

WRITERS FORUM

by George B. Russ

The hostess of the week, January 4-11, was Mrs. Celestia H. Sanders; she was hostess for the nearly 100 member convocation of Roanoke-Salem Baptist Church who were here in appreciation of one of the church's "favorite sons" during the inception of his 8-Day, 12th Anniversary salute. Dinner was served from 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Mrs. Sanders saw to it that everyone enjoyed a piping hot meal.

At three thirty, the evening service opened with the Roanoke-Salem Church in charge, Mrs. Sanders presiding.

The Salem Baptist Senior Choir's repertoire consisted of vesper hymns of Christian-Service. "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms set the tempo for the salute to "the small man with the lion's voice" Pulpit associates: guest minister, Rev. Edward Flemings, Rev. Foster R. Izi, Rev. N. B. Sanders, Mrs. C. H. Sanders.

The Rev. Edward Flemings chose as a subject for his anniversary message, "Hear Ye the Lamb." Text: Gospel of St. John 6:9. A highly inspirational message with a new treatment to the well-known text on God requireth orderliness in all things "My profile of Dr. Grady D. Davis" was



REV. WHELCHER

vividly executed by Mrs. Sanders, representative for the official boards; In this portrait the narrator's emphasis was placed of Grady Demus Davis's faithfulness; "a man of vision" his farsightedness in all matters pertaining to the growth of the church spiritually, physically, intellectually, culturally, and update the church's awareness of pluralistic changes insociety on local, state, national, and universal levels; further, "Dr. Davis is consistent in paying tithes to the church, in helping persons in need no matter who or why they are in need," further, Dr. Davis is a love-person and desires all persons to feel that they are loved and wanted; hence, the slogan: "Everyone is Somebody at Union Baptist."



MRS. HATTIE PARTIN

The service climaxed high on the rung of expressed joy and gratitude to God for His gifts of Jesus and Dr. Grady D. Davis.

Monday, January 5 at 7:30 p.m. the Grady Davis salute opened with Mrs. Willa Farmer presiding. Sponsoring group: The Union Baptist Music Department. Guest church; Russell Memorial CME, pastor, Rev. L. H. Whelchel.

The hard cold, below freezing temperature did not dampen the enthusiasm of the sponsoring group nor the joyous spirit of the visiting pastor, choir, ushers and laymen's willingness to serve. Mrs. Farmer's warm, friendly greeting set the pace for the evening. The Russell Memorial Senior Choir included in its vast



MRS. C. H. SANDERS

repertoire a happy anniversary song to the honoree, "How Great Thou Art." The UBC Music Department dedicated "I Thank You, Lord" to "the small man with the lion's voice."

Rev. L. H. Whelchel's message was fast moving in deliverance, fully packed with apposites to amuse, arouse and hold the attention of his audience throughout the length and breadth of his appropriate discourse. Subject: "Keep on Trucking" borrowed from a trucking company rather than the lively, shuffling dance of the early '40's. The sermon was a challenge to all Christians regarding their attitude toward God's Preachers - the highest calling a man have bestowed upon him. And of course, encouragement

to the Coordination Committee who had set out to do something nice for the pastor; yet, desiring the good-will of the brethren.

"My Profile of Dr. Grady D. Davis" was conducted by Mrs. Hattie P. Partin, supervisor of the New Young Adult Choir. "Dr. Davis is a man of vision, an aesthetic person" whose love for sacred music has given rise to the rapid growth of the Union Baptist Music Department where the singing groups have increased from three to nine in the past 12 years. "He is an inspirationalist."

This influence is shown in the incredible growth in the singing groups of all age levels, from Tots to golden-agers, a minister of Music, Grover Wilson, Jr., a teacher of music to teach and train the church's youth endowed with talent, Mrs. Willa Farmer; a staff of dedicated musicians, advisors and supervisors to keep the Music Department updated; and, "Dr. Davis is a dreamer: 'Life is but a dream,' and Dr. Davis wants us to live this dream as beautifully as we can. Such a dreamer loves peace.

"If I Can Help Somebody" brought a dramatic, soul-stirring conclusion to the first night of the 8-Day salute to Dr. Grady D. Davis.

A POTPOURRI OF RECENT EVENTS

by George B. Russ

The 12th Anniversary salute to Dr. Grady Demus Davis has now passed through the portals of reality and now rests in the archives of history. All that is left now is the memory of a genuine Christian fellowship, and much information to be placed inside the file of the pastor and the official family - 1964 - 1975. The Board of Deacons initiated the inception of the 8-day salute to Dr. Davis, Sunday, January 4th, during the 11 o'clock worship service with Deacon James Pointer presiding. A beautiful service crowned by the Holy Communion.

Like unto the day before, Saturday 3rd, when the Social and Program Committees of the Dorcas Class/Russ-Sanders annual Christmas Party discovered that a Wedding and Wedding Reception was

about to merge - the Coordination Committee was deeply moved, too, because a funeral was to be conducted here immediately after the 11 o'clock worship service. However, with the Christmas spirit still running warm and vibrant in the veins of every one, the committee-persons put on their thinking caps and came up with a novel idea: both affairs would proceed as scheduled. The result was a rewarding learning experience: working together for the good-will of all concerned.

At 3 o'clock, the Assman and Hooker wedding unfolded in the Union Baptist sanctuary, with the pastor, Dr. Davis officiating: the double-ring ceremony was made manifest against a picturesque background of snowy gladioluses and glowing tapers, in the presence of God, family

and friends; Miss Beverley Assman of Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan, Canada, was united in Holy Matrimony to James Tallie Hooker of Durham.

The bride wore a gown of mottle-jersey with trimming of flowered lace beneath wedding collar. The Empire waistline was made with a wide set-in band, with the A-line skirt flowing to the floor in back; four rows of matching material cascaded down center front of seed pearls forming a loop as setting at front. The veil was the tier style with Juliette-style headpiece matching the gown. Miss Assman carried a bouquet of white orchids and roses.

The maid of honor, Miss Beverley Cyca of Regina, wore a long white sleeveless gown with slot up front from the hem line. Black and white daisy

lace trimmed the band neckline and around the skirt. Miss Cyca carried a bouquet of yellow and white daisies. The best man was Edward Lee Parker; deacon Willie Hooker served as escort for the bride.

Room No. 1 in the education Building of UBC, was transformed into a lovely garden setting with white streamers and yellow and white wedding bells and a three tier wedding cake, baked and decorated by Mrs. Essie Hooker, the mother of the groom. Here, the wedding party and friends enjoyed the reception.

At 6:30 p.m., the officers, members and invited guests of the Dorcas Class/Russ-Sanders Singers sat down to enjoy a turkey dinner and all the fringe benefits. Ms. Irene Hall was the amiable hostess for the evening. A real friendly, family affair

with parents and children gathered round about to eat together, sing together and spend an evening of funny-fun together.

Greetings and best wishes for the happiest of New Years were extended to the merry throng by Dr. Grady Davis, in behalf of the Davis family and the Union Baptist Church family.

Dinner music consisted of Russ-Sanders' song favorites played on the piano by Choir's director, Howard Hill. "Happiness Is" was beautifully recited by Mrs. Pauline Boxley. Other happy holiday felicitations were heaped upon the Dorcas Class/Russ Sanders Singers by other guests: Rev. Essex Fields, Mr./Mrs. Winston Maddox, Howard Hill's grandmother, Mrs. Mattie Pollard, Rev. N. B. Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Poole, Ms. Nancy E. (See POTPOURRI, Page 21)