities he was an icon and example of a man of God. He impacted and served with grace and dignity. Dr. Bradford reflects: “Whenever the name Oscar Edmonds is mentioned, dignity will come to the mind of the hearers.” As a man lay on his sick bed one Sunday afternoon, he requested Reverend Edmonds come to his home. He wanted to be baptized. Reverend Edmonds visited with the gentleman and shared scripture with him. Next he administered the sacrament of baptism. When questioned about this, Edmonds responded: “I can only go on his profession of faith, the same as I would do for anyone else. I am not the judge. God is.” He had a stern desire to leave a legacy for the next generation to follow. The Edmonds family explored the possibility of moving to another subdivision of Decatur, Alabama. After visiting different areas, Oscar felt it was important to remain in his beloved Cedar Lake. He felt it was important for young African-American men to see an example of an African-American man taking care of his family, contrary to what is portrayed in the media. God allowed Edmonds to live out that desire by living a full and committed life to his God. Finally, Hawthorne records: “No man for any considerable period can wear one face to himself, and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be the true.” Edmonds was always the same, he knew his mind; he was true to himself and his God.





## *A Time For All Things*

To every thing there is a season,  
And a time to every purpose under heaven:

A time to be born, a time to die;  
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down and a time to build up;  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
A time to cast away stones, and a time to  
gather stones together;

A time to embrace, and a time to refrain  
from embracing;  
A time to get, and a time to lose;

A time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
A time to rend, and a time to sew;

A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
A time to love, and a time to hate;

A time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

## *A Litany of Remembrance*

LEADER: Those who live no more echo still within our thoughts and words, and what they did is part of what we have become. At the rising of the sun and at its going down.

PEOPLE: WE WILL REMEMBER HIM.

LEADER: At the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter. At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring.

PEOPLE: WE WILL REMEMBER HIM.

LEADER: At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer. At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn.

PEOPLE: WE WILL REMEMBER HIM.

LEADER: At the beginning of the year and when it ends. When we are weary and in need of strength.

PEOPLE: WE WILL REMEMBER HIM.

LEADER: When we are lost and sick at heart. When we have a joy we crave to share.

PEOPLE: WE WILL REMEMBER HIM.

ALL: For as long as we live, he too will live for he is now a part of us...

WE WILL REMEMBER PASTOR EDMONDS.





## Order of Service

PRELUDE

CELEBRANT..... PASTOR WILLIAM ROBINSON  
ST. JAMES CPCA #2

LIGHTING OF THE MEMORIAL CANDLE ..... ELDER GEORGE LOCKETT  
ELKMONT CPCA

PRAYER ..... DR. ERNEST ROGERS, RETIRED  
PROFESSOR OF HEBREW & GREEK STUDIES  
OAKWOOD COLLEGE

SONG ..... ELKMONT CPCA CHOIR

SCRIPTURE (OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS) ..... PASTOR RONNIE PATTON  
MT. LEBANON PB CHURCH

SONG ..... CHOIR

A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE ..... PASTOR JAMES MILLER  
LITTLE STAR CPCA

MEMORIES & REFLECTIONS (2 MINUTES PLEASE) ..... CONGREGATION

PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE ..... ELDER JOE McWILLIAMS  
ELKMONT CPCA

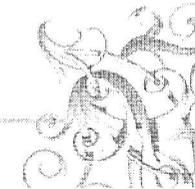
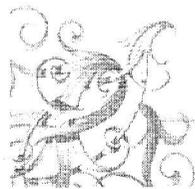
SONG ..... CHOIR

MEMORIAL ADDRESS ..... PASTOR MICHAEL JONES  
ST. JAMES CPCA #1  
MODERATOR, TENNESSEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY

SONG ..... CHOIR

CLOSING PRAYER ..... PASTOR WILLIAM ROBINSON

*(Please place envelopes in baskets after service.)*





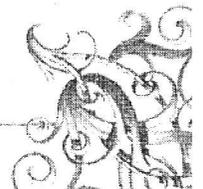
*In Our Hearts*

We thought of you with love today  
But that is nothing new.  
We thought about you yesterday  
And days before that too.

We think of you in silence  
We often speak your name  
Now all we have are memories  
And your picture in a frame.

Your memory is our keepsake  
With which we'll never part  
God has you in His keeping  
We have you in our hearts.

Unknown



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*Until We Meet Again*

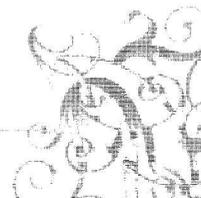
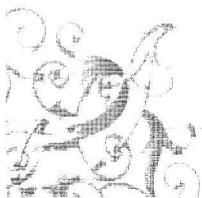
Each morning when we awake  
We know that you are gone.  
And no one knows the heartache  
As we try to carry on.

Our thoughts are always with you,  
Your place no one can fill.  
In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we love you still.

There will always be a heartache,  
And often a silent tear,  
But always a precious memory  
Of the days when you were here.

We hold you close within our hearts,  
And there you will remain,  
To walk with us throughout our lives  
Until we meet again.

Unknown



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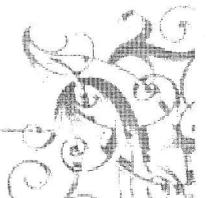
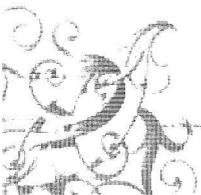


*Thank You*

We sincerely thank you for sharing in  
this celebration of the life and service  
of Pastor Oscar Edmonds.

Life brings tears, smiles, and memories...  
The tears dry, the smiles fade, but the  
memories live forever...  
Your thoughtfulness will always be  
remembered.

*The Elkmont CPCA Family*



*A Service of Love and Remembrance*

*for*

## **The Reverend Oscar Edmonds**

Conducted by the Tennessee Valley Presbytery,  
Alabama Fork C.P.C.A. and Elkmont C.P.C.A.



Friday, October 2, 2009  
Six o'clock in the evening

Elkmont C.P.C.A.  
Elkmont, Alabama

*"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet  
of the messenger who announces peace, who  
brings good news." Isaiah 52:7 (NRSV)*

# Footprints in the Sands

-Longfellow-

Love of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime. And, departing leave behind us footprints on the sands of time. Footprints, that perhaps another sailing o'er life's solemn main, a forlorn and shipwrecked brother, seeing, shall take heart again. Let us, then be up and looking, with a heart for any fate; still achieving, still pursuing, learning to labour and to wait."

"The noblest service comes from unseen hands, and the best servant dies  
his work unseen."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

*He lived the best he could, in the long run that is all that  
matters."*

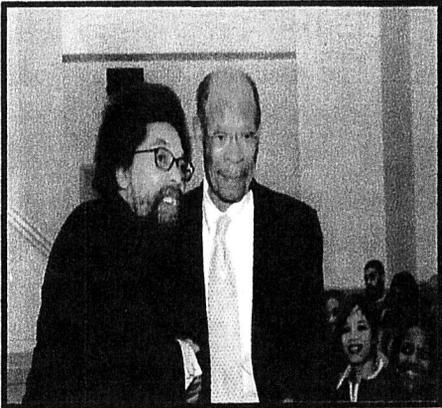
*Cromwell*

BLESSED

*Theodore Roosevelt, 1917*

No other success in life-not being President, or being wealthy, or going to college, or writing a book, or anything else-comes up to the success of the man or woman who can feel that they have done their duty and that their children and grandchildren rise up and call them blessed.

# REFLECTIONS . . .



# “Reflections of a Great Man”

## *Beloved Pastor, Community Leader and Servant*

### About The Reverend Oscar Edmonds

Oscar Edmonds accepted Christ as his Savior in 1939, and chose Hills Chapel CPCA as his home church. He was ordained as a deacon at Hills Chapel CPCA. On February 13, 1956, Oscar accepted the call to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. In April 1956 he was licensed by the Huntsville Presbytery. In September 1956 he was ordained by the Huntsville Presbytery where he served on the Judiciary, Examination, Christian Education and Memorial Committees.

A born-again believer, Edmonds completed his Christian education training at Alabama A&M University's Pastoral Institute, Memphis Theological Seminary (continuing education classes) and Samford University's Extension Program. Adhering to the call of God, Oscar's first pastorate was with the Little Star Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He served as pastor of Alabama Fork CPCA and Elkmont CPCA Churches until his death.

Edmonds was a member of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery where he served as Vice Moderator and Moderator. He served on the following committees: Judiciary, Examination, and Mission and Evangelism.

He was a World War II veteran and received an Honorable Discharge from the United States Army. He retired from the Goodyear Plant in Decatur, Alabama as a Departmental/Area Manager. He devoted 36 years of service to Goodyear. He served as a board member of the Community Action Agency and received numerous honors and awards.



