

## Robert G. Forester



Information provided by the donor: Robert Glynn Forester was born in Cord, AR, on December 14, 1922. He was the son of John Marion and Mattie (née Hall) Forester. He came from an immediate and extended family of numerous Cumberland Presbyterian ministers, some of whom are still living as of this writing. Robert graduated from Cord High School followed by Bethel College (now University) and Memphis Theological Seminary. He later attended Phillips University getting to within 5 hours from graduating with his DMin when God called him to Faith CPC in Louisville, KY. Robert met the love of his life on her first day at Bethel University. They were both love-struck at first sight. Following their marriage on July 10, 1948, Edna Gene Ledbetter Forester was his constant companion and supporter throughout his ministry. Their very close relationship was an inspiration to many who openly stated they wanted a marriage like Robert and Edna Gene's. Some may equal but none could surpass Robert's love and enjoyment of ministry. He was dedicated to the serious side of ministry but loved to recall and entertain his chosen audience with comical events in his churches. In one pastorate the session was trying to decide whether to continue taking up an offering at the Sunday night service due to there being such a small crowd. The session decided to track Sunday night offerings for another month then make the decision. On one particular Sunday night immediately following when the session started that tracking, two elders took up the offering. When they had gotten to the back of the church there was not even one coin in either plate. The ushers waited until Robert got up to bless the offering, they caught his eye and in unison flipped their plates upside down. He would tell that story and, with that hoarse laugh he was known for, entertain himself and those listening. One last story - again 2 men from the church were taking up the offering. One was a very small man, the other a very very large man. When they brought the offerings to the front of the church they bent down to put them on the bottom shelf of the altar table. As they did, they hit their heads together with a loud crack. The small man was perfectly quiet but the huge man let out a resounding "OWWWWW." Realizing the man was not really injured, Robert said he and the congregation broke up with laughter. He would share story after story of funny

things that would happen in the course of his ministry. Robert and Edna Gene had no children of their own but had two young women they referred to as their daughters, Carole and Nancy. The ladies' children were their "grandchildren." Robert passed to his eternal reward July 27, 1997, to be missed by the many who loved him and loved to hear his stories of ministry.