

## **Spaugh, Herbert** <sup>[1]</sup>

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by William S. Powell, 1994

**30 Sept. 1896–22 Nov. 1978**



"Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Moravian Church, Held in Memorial Coliseum, 1957," photograph taken March 3, 1957 by Frank Jones. Bishop Herbert Spaugh is shown on the far left. Reference ID UZZ\_EVJ\_2105, from the Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection. Image used courtesy of Forsyth County Public Library Photograph Collection.

<sup>[2]</sup>Herbert Spaugh, Moravian <sup>[3]</sup> bishop, author, musician, and newspaper columnist, was born in Salem, the son of Rufus A. and Anna Louise Hege Spaugh. In 1918, during World War I, he served in the army at Fort Jackson, S.C. A graduate of Moravian College and the Moravian Theological Seminary, he earned an M.A. degree from Davidson College <sup>[4]</sup>, which also awarded him an honorary doctor of divinity degree. He received an honorary LL.D. degree from Moravian College.

For a short period Spaugh engaged in furniture manufacturing <sup>[5]</sup>, but in 1924 he became pastor of a Moravian church in Charlotte <sup>[6]</sup>. He was consecrated a bishop in 1959. Beginning in 1933 he contributed a column, "Everyday Counselor," to newspapers in Charlotte and Winston-Salem; it was syndicated in thirty newspapers elsewhere in the South. He was the author of three books: *Pathway to Contentment* (1946), *Everyday Counsel for Everyday Living* (1951), and *Pathway to a Happy Marriage* (1953).

Bishop Spaugh organized the state's first Alcoholics Anonymous group, served as a trustee of Salem College <sup>[7]</sup> and of Moravian College <sup>[8]</sup> in Pennsylvania, was chaplain of Civitan International and the American Legion, and was an active member of the North Carolina Council of Churches <sup>[9]</sup>, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the North Carolina State School Board Association, and the American Guild of Organists. He also built pipe organs and served as organist and choir director for churches in Winston-Salem <sup>[10]</sup> and Bethlehem, Pa., and organized and directed the Charlotte Boy Scout <sup>[11]</sup> Band, which evolved into the Charlotte public school system's music program. He himself played the French horn in the Charlotte Symphony.

In 1920 he married Ida Brown Efird. They became the parents of three children: Earle Frederick, Herbert, Jr., and Carolyn (Mrs. Robert Farmer, Jr.).

### **References:**

*Charlotte Observer*, 23 Nov. 1978.

Barbara Harding, *The Boy, the Man, and the Bishop* (1970).

William S. Powell, ed., *North Carolina Lives* (1962).

*Raleigh News and Observer*, 16, 28 Dec. 1959.

## Additional Resources:

"Herbert Spaugh Papers." MS0219, J. Murrey Atkins Library Special Collections, UNC Charlotte. <http://library.uncc.edu/manuscript/ms0219> <sup>[12]</sup> (accessed May 1, 2014).

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## Authors:

[Powell, William S.](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

## Origin - location:

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[Winston-Salem](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

[Mecklenburg County](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

[Charlotte](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

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