

Appendix M
Biography
of
Geraldine Gibbons Deering

1933 - 1965

Geraldine Gibbons, familiarly known at West Side Baptist as “Gerry”, was born to Elizabeth (Hoskins) and Walter Gibbons on December 9, 1933 at Hamilton, Ohio. Both her parents, sister (Thelma Justice), and four brothers (Ralph, Harold, Dale and Kenneth) have been or are members of West Side Baptist Church. From earliest infancy she was a part of the life of West Side. Always beautiful in body, mind, and spirit, in her earliest teen-age years she manifested to all in the church her characteristic personal radiance, genuine joy, deep love of and through dedication to God through Christ, and her sincere concern and love for other people, young and old. Even as a thirteen year old she was very active in teaching and caring for toddlers and beginners in the Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Active also in the Baptist Training Union she became acquainted with Ronald F. Deering who was also active in the work of the church’s young people. That association led to friendship and a courtship from 1946 through 1953, when they were married on June 27, 1953 in the church in which they had met and spent so much of their courtship. Gerry’s schooling was at Lincoln Elementary, Wilson Junior High, and Hamilton High School from which she graduated in June 1951. The year 1951-52 was spent as a student at Miami University. In the following summer she became engaged to her future husband who had completed his first year of seminary at that time. While assisting him with pastoring duties at First Hilltop Baptist Church, North College Hill, she worked that year on the sorting line at Champion Paper Company, as her fiancée did at Mosler Safe Company. During her work at West Side between 1946 and 1953 she was a very great blessing not only to a whole generation of teen-agers, but especially to the toddlers, beginners, and junior age children she taught so effectively and lovingly in both Sunday School and Training Union. One of whom, Ward Wells, now engaged in an important Christian books ministry in Louisville, Kentucky, like many fondly remember the beauty, power, and inspiration of her young life.

She accompanied her young husband back to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in the fall of 1953. Working to support his seminary education she soon found employment as an assistant in the seminary library, where she contributed very significantly not only to the library, but also to the entire seminary community during the nine years (1954-1963) that she filled the position of Acquisitions Librarian. In addition to her work in the library she was very active where her husband served as Pastor in Blue River Baptist Church, Salem, Indiana, 1954-1959. Here for five years she continued her work with the children in Sunday School, Training Union and Vacation Bible School, as well as work with the church music and choir, making the eighty-mile round trip each day with her husband to the seminary. Only eighteen months after her husband’s election to the seminary faculty she suddenly was diagnosed with breast cancer in January, 1963. The ensuing operation brought a devastating diagnosis of rampant, incurable cancer. Yet her radiant spirit never faltered. Realizing the seriousness of the prognosis, yet she continued her trust in God, never once doubted or questioned his love and care for her, and through all the days that remained engaged constantly and deeply in care for her husband, family, and friends. Enduring three major surgeries, radiation and

chemotherapy, she still made the very most of every day of the following twenty-three months that she lived, until her death on January 30, 1965 in Kentucky Baptist Hospital, Louisville, at age thirty-one. Her funeral services were held both in Crescent Hills Baptist Church, Louisville, and West Side Baptist Church at Hamilton, Ohio where her body was laid to rest in Rose Hill Cemetery, February 2, 1965. And from whence her soul departed to eternal life with her Heavenly Father, and her spirit has remained to bless and inspire everyone who ever knew her. Friends, family, and admirers in the church established a lasting and fitting memorial to her in naming the church library in her honor, where her portrait is also displayed.

Submitted by:

Dr. Ronald Franklin Deering (1994)

Appendix N

Biography

of

Chester A. Molpus

March 10, 1912 -

West Side Baptist Church

Interim Pastor

February 1966 - June 1966

Chester Arthur Molpus was born March 10, 1912 in Meridian, Mississippi. He was the son of Doss W. and Alma Margaret White Molpus. He has three sisters; Mrs. W. E. Sikes, of Stonewall, Mississippi; Mrs. D. W. Severence, Enterprise, Mississippi; and Mrs. Ernest Strange, Meridian, Mississippi.

Mr. Molpus graduated from Mississippi College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1937, and was ordained as Minister of the Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church, Meridian, Mississippi in 1938. He was married to Helen Reily of Meridian, Mississippi on July 16, 1938. He received his Master's Degree of Theology in 1940 from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mr. Molpus was Pastor of Taylorsville Baptist Church, Taylorsville, Kentucky from 1940 to 1942. During this time a son, Manley, was born on August 9, 1941. From 1942 to 1964 Mr. Molpus was Pastor of Belzoni Baptist Church, Belzoni, Mississippi. He also had several other responsibilities: Trustee of Mississippi College, Executive Committee, Mississippi College, Trustee of Blue Mountain College, and Trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Two other sons were born to Chester and Helen Molpus: Frank, September 4, 1946 and David, July 19, 1948.

Mr. Molpus' activities during the years 1965 to 1968 were: Director of Administrative Services, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Interim Pastor, Lawrenceburg Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, and Interim Pastor West Side Baptist Church, Hamilton, Ohio.

Between the years 1968 to 1977 Mr. Molpus was Pastor of Chesterfield Baptist Church, Chesterfield, S. C., was member of the General Board of South Carolina Baptist Convention, member of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and Moderator of the Chesterfield Baptist Association.

(This was taken from the Chesterfield Baptist Retirement Recognition Service, Sunday, August 28, 1977).

In a hand-written letter, Bro. Molpus said some updating was necessary. His sons are

now living in Charlotte, N.C., Durham, N. C. , and Washington, D . C. . Mrs. Molpus died on January 25, 1993. After retiring at age 65, he served for twelve years in a small country church until they entered the Bethea Baptist Retirement Community in October, 1991. The Retirement Community is in Darlington, S. C.. He has now developed Parkinson's Disease and is finding it a challenge to adapt to a changing health condition. He sends Best Wishes to all Members of West Side. (1994)

*Information from material submitted by:
Rev. Chester A. Molpus (1994)*



Reverend Chester Arthur Molpus

*Photo from retirement bulletin, Chesterfield Baptist Church,
Chesterfield, S.C., 1977*



George C. Bridges

Photo submitted by Rev. Bridges, 1994

Appendix O

Biography

of

George Bridges

September 25, 1924 -

West Side Baptist Church

Interim Pastor

1973 - 1974 and 1980 - 1981

George C. Bridges was born in Louisville, Kentucky, September 25, 1924. He married Loretta Ann Scaggs in 1950; they have two sons: David and Gary. His wife, Loretta is from Missouri.

George graduated from Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1947. He was awarded the following degrees from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky:

Th. B. Degree in 1950

M. Div. Degree in 1973

M. A. Degree in Christian in 1984

He completed about 50% of a doctoral degree program in Education at the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The summer of 1950, George C. Bridges, studied Pastoral Clinical Training at the Missouri Baptist Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri, under Chaplain Everett Barnard. In October, 1950 he entered the U. S. Air Force as a chaplain and spent almost a year in Korea during the war. At the time he was the youngest Chaplain in the U. S. Air Force. In 1952, he finished his tour of duty and became pastor of the Williamstown Baptist Church, Williamstown, Kentucky. His next pastorate was the Fairdale Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky. He returned to the Seminary for further study and became pastor of the Petersburg Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky.

He moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, and spent the next thirty years serving in both public education and the ministry. He was an elementary principal for 25 years and served as bivocational pastor, supply pastor and interim pastor of more than 35 churches in the Southern Ohio and Northern Kentucky area. He was active in Denominational service; he served in a number of Associational offices, including Associational Moderator. He served the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as Seminary Trustee from 1967 to 1977. He retired from public education in 1989 and moved to the Indianapolis, Indiana area, to be near his grandchildren. He has continued to serve as a supply and interim pastor in the central Indiana area since moving there five years ago.

Submitted by:

George C. Bridges

1994

Appendix P

The Gordon Avenue Mission Aid Society
Organized March 29, 1920
Seven Charter Members

Mrs. Ida A. Betscher
Mrs. Caudill
Mrs. Craven
Mrs. Hamilton
Mrs. Hurd
Mrs. Mussleman
Mrs. Reeves

First Officers

Mrs. Ida A. Betscher-----President
Mrs. Caudill-----Vice President
Mrs. Mussleman-----Secretary
Mrs. Craven-----Treasurer

Motto
Onward and Upward

Objective
Christian Growth

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Adams, Dr. J. McKee	8, 9	Clarke, John	1
Alexander Thomson Memorial Bldg.	13	Clear Creek School	18
Allen, Rogers	20	Cochran, Mrs. Juanita	25
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American Revolution	1	Congregational Church	1
Angelton Church	1	Conn, Rev. Max	13
Ashlock, Bruce	18	Conners, Ray and Barbara	13
Backus, Isaacs	1	Constitution Convention	1
Bailey, Greenbright	2	Coons, Bob and Debbie	19
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Baker, Mrs. Charles	5	Cox, Mrs. Melva	25
Baptist Men	25	Crawford, Robert and Rose	20
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Bertsch, Roth	14	Crook, Gordon	27
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