

## **Astonishing News**

When Dr. Cammack left for his annual fall and winter sojourn in Arizona, Harold Mitchell White was invited to become supply pastor for the duration of the war, the appointment being effective October 1, 1944. Members had just enough time to paint the pastor's study before he arrived. Within ten days, however, the astonishing news came that Chaplain Orrell would receive his release from active duty almost immediately. The Board of Deacons in a called meeting on October 10 thoroughly discussed the dilemma, and appointed a committee of three men and two women to draft a letter explaining Mr. White's situation to Chaplain Orrell and to inform Mr. White of the development. The dilemma was that Mr. White had been assured that his services would be needed for at least the duration of the war because the congregation had granted Mr. Orrell leave of absence for that period. At the time an end to hostilities was not in sight. On October 25 the deacons met again to hear letters from Chaplain Orrell and to receive his formal resignation which he insisted must be accepted immediately. In a few months on January 10, 1945, Mr. White became Oakwood's sixth pastor.

Housing for the pastors was a concern before the days of Mr. White's supply ministry. With nothing suitable available in the neighborhood for purchase, the church investigated construction possibilities. But the War Production Board, which had to approve all construction, could not be convinced that a minister should live in his church community. It was also difficult to obtain a lawn signboard to replace the rotting wooden one near the corner.

V-E Day came on May 7, 1945, and V-J Day followed on August 14. Within a few days of war's end Mr. White resigned to enter the Seminary. Former Chaplain Orrell supplied the pulpit for a few months.

In November Oakwood's returned servicemen were honored with a dinner at the church sponsored by the young people. Former Pastor S. Roy Orrell and Chaplain George C. Patterson were special guests. John M. Reid presided over the festivities, while Willard Pierce, a neighborhood boy who later became a professional singer in New York, who was considering a call the pastor the church, spoke.