

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.*

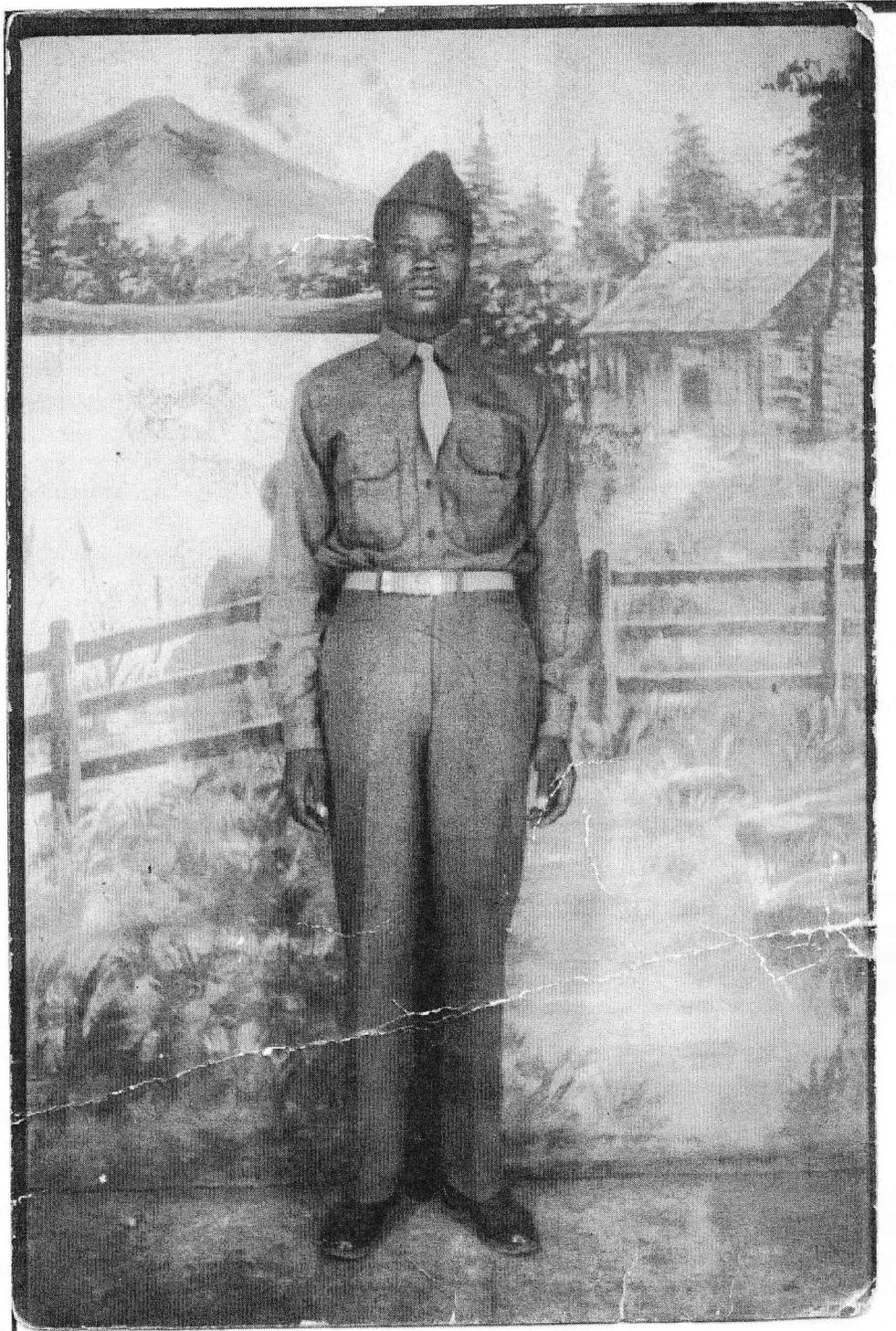
*The Recessional

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