

CAN THE METHODIST 'DRY BONES' LIVE AGAIN?

REV. DR. WILLIAM R. BOUKNIGHT



Dr. William R. (Bill) Bouknight was born in Greenville, SC, June 20, 1941, son of the Rev. and Mrs. W.R. Bouknight, Jr. He was reared in Methodist parsonages all over South Carolina. His undergraduate and most of his seminary education were received at Duke University, with the final year of the Masters of Divinity work completed at the University of Edinburgh (Scotland). Afterward, Bill completed the Sacred Theology Masters (STM) at Yale Divinity School. In 1988, Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC conferred upon him the honorary D.D. degree. Bill served as a chaplain in the Army National Guard for

27 years, retiring in 1994 with the rank of Brigadier General.

Bill served five churches in South Carolina from 1966 until 1994. His longest tenure was twelve years as Senior Minister of Trenholm Road UMC in Columbia, SC. In 1994 he was appointed Senior Minister of Christ UMC, Memphis, TN. During Bill's thirteen years in that position, over 4000 new members joined the church. Over one-third of them joined by profession of faith, rather than transferring to Christ Church from another congregation. In cooperation with a large African-American church in that city, Christ Church sponsored an annual interdenominational service in the Pyramid of Memphis early on Easter morning that attracted an average of over 15,000 worshippers. Those services were credited by city leaders as making a significant improvement in race relations. In June, 2007, Bill retired, having served 41 years in full-time ordained ministry, and moved back home to Columbia, SC.

Bill served twice as a delegate to United Methodism's General Conference, and three times as a delegate to Jurisdictional Conferences. He is a recipient of the Harry Denman Evangelism Award, and was named the Distinguished Evangelist of the United Methodist Church for 2002 by the United Methodist Foundation for Evangelism. In 2008 he received the Philip Evangelism Award at the United Methodist Congress on Evangelism. Bill is a former chairman of the board of directors of the Confessing Movement within the United Methodist Church. Currently he serves as a part-time Associate Director of the Confessing Movement.

He has written several books. Three recent ones are "The Authoritative Word: Preaching Truth in a Skeptical Age" (Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2001); "Should Christians Always Oppose War, and 11 Other Questions Believers Ask" (Bristol House, Anderson, IN, 2004); and "If Disciples Grew like Kudzu" (Bristol House, 2007). Bill's latest book, published in 2010 by Bristol House, is entitled "Five Beliefs Worth Dying For."

Bill has been married to Gloria Pardee Bouknight for 42 years. They have two sons, Brad and Aaron. They reside at 10 Oakman Lane, Columbia, SC 29209. Bill's hobbies are golf, quail and turkey hunting, reading, visiting historical sites, and dancing with Gloria.

*Northern Illinois Conference
Evangelical Association*



ANNUAL DINNER

**Friday
June 10, 2011**

5:30 p.m.

**Broadway Ballroom
Pheasant Run Resort**

**Tickets
\$25.⁰⁰ each**

Make your reservations at the same time you register for Annual Conference and make one payment via check or credit card.

For persons not registering for Conference, send your check (payable to NICEA) for this event only to:

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