



ALLEN C. LEE  
1903-1981

Allen C. Lee was born November 25, 1903 in Dunn, North Carolina. He was blessed with the love and fellowship of a large family. There he grew and increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man until he went off to college. His education was received at Asbury College and Princeton Theological Seminary. Along with his beautiful and competent bride Mildred, he pastored with distinction, love and commitment the following churches: Hatteras, 1932; Fairfield, 1934; Pasquotank, 1936; Scotland Neck, 1940; Red Springs, 1944; Louisburg, 1948; Durham: Calvary, 1951; Hamlet: First UMC, 1954; Farmville, 1958; Wilmington: Trinity, 1962, Roanoke Rapids: Rosemary, 1966; St. Pauls, 1968; Associate Lumberton: Chestnut Street, 1969-74.

Recently Allen was presented the President's Medallion when he gave the graduation address at Methodist College. The President Dr. Richard W. Pearce said of Allen in the Presentation: "Into a world of beauty, you have injected an energy and curiosity. Little in this mortal life escapes your watchful eye; not religious books of rare vintage nor recipes of gourmet dishes; not books of poetry nor music of the violin; not gravestone epitaphs nor garden plants. You are a connoisseur of tangible life, sifting through to the beauty of all things."

Allen Lee was a *Christian Scholar*. He was so sure of the reality of God that he had no fear that further inquiry could uncover anything less than discover more proof of God's reality and truth. God's people have always been called "The People of the Book". That described Allen. He loved the Bible more than anyone I have ever known and spent a life time studying it. His private collection of English translations of the Bible was one of the best private collections in this country. Recently he gave this valuable collection to Methodist College so that persons in Eastern North Carolina would be inspired to do serious Bible study. He included with this collection his careful notes and research on each translation so as to make it more meaningful. Allen shared his love and understanding of the Scripture with me and so many other ministers. There was a "childlike" quality demonstrated in his curiosity and pursuit of truth and knowledge. He walked so much in the "Light of revelation and enlightenment" that his countenance glowed and his smile cast a warmth over everyone he met.

Twelve years ago Allen gave me Young's poem, *Into the Sunset*, that he said expressed his attitude of life and death:

Let me die working!  
Still tackling plans finished, tasks undone.  
Clean to its end, swift may my race be run.  
No laggard steps; no faltering; no shrinking!  
Let me die working!

Let me die working!  
Let me fare forth still with an open mind,  
Fresh secrets to unfold, new truth to find;  
My soul undimmed, alert, no question blinking.  
Let me die working!

Let me die laughing!  
No sighing o'er past sins; they are forgiven.  
Spilled on this earth are all the joys of heaven;  
Let me die working!

Let me die giving!  
The substance of life for life's enriching;  
Time, things, and self on heaven converging,  
No selfish thought, loving, redeeming, living.  
Let me die giving!

Allen was a lover of all God made. Many people have been unable to love God because they could not love or accept all that God had made, but Allen loved all God made! Consequently, he love astronomy, poetry and everything that praised God's creation. He had a special love and interest in people. This was reflected in his enthusiastic inquiry about every person he met. He wanted to know where you came from, to whom you were kin, etc. Allen was a sincere effort to find a closer relation between you and him. Allen gave me the best difinition I ever heard of Social Concerns when he defined it as "your pain in my heart." But most of all, Allen loved God and was true to Him and served Him all his years. His love and expert knowledge of astronomy was inspired by his admiration of the vastness of God's creation. He loved the translatio of John 14:2, "In my Father's universe there are many worlds, and I am going to prepare a place for you; if it were not so, I would not have told you."

On April 7, 1981, Allen "dropped his body" and his spirit moved on out into the further realms of what God had created for him. His memorial service was conducted at Thyme Memorial Church in Red Springs by his pastor, Al Morris, Reverend Clyde Dunn and myself, James H. Bailey.

He is survived by his wife, Mildred Mernie Lee, two sons, Lloyd Mernie Lee and Thomas Allen Lee, and one granddaughter, Elizabeth Mernie Lee; and four brothers and two sisters.

Allen's hope of the future can best be summed up with the words of an unknown poet:

"The stars look down on the ocean,  
the stars look down on the sea.  
The stars shall shine for a million years,  
a million years and a day,  
But Christ and I shall live and love  
when even the stars have passed away."

James H. Bailey



INIS REED BROSS  
1899-1980

Inis Reed was born August 20, 1899 in Tennessee and spent her childhood there. She grew to be talented with her hands and enjoyed cooking and sewing with great enthusiasm. She decided to complete college in Home Economics and this led her to employment as a dietician.

It was while she was dietician at Louisburg College at Louisburg, N.C., that she met the Reverend John P. Bross, a Georgia man who had served in the South Georgia, West Texas, Holston, and Western N.C. Conferences before joining the N.C. Conference in 1929. It was also 1929, on May 31, that they were married.

Inis was a devoted wife to John and together they served the next nine and one-half years in the N.C. Conference: Currituck 1929, Wanchese 1930, Rocky Mount 1934, El Dorado 1936, and Person Street in Fayetteville 1937. Each parsonage they were in she filled with graciousness.

Though Inis had no children, John had a grown married daughter from a former marriage, and Inis always enjoyed the company of stepdaughter, Mrs. Ida B. Deans and her family. These were good years for Inis and John.

In 1938, John retired and upon his death in 1943 at Norfolk, Va., they returned to Raleigh for his interment.

Inis again went to work in her chosen profession. She was dietician at Joseph Hewes Hotel in Edenton, N.C., for several years until her health began to fail. Due to her severe case of rheumatoid arthritis and other complications, her doctors suggested that a more arid climate may aid her illness. She joined her sister in Marfa,