

Dr. Elmer Perry Mobley - March 16, 1927 – December 3, 2020. Perry was born in Bainbridge, Georgia to the late Jerry Elmer Mobley and Nell Smith Mobley of Albany, Georgia. He was married to his childhood sweetheart, Jeane Duke, of Americus, Georgia, who presently lives in Winston-Salem, NC.

Their children are Perry Duke Mobley (Pam), Rogers, AR; David Duke Mobley, Winston-Salem, NC; Elisabeth Duke Sims (James), Winston-Salem, NC; Mark Duke Mobley (Carol), Hollywood, SC. Their grandchildren are Hunter Mobley and Melissa Mobley Niebrugge, Christopher Sims, Andrew Sims (Stacy), Jennifer Sims Reeves (Keith), Joseph Perry Mobley (J.P.), Matthew Mobley, and Bradley Mobley. Their great-grandchildren are Caleb Mobley, Molly Niebrugge, Thomas Reeves, James Reeves, Graeme Reeves, and Scarlett Reeves.

Perry is survived by his sister Mary Nell. He was predeceased by two sisters, Mrs. Claude Hughes (Valeria) and Mrs. Armond Ouimette (Bernice).

Perry served in the Navy during World War II, after which he prepared himself for ordination in the Presbyterian Church by attending Georgia Southwestern University in Americus, GA; Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC; and Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. He received his doctorate from King College in Bristol, TN, where he later served on the Board of Trustees.

Perry pastored six churches as Senior Pastor: Havana Presbyterian, Havana, FL; Tifton Presbyterian, Tifton, GA; Fifth Avenue Presbyterian, Knoxville, TN; Reynolda Presbyterian, Winston-Salem, NC; First Presbyterian, Florence, SC; Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian, Florence, SC.

Under Dr. Mobley's leadership while serving as founding pastor of Trinity EPC, The King's Academy came into being through the inspiration of diligent mothers of home-schoolers and the support of the Elders of the church. TKA now provides Christian education from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Likewise, the vision of dedicated, faithful servants has brought the Gospel and love of Jesus to the Hispanic community. This ministry which began in an open field is now housed in a new facility at Trinity.

In 1987, Dr. Mobley was elected Moderator of the General Assembly, the highest church court position of the EPC denomination.

After retirement in 1992, Perry continued in ministry as an interim at Central Evangelical Presbyterian, St. Louis, MO; Ward EPC in Northville, MI (the mother church of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church); Reynolda EPC, Winston-Salem, NC; Cherry Creek EPC, Aurora, CO; Grace EPC, in Phoenix, AR (a church which Dr. Mobley was called to plant within a Dell Web Retirement Community); Lebanon EPC in Greenwood, VA; and Myrtle Grove EPC in Wilmington, NC.

Perry returned to Trinity EPC in Florence, SC by invitation of Pastor Bryan Slater and the elders to serve as Director of Pastoral Care and Visitors, where he retired and became Pastor Emeritus.

Upon completion of Trinity Church's present sanctuary in 2005, a golden cross was installed in honor of Dr. Perry Mobley, Founding Pastor, who "has served the people with authority, compassion, humor, and love". Whatever his role – Senior Pastor, Moderator of the EPC General Assembly, Interim Pastor at other churches, Pastoral Care Director, Pastor Emeritus – his life exemplifies that of a servant leader. As says in II Chronicles 32:20-21, Perry Mobley has done what was good, right, and true before the Lord his

God. And in every work which he began in the service of the house of God, he did with all his heart and prospered.”

Football was this athlete’s favorite sport. He played in high school, refereed in little leagues and officiated in Triple A high schools. He also enjoyed tennis, golf, fishing, and hunting. His hobbies included tin-smithing, rug-hooking and birding with Jeane.

A service of praise, worship and thanksgiving was held at Reynolda EPC on Reynolda Road, Sunday, December 6, at 2:00 p.m. with Alan Wright presiding.

“To God be the glory, great things He has done.” What a mighty God we serve!