

SOUTHERN METHODIST COLLEGE

Special Edition Newsletter - January 2024

Remembering Rev. Charles Bennett

By Dr. John T. Hucks, Jr.

Rev. Charles O. Bennett went to be with his Lord Jesus Christ on January 11th at the age of ninety-six. He was active in the Southern Methodist Church as a minister, missionary, educator, church planter, and pulpit supply. He was active outside the Southern Methodist Church in his "retirement" years as a hospital chaplain and American Legion chaplain.

The administration and faculty of Southern Methodist College give thanks and appreciation to Brother Bennett, also known as "Mr. B." for his involvement in and contributions to the College. He began his ministerial training in 1962 in the College Ministerial Extension Program. He moved to Orangeburg in 1975 to complete his work on a Bachelor of Arts degree and graduated in May 1976. He pursued graduate education at Southern Methodist College, Columbia International University, and Trinity Divinity School.

Brother Bennett became a faculty member in 1976 upon graduation, and in 1983 was asked to serve as President of Southern Methodist College. He served the Lord and the Southern Methodist Church in that role for nine years until his retirement in 1992.

His accomplishments as President included strong spiritual leadership, a Day of Prayer each semester for students and faculty, promotion of foreign missions through special programs and speakers, promotion of personal evangelism, development of an RV park for visitors, and expansion of the Lynn Corbett Library. He opened the door of the College to the training of local African-American pastors.

He invested thirty years of "retirement" in a life lived for the Lord, not bound by geographical location, but was available to serve the Lord whenever and wherever. He shared words of encouragement to College administration and faculty in the College's on-going ministry. Those who knew Brother Bennett knew him to be a man strongly committed to the Lord, well-read on many subjects, and a man who encouraged those he talked with to keep going forward in the service of the Lord.

Brother Bennett was quick to give testimony to His Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who saved him from a life of a talented but tough Navy man and bridge builder to a life well lived for His beloved Saviour. Mr. B., we will miss you but know you are with Jesus, with your beloved wife June, your son Bruce, and many family and friends who have died in the faith.

Upcoming Events

January 28 - Graduation Service for Mrs. Cindy Ott, 6 P.M., New Hope Baptist Church

April 9th - Board of Directors Meeting - Carrier Center

April 9th - Annual Fellowship Dinner - Antley's BBQ, Orangeburg, SC

Finally . . . Thank You for Your Support of SMC!

Please keep us in your prayers! Pray for on-going financial provision! We would not be here without the prayers and financial support of God's people!