

Dr. Joseph M. Blessing, Methodist minister, dies

BRANCHVILLE — Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday for the Rev. Dr. Joseph M. Blessing, 78, of

Methodist Manor, who was pronounced dead on arrival Sunday at Newton Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Blessing was born in Oxford and educated in Hackettstown public schools and at Lafayette College, Easton, Pa.; Drew University, Madison; Lincoln-Jefferson University, Webster University, Columbia University, and New York University, New York City. He held B.A., M.A., Ph.D. and S.T.S. degrees.

Dr. Blessing was ordained in the Methodist ministry in 1922. He served churches in New York and New Jersey, including Port Murray-Mt. Bethel, Stillwater-Swartswood, Branchville-Frankford Plains, High Bridge, Denville, Washington and Trinity, Staten Island, N.Y.

During his lifetime, Dr.

Blessing was also chaplain and social psychologist at the Annandale State Reformatory, feature writer for the Plainfield Courier, literary editor for the Christian Advocate and Methodist Review and a lecturer in graduate pastor's schools.

Dr. Blessing was a dean of the Ocean Grove Graduate Pastor's School and served on many Methodist boards. He was also author of the section on the Methodist Church in the New York State Law Governing Religious Bodies.

A member of the Rotary Clubs in Washington, Staten Island and Teaneck, he was also a member of the Free and Accepted Masons.

He had moved to Methodist Manor one year ago from Andover.

He is survived by his wife, Leta, a son, William P. of

Sparta; a daughter, Mrs. Maude S. Bittel of Staten Island; a brother, C. Henry of Hackettstown; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Another son, Dr. Joseph M. Blessing Jr., predeceased him.

Services will be in Trinity United Methodist Church, Hackettstown, conducted by Dr. Clark Hunt, district supervisor of the United Methodist Church. Arrangements are by the Cochran Funeral Home, Hackettstown.

Interment will be in Hackettstown Union Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Sparta Methodist Church Building Fund or to the Heart Fund.



Rev. Dr. Joseph Blessing

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OBITUARY: Dr. Joseph M. Blessing.
Date of Death, March 26, 1978.