

EDITORIAL

A SALUTE TO HOWARD F. SHIPPS

George Allen Turner*

Successor to Kenneth Wesche and Wilder Reynolds, Professors of Church history, is the colleague we honor in this issue of *The Asbury Seminarian*, Dr. Howard Fenimore Shipps. Dr. Shipps, whose professional title will soon be Professor Emeritus, came to Asbury Theological Seminary after an extended and effective ministry in the Southern New Jersey Conference of The Methodist Church. He has brought to the classroom and to his student counselees not only academic skills, but also the fruitage of a pastoral experience which greatly enriched his campus ministry. These skills were augmented during the years of his pastorates by graduate studies in Temple University which led to the conferring upon him of the academic doctorate.

During his ministry at the Seminary he has impressed his colleagues and his students with his commitment to his Lord and with his life of devotion. He is a regular and active participant in faculty prayer meetings and similar devotional occasions. His interest in the worship and devotional dimension of the ministry led him during one sabbatical to the Iona Community on an island off the coast of Scotland. His interest in prayer led him on repeated similar quests for the "fellowship of the saints" to the Abbey of Gethsemane near Bardstown, to Ashrams with which Dr. E. Stanely Jones was associated, and to other prayer retreats. As a pastor to student pastors, his encouragement and suggestions for improvement have been appreciated deeply by the fortunate recipients of his expertise.

As a neighbor, the neatness of his home and yard has uniformly brought favorable comment. As a citizen of the community, he has

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earned the respect and affection of many. As a hobbyist, his antique collection evokes admiration and even a temptation to covetousness. As a gardener, he demonstrates that "it can be done" even when neighbors are frustrated by their own meager success.

Church history is more than a classroom concern of Howard Shipps. His alertness to history has led him to explore the scenes of the labors of early Methodist preachers, including the site of Bethel Academy founded by Bishop Francis Asbury. As a result the area has been visited and partially excavated by seminary personnel as a project affording experience in actual archaeological research.

Colleagues appreciate the grace and competence with which he has organized and conducted such community activities as Faculty Retreat and the local Lions Club, in connection with which the honor of Kentucky Colonel was bestowed upon him. So we of *The Asbury Seminarian* staff are privileged to share in the honors which mark his soon retirement. We salute an esteemed and trusted colleague!