

Pastor-in-residence was in the thick of Washington life

by Cathy Bland

For Dr. Edward Pruden, who a few months after moving to Raleigh in 1969, became Meredith's Pastor-in-residence, counselor, assistant to chapel programming and spokesman for Meredith in various churches, the years between December 1936 and 1969 were exciting ones. He was an integral part of the lives of many prominent Washington, D. C. citizens because he was the minister of the downtown First Baptist Church, a member of both the American and Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. Pruden was among the four or five Washington pastors who had lunch together every Friday to discuss plans for occasional combined Sunday evening worship services. Dr. Pruden recalls that Peter Marshall, minister of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, was a member of this group of friends as the late Rev. Marshall's wife tells about in her book, *A Man Called Peter*.

After teaching English at the University of Shanghai, China, Dr. Pruden arrived in the nation's capital shortly after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected to a second term of office. One Monday Dr. Pruden and the other D. C. ministers were called to FDR's office. The President told them some of

his thinking concerning the "New Deal" and how attuned it was with the social objectives of the surrounding churches. FDR spoke of the working man, better wages, and child labor laws. Dr. Pruden remembers well FDR's personable character. When FDR died in 1949 while in his fourth term, Harry Truman became President. Dr. Pruden knew Truman quite well since he attended First Baptist Church during his administration. On one occasion, President Truman invited Dr. Pruden to eat breakfast with him and afterwards accompany him on his customary morning walk. Dr. Pruden also offered the prayer at Truman's inauguration. As is traditional, for security reasons, at the close of a worship service which the President of the United States is attending, the congregation at First Baptist would be seated, Dr. Pruden would give the benediction and then walk with the President down the aisle.

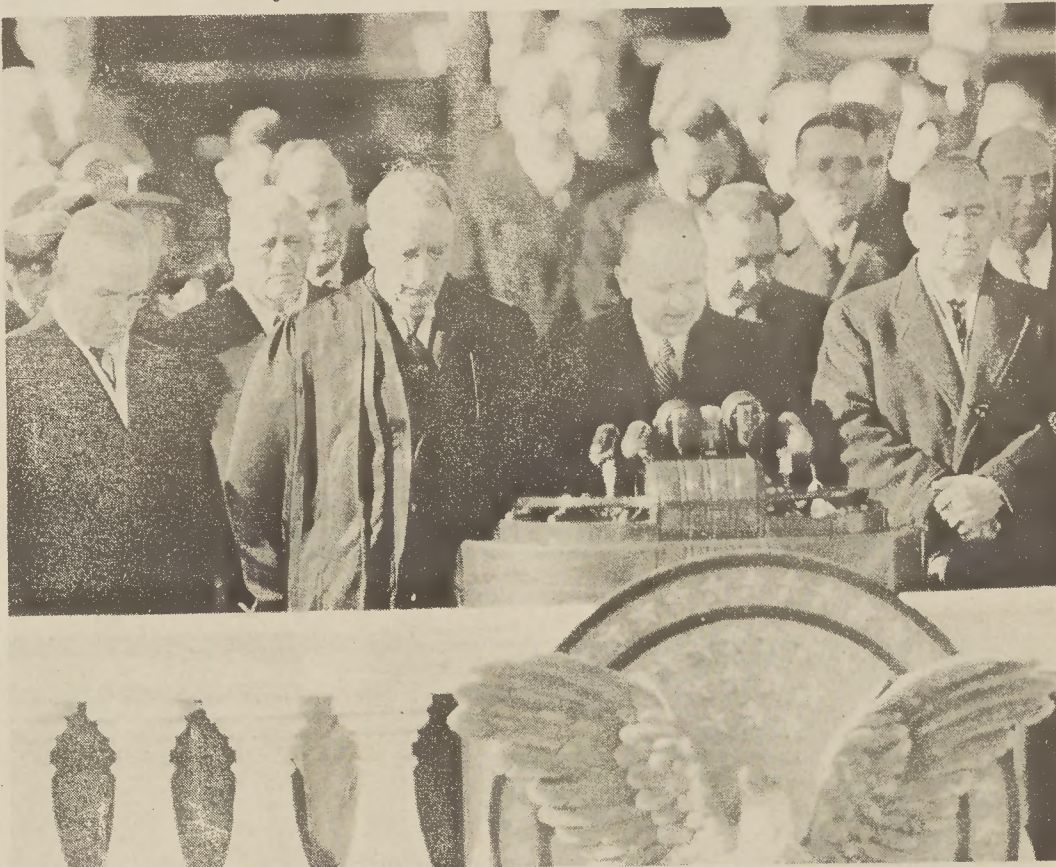
Dr. Pruden recalls that he was also invited to the Eisenhower White House along with the other area pastors, to talk with the President. In fact, the President of the Pastor's Association presented Eisenhower with a Bible at this meeting. Later, Dr. Pruden, a very enthusiastic Kennedy backer, offered the

prayer at a birthday dinner held in JFK's honor at Washington National Guard Armory in 1962.

The assassination of President Kennedy came as quite a shock to Dr. Pruden. He recalls that he had just

driven up to a graveside at Arlington National Cemetery to conduct a funeral service when someone told him of the President being shot. It was not until after the service that Dr. Pruden learned that JFK had been killed. Dr. Pruden

describes the impact the incident had on Washington, D. C. "It was like the whole city had lost a member of the family." Then, of course, Lyndon B. Johnson became President of the United States.



Meredith's Dr. Ed Pruden remembers his offering of the prayer at Harry S. Truman's 1949 inauguration as one of the highlights of his years in Washington, D. C., where Pruden was minister of the First Baptist Church.

UNC-TV schedules ten films from the 1930's for Friday eve series 'Hooray for Hollywood'

"Hooray for Hollywood," a series of 10 films from the 1930's, will be broadcast on the UNC-TV Network Fridays at 9 p.m. beginning April 5. The films from the "Golden Age" of Hollywood can be seen on Channel 4.

Musicals, comedies, a mystery and social comment films are in the "Hooray for Hollywood" series, making it representative of the 30's. The films are fast-paced and full of wisecracks, and the charismatic Hollywood stars of the day deliver the lines. Most are from the Warner Brothers studio.

Jimmy Cagney appears in "Footlight Parade," "Taxi," and "Jimmy the Gent." Katharine Hepburn and Bette Davis are seen at the beginning of their careers.

The sweet but leadfooted Ruby Keeler hoofs her way through two great musicals of the decade, and Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers glide on their black glass dance floor in the opulent land of the New York nightclub. Busby Berkeley arranges hundreds of beautiful, skimpily clad girls into geometric patterns set to music and calls his spectacles dancing.

The sharecropper, the conman, the movie star, the newspaperman, the aspiring young actress, the slick amateur detective, and the pugnacious union man populate the films of "Hooray for Hollywood."

FOOTLIGHT PARADE

"Footlight Parade" (1933) kicks off the series April 5. Boasting one of the best casts ever assembled for a musical -- James Cagney,

Joan Blondell, Ruby Keeler, Dick Powell -- it is considered by many critics to be the best musical of the decade.

On the following Friday "Blessed Event," a 1932 example of the newspaper picture genre, stars Lee Tracy, an accomplished comedian who was blackballed from the industry for 30 years for insulting the Mexican army. This fast-paced, racy look at the newspaper business is based loosely on the rise of Walter Winchell. The film also has Ruth Connelly, Mary Brian and Dick Powell in his first featured role as the affected singer who irritates the columnist.

April 19 brings William Powell to the screen as S. S. Van Dine's famous detective character, Philo Vance, in "The Kennel Murder Case" (1933). Of the 31 films using the Vance character, "The Kennel Murder Case" is by common consent one of the best and William Powell the best of the stars in the role. Mary Astor co-stars, and Michael Curtiz (Casablanca) directs.

TAXI

Jimmy Cagney appears in his first starring film, "Taxi," April 26. This 1932 film depicts a taxi-cab racket and the merciless manner used by a would-be monopoly to crush the competition. The cast includes Loretta Young at her most beautiful and George Raft in a bit part.

"Swing Time" has Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in one of their best. The 1936 film, airing May 3, takes place in a world of nighttime frolics

like the earlier "Top Hat," but it's top hats and empty pockets. Songs by Jerome Kern and Dorothy Fields include academy award winner "The Way You Look Tonight," "A Fine Romance," and "Pick Yourself Up."

In "Cabin in the Cotton" (1932) Bette Davis has her first bad girl role in a story of class conflict between sharecroppers and plantation owners in the South. The screenplay was written by Paul Green, a former professor at UNC and a Pulitzer prize winner. The cast includes Richard Barthelmess and Berton Churchill.

WHAT PRICE HOLLYWOOD?

A show business theme returns to the small screen on May 17. "What Price Hollywood?" (1932) takes Constance Bennett from waitress to movie star. Directed by George Cukor, the same theme recurs in his 1954 film, "A Star Is Born," starring Judy Garland.

James Cagney returns May 24 in "Jimmy the Gent," one of the best farces to come out of the Warners Studio in the 30's. Cagney gives a dynamic, flip, vulgar and fast-talking performance in this 1934 story about a missing heirs racket. The famous Cagney "dirty rat" expletive is in this one, and platinum blond Bette Davis is the girl he loves.

"Morning Glory" is the ninth move in the "Hooray for Hollywood" series. Katharine Hepburn's third film, "Morning Glory" is famous for being the vehicle which won her the Oscar for Best

Actress in 1933. Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and Adolphe Menjou also star.

FORTY-SECOND STREET

The final 30's film is "Forty-Second Street," airing June 7. The "putting on a show" story features Ruby Keeler in her first starring role and Ginger Rogers at the beginning of her career. "Forty-Second Street" was hailed as triumph for Warners and revealed for the first time the cinematic possibilities of the movie musical.

The film was Busby Berkeley's first feature. It, along with "Footlight Parade" and "Golddiggers of 1933" saved Warner Brothers from bankruptcy. The galaxy of stars also includes Bebe Daniels, Dick Powell, Warner Baxter, George Brent and Una Merkel.

NOSTALGIA POPULAR

The recent interest in American pop culture and motion picture history has generated great enthusiasm for American movies of the 30's in general and those of the Warner Brothers studio in particular. The fiftieth anniversary of the Warner studio in 1973 has been celebrated with showings at such prestigious institutions as the Cinemateque Francaise in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the American Film Institute Theatre in Washington, D. C. and the National Film Theatre in London.

"The series' real purpose is to provide a retrospective on perhaps the single most

important decade in the development of the motion picture industry," says Darcy Paletz of Durham, producer of the series. "But" she continues, "it also promises to be one of the most utterly entertaining series on television."

BRIT HUME,

8:00 p.m.

JONES

Letters to the editor

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opinions and requested solutions. But what happened to the survey? Why has there not been anything done that we are aware of?

In conclusion, I offer my solution. Do not discontinue convocation; some students benefit from the programs. Rather make convocation voluntary. If the expense is too great for weekly programs that host noted speakers the money could possibly be allotted to sponsor programs on a monthly basis. Maybe credit could be offered for those who choose to attend on a regular basis. Some colleges offer similar programs which have been successful. Convocation here is definitely lacking -- let's change it.

Katie Jenkins