



Perry & Dukie Sloan

Perry A. Sloan, Jr.
(November 6, 1917 – October 10, 2019)

There is a story about youngster Perry Sloan coming to the construction site of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church with his father. His father told Perry that this was, "his church," and that he would have a responsibility for it sometime in the future. We don't know if this is a true accounting, but there is no doubt that Perry took on a personal, lifelong responsibility for sustaining Trinity Avenue Presbyterian on the corner of Gregson and Trinity Avenue.

Perry A. Sloan, Jr., a cornerstone member of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, the church on the corner, died peacefully at 100 years of age. Perry was survived by his son Perry Sloan III of Salt Lake City and Cousin Robert M. Sloan, of Winston-Salem. He was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Lillie Duke Clements Sloan, and his daughter Trudie Ruffin Sloan Peek.

His passing is grieved by generations of fellow members of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, who loved and admired their friend. Perry was a stalwart of the church, assured to be in his regular pew every week, including the Sunday before his death.

Perry was respected for his kindness, generosity, determination, humility, and faithfulness. He believed in humbly doing the right thing for the right reason. His later years were spent quietly finding ways to make a difference to his family, church, alma mater, and the community.

A Durham native, Perry was born November 6, 1917. His father died when he was very young, leaving Perry with fond memories of Durham Bulls baseball games and a lifelong connection to the Church he watched being built by his father's side.

Perry was president of the Durham High School Class of 1935. He went to Davidson College where he received a B.S. in Business Administration in 1939. At Davidson, Perry was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and served as fraternity president in his senior year. He was inducted into the ODK national leadership society. He later studied graduate level finance at UNC Chapel Hill.

Perry was utterly devoted to his wife Dukie, with whom he became acquainted at a college dance while she was a student at the Woman's College of Duke University. They married in Bethesda, Maryland, July 20, 1942. He had enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1940, completing his first tour of duty as a young officer before the war, then returning to active service in the 82nd Airborne Division after Pearl Harbor. He served with the 82nd as Finance Officer and

was awarded a Bronze Star in 1944 for having "demonstrated the most painstaking devotion to duty" as his unit pursued campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, England, France, Holland, and ultimately Germany. He was honorably discharged from the Army as a Captain in 1946.

Perry began his professional life as a partner in the CM Headache Powder Company in Durham. In 1948 he joined First Securities Corporation as a stockbroker, eventually rising to become the firm's president in 1965. He served in that role until its merger with J.C. Wheat & Co., later known as Wheat First Securities. He retired after a forty-year career.

An abiding concern for Durham led him to service on the Durham County Welfare Board in 1951, later serving as chairman in 1957. He also served as an officer in the Jaycees, the Community Chest, and in 1964, as president of Hope Valley Country Club. In 1970, he joined the Board of Trustees of Peace College, where he endowed the Sloan Scholars Program. Perry was a loyal and generous supporter of Davidson College. In 2002, Davidson named the Sloan Music Center in honor of Perry and Dukie.

Perry was devoted to Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church and its work was ever a priority. The Presbytery of New Hope presented Perry with Trinity Avenue's Outstanding Older Adult Award in recognition of the many supportive roles he played, including decades as a Ruling Elder, Finance Committee member, and Stewardship campaign leader. His financial leadership impacted Trinity Avenue in life-sustaining ways, allowing the congregation to grow the church staff and budget, rebuild the organ, and build a new fellowship hall. These gifts were always made humbly, with a desire to empower others and share God's blessings. His last bequest was the establishment of a TAPC charitable trust such that fifty percent (50%) of the annual net income is to be used at the discretion of its Session to support the work and mission of TAPC. It was Perry's intention that the Session, in exercising its discretion, "may use such income as a supplement for its annual budgetary needs with the exception of payments by TAPC to its presbytery, synod, general assembly, the World Council of Churches or any similar such body."

His regular and faithful attendance at church on Sunday mornings sent a message to the congregation of the value he placed on gathering together to worship God, and in recent years his care providers were always by his side. Fellow members of the George Watts class remembered him singing a favorite hymn, "Dwelling in Beulah Land" with gusto. He was dearly loved and trusted by all of the pastors through the ages, particularly Bill Bennett, on whose search committee he served, and current pastor Katie Crowe, who spent many happy hours visiting him.

In one last act of devotion to the Church, memorial gifts in Perry's name were encouraged and directed to the outreach ministries of Trinity Avenue.

Quotes about Perry:

As a man.....

Perry Sloan was a great example of how one should think, act, and behave as a responsible adult. (Tom Miller)

Perry Sloan was modest, always thoughtful in his response, ever kind and generous. His courtesy was perfect, genuine, and never in the least affected. (Tom Miller)

Perry was a true Southern gentleman. He was gracious, generous, kind, loyal, giving, steady, polite, honest, faithful and humble. (Bill Ross)

Perry was a skilled golfer. He won two men's titles at Hope Valley spending many happy hours on the course and in the clubhouse with friends. His 63 on the par 70 course in 1977 took the Hope Valley record from professional golfer Mike Souchak, and his 28 on the back nine may never be eclipsed. He was an active leader in the Southern Seniors Golf Association and Perry and Dukie enjoyed many trips playing courses in the U.S., and across the British Isles and South Africa. Well into his 90s, Perry would step out his door and play a few holes. (From his obituary)

He was a great example of the Greatest Generation. (Bill Ross)

Perry was soft spoken,
Thoughtful and caring,
Great love for TAPC and its future,
Everyone was his friend,
Very welcoming,
Very approachable,
Kind,
Big Heart,
Did not desire or seek attention for his philanthropy (Jim Elkins)

In his last years Perry loved sitting on his back patio watching the birds and conversing with the occasional visitor. As we spoke one sunny afternoon about his deep gratitude for his caregivers, upon whom he depended and whom he cherished, he commented, "I'm entering my second infancy, and I've got no regrets." Perry mastered the art of aging gracefully and consenting fully to whatever life would bring, even up to the hour of his passing. (Katie Crowe)

On Money.....

Although he was never one to talk about money (I don't think I ever heard him mention a dollar amount in any context), I did have one or two conversations with him during which he revealed the deep sense of responsibility he felt to the people and institutions which played important roles in the development of his own character and person. His family was first in his plans and thoughts. Next came faith-based giving. This of course, was focused on Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, Davidson College, Peace College, and Duke University. One might be tempted to think that education was a separate category from the church in his mind. Maybe it was, but he gave me the impression that it was all of a piece.

From my observation, Christian faith in worship, education, and the development of character and social responsibility seemed to be all facets of the same stone to him.

When something big came up, I had the honor of asking Perry to help. He always said yes. He did his part and more, every time. My favorite line was when I asked him and Dukie for \$1 million for the Families in Faith campaign. He said "Susan, do you think it would be a disincentive to the rest of the congregation if we gave \$1.5 million instead?" I assured them we would make it work, and thus that \$500k became a challenge and we worked hard to match it. Win/Win. He loved how that worked out. (Susan Ross)

On TAPC.....

It was clear that Perry had a deep sense of gratitude for God's blessings, and for the love of his fellow parishioners at TAPC. He felt that love and support on the loss of Dukie. Even at the age of 100 years, he set an example for all by his steadfast attendance at Sunday worship. All of us were comforted by his presence; if Perry was in his pew, then all was right in this world. (Jim Kinney)

He wanted to be aware of church finances and have an opportunity to ask questions. (Jim Elkins)

He was ever the gracious host whenever I met with him (routinely visiting to review the status of his commitment and the needs of the church), and he was generous with his time and financial resources. He was truly an inspiration for how to conduct oneself and how to be a model member of a church he loved so much and lovingly supported each and every week, each and every year. (John Snelling)

His commitment will continue in perpetuity. It will fund his yearly gift and in addition, can be used for the Church's outreach and operations. (Richard Blankenship)