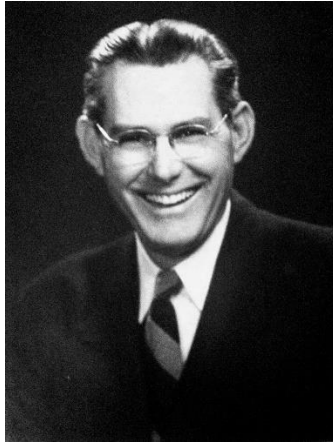


## Dr. Morris Pepper



Ordaining Presbytery: Corsicana

Ordination Date: 1929

Churches Served: Cool Springs (Obion), 1930-1933; New Bethlehem (Obion), 1930-1933; Pleasant Hill (Hopewell), 1930-1936; Newbern (Obion), 1933-1936; Hurricane Hill (Obion), 1933-1936; Bowling Green (Logan), 1936-1937; Pisgah (Hopewell), 1936-1937; Union City (Obion), 1944-1950; Rutherford (Obion), 1950-1960; Eastside (Memphis); Scottsboro (Robert Donnell), 1959-1981; Edgefield (Robert Donnell); Holly Grove (Robert Donnell); Stevenson (Robert Donnell); Director of Young People's Work Cumberland Presbyterian denomination, 1937-1944; Executive Secretary Board of Christian Education, 1950-1960; Teacher in PAS, 1984-1996; Worked with Board of Christian Education on Third-Age Ministry, 1980s; Writer of "Soundings" column for The Cumberland Presbyterian Magazine, 1981-1989; Member of Coalition for Appalachian Ministries, 1970-1995; Teacher in PAS, 1984-1986

Offices Held: Member of Board of Christian Education Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 1944-1950; Moderator of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 1947-1948; Board of Trustees of Bethel College, 1961-1968; Member of Marshall-Jackson Mental Health Board, 1971-1975; President of Scottsboro Rotary Club; President of Scottsboro Ministerial Association; Awarded a Doctorate of Divinity Degree by Bethel College in 1947; On Cumberland Presbyterian Assembly Committee on Revision, Confession of Faith, 1978-1983; Recipient of "The C. Ray Dobbins Award" for writing and editing, 2000; Leader at multiple Cumberland Presbyterian church camps, 1930-1980

Information provided by the donor: On a balmy evening in the summer of 2002, just four hours before his 92nd birthday, the life of Dr. Morris Pepper became legacy. "Pepper," as he was lovingly called and respectfully known, had served the Cumberland Presbyterian Church as pastor, preacher, counselor, and Christian educator for more than 70 years.

Born on June 28, 1910, Pepper grew up on his family's cotton farm in the rural town of Peoria, Texas. Among the many stories that Pepper recalled from his childhood, a favorite was about a button-nosed rabbit that he and his brother encountered one hot summer afternoon. Pepper, who was 11, and his brother, who was 15, were sitting cross-legged while taking one of many breaks at the end of a cotton row that they had been hoeing. Suddenly, they heard the alarming sound of a dog barking, and when they turned towards the commotion, they saw a small, cotton-tailed rabbit zigzagging towards them,

with a dog in hot pursuit. Panting in fear, the rabbit spotted the boys, cut a path directly towards Pepper and leapt into his lap. The dog slid to a sudden stop, appearing quite perplexed and unsure of how to proceed.

At the time, Pepper was so overwhelmed by the event that, in later years, he couldn't recall what happened next. However, he continued to feel honored and amazed that the little, wild creature had found refuge in his care. An avid gardener and lover of animals, Pepper shared this story frequently—a testament to his gentle and compassionate spirit.