

The Reverend Dr. Bruce Harold Wideman

A Memorial

The Presbytery of The Mississippi Valley honors the memory of The Reverend Dr. Bruce Harold Wideman, faithful minister of the word, who was ushered into the presence of his lord and Saviour on January 21, 1998.

The son of Albert and Minnie Wideman, Dr. Wideman was born in Pine River, Minnesota, on June 2, 1911. He earned the AB Degree from John Fletcher College in 1933 and the ThB Degree from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1937. Belhaven College awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree in 1984. Dr. Wideman was ordained on May 30, 1977 in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Wideman married his beloved wife, Norma, in Martinsville, New Jersey on December 27, 1939. She preceded him in death. During the time of her extended illness both she and Dr. Wideman bore a faithful witness to the sustaining grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Wideman's two sons are David Bruce and Robin Todd.

During his ministry Dr. Wideman served churches in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church from 1937-1944. He was pastor of the Olivet Church, Charlottesville, Virginia from 1944-1950. He pastored the First Presbyterian Church of Tuscumbia, Alabama from 1950-1955. Following that he pastored the Warrington Presbyterian Church of Pensacola, Florida from 1955-1974. The First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi called him as assistant pastor in 1974. He served there until 1978, after which he was honorably retired.

Known as an unusually able preacher, Dr. Wideman's sermons were regularly published by the Presbyterian Journal. He inspired a wide following of ministers and laymen who read his sermons with much profit. Dr. Wideman's preaching was simple in form, clear in thought, biblical in content and richly illustrated.

Dr. Wideman was greatly respected for his modest demeanor, his transparent spirituality, his kind spirit, his loving heart, his commitment to do his duty, his love of God's people and his great desire to be pleasing to his Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.