

PACIFIC CHURCH NEWS

SPRING 1991



Helen Davis Pepperdine
1903 - 1990

A NEWS JOURNAL FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST ON THE WEST COAST

The First Lady of Pepperdine

by Frank Pack



Helen and George Pepperdine in 1947

Life sometimes confronts us with incredulous news. This is particularly true when the news is disturbing and concerns those we love. On Friday evening, October 5, 1990, the word came to us: Helen Pepperdine, wife of the founder of Pepperdine University, had died of heart failure in Midway Hospital, Los Angeles, California. "Helen Pepperdine gone?" The thought seemed unreal to many of us. She had made real progress toward recovery, despite her injuries and her advanced age, and it appeared that she would be home soon. After all, there was the feeling that Helen was herself "an institution" and would always be with us. But after a valiant attempt to rise above complications, she went home to be with the Lord to whom she had been so faithful and whom she loved so much.

One of the great blessings of preaching at the church where she attended and of working at Pepperdine University was our privilege of knowing Mrs. Pepperdine. Students at the school today know little, if anything, about the many acts of generosity and love that she and her late husband, George, displayed to those around them.

Mr. Pepperdine had become a very successful businessman in the early 1900s, founding and developing the great Western Auto Supply Company. Then, at the age of fifty, he was able to retire with the thought of founding a Christian college, in addition to working with struggling churches, the Y.M.C.A., and organizations that help underprivileged children. Helen was at her

husband's side all the way, encouraging and helping him.

I first met the Pepperdines in 1945 when I came to teach at the college, which was only eight years old at that time. George and Helen were present when my wife, Della, and I were married on June 22, 1947.

The Pepperdines took unusual interest in the young college they founded. Their desire was to see it develop into an excellent institution of higher learning while it exhibited a Christian perspective on life and human relations. When financial difficulties beset the school, they were deeply concerned that it weather the storm and continue to fulfill their hopes for its future. In the years since Mr. Pepperdine's death, Helen's faith in the school and her work for it have not wavered.

Della and I returned to the college January 1, 1964, just a year and a half after George died, and Helen was one of the first to welcome us. As minister of the Culver-Palms Church of Christ, where Helen was a member for the past quarter century, I can say in tribute to her that she was always a careful listener to the message of God's Word. She found that the power of the Gospel was continually blessing her life and the lives of those around her. She was very warm and supportive, and she constantly encouraged me in my preaching. I will not forget the way she thoughtfully considered my sermons—and how she continued to incorporate Bible truths into her life, even in her later years.

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As one might expect, much of Helen's life was intertwined with Pepperdine University. She tried to meet as many students as she could, and her engaging smile and genuine personal interest in them attracted hundreds through the years. She was proud of the accomplishments of the Associated Women for Pepperdine, a support organization she helped to found, in providing Christian students with scholarship aid. Her home was always open to students, faculty, and friends, for she believed that hospitality was one way to

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Remembering Dr. White

by Bill Henegar

February 7, 1991... a pleasant morning in Malibu. The rising sun chased away the coastal fog, and as the brightness rose, it sent shafts of multicolored light streaming through the stained glass windows of the Pepperdine University chapel.

Loved ones, friends, colleagues—admirers all—gathered to remember Howard A. White. It was as he had wished, as he had directed in his final days: the memorial service was conducted on the campus he loved, in the chapel where he spent so many hours in worship. The ceremony was simple yet elegant, a true reflection of the man it honored.

Jerry Rushford presided and also brought remembrances, as did Frank Pack and J. P. Sanders. A scripture was read and comments made by Tom Bost. Prayers were offered by Norvel Young and Charles Runnels. A Pepperdine student ensemble sang two of Dr. White's favorite hymns, "Hold Thou My Hand" and "Abide With Me." The congregation joined in singing two other hymns he loved, "When Peace Like a River" and "Blest Be The Tie."

Stories about Dr. White's life were shared—some evoking laughter and some bringing a tear. But the strand that held them all together like so many perfect pearls was the image of a devout Christian man who had learned to be loving, humble, and simple while standing tall as an outstanding academician and dignified gentleman.

The next day, February 8, Dr. White was laid to rest next to his beloved wife on a beautiful green slope of the Hollywood Hills. Dan Anders, minister of the Malibu Church of Christ, presided at the internment.

Dr. Howard Ashley White served faithfully as the fifth president of Pepperdine University from 1978 to 1985. He died on Friday, February 1, 1991, at the age of 77 after a valiant battle with a number of illnesses.

He was born near Florence, Alabama, in the little town of Cloverdale on September 28, 1913. His father, John Parker White, was a farmer until the family moved to Florence and purchased a grocery store. His mother, Mabel Clara Hipp White, was an elementary school teacher.

Howard's early faith was molded by his parents, who were devout Christians. He was also greatly influenced by preachers, such as G. C. Brewer and E. H. Ijams, and especially by an elder of the local church, J. W. Stutts, who took a special interest in him and introduced him to David Lipscomb College in his senior year of high school.

Howard graduated from Coffee High School



Dr. Howard Ashley White, 1913-1991

in Florence and entered David Lipscomb College in 1930. In November of that year, he preached his first public sermon for a small country Church of Christ in Alabama. He was assisted in preparing that sermon by A. G. Freed, vice president of David Lipscomb and co-founder of Freed-Hardeman College.

At that time, David Lipscomb was still a junior college, so Howard graduated in two years with honors. He stayed on another year to work for the college, then accepted a preaching position for a little church in Columbus, Mississippi, in 1933. Two years later, he moved to Jackson, and after another two years, he began preaching for the Charleston Church of Christ at the edge of the Mississippi delta. He served that congregation for four years.

In 1941, he was invited to become the minister for the new Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ in New Orleans. He agreed only after being assured that he could pursue his education there while preaching full time.

He attended Tulane University and served the Carrollton congregation for the next 12 years, during which time he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees and, finally, the Ph.D. in history. He was also proud that, during that time, the congregation built a beautiful new church building and became a radiating center from which other churches eventually sprang. At Tulane, he proved to be an outstanding scholar, winning the prestigious Montgomery Prize in History.

Though they had met earlier, it was in New Orleans that Howard became acquainted with his future wife, Maxcine Feltman. They were married on the campus of David Lipscomb College in 1952. The next year, they moved from New Orleans to Nashville, where Howard A. White, fresh with his Ph.D., agreed to teach history at his alma mater, and where, ultimately, he

became the chairman of the department. During the Lipscomb years, he also served as the regular minister for a local church, something he would do for much of his career in higher education.

After five years at David Lipscomb, Dr. White accepted an invitation from President M. Norvel Young and Dean J. P. Sanders to come to Pepperdine College as chairman of the social science division. So, he and Maxcine packed their belongings, gathered their two little boys, and headed for Los Angeles. At Pepperdine, he would serve successively as director of graduate studies, dean of graduate studies, dean of undergraduate studies, and executive vice president.

One of the highlights of Dr. White's life was becoming the founding director of Pepperdine's Year-in-Europe program in Heidelberg, West Germany, in 1963. He later wrote, "No part of the work of Pepperdine University so excites me as does the Heidelberg program." In fact, he often said, "I lost my heart in Heidelberg, where it has remained ever since."

Certainly, the low point in his life came when Maxcine died in 1973. Somehow Dr. White struggled on in faith, immersing himself in both his sons and his work.

The moment to which he seemed destined came in 1978 when William S. Banowsky assumed the presidency of the University of Oklahoma. Howard Ashley White became the fifth president of Pepperdine University—the critical need was matched by the ideal man. Though his workload and schedule were understandably heavy, he continued to serve as an elder of the Malibu Church of Christ, a role in which he served for nearly 20 years. He later recalled that his years as president had been "rich and rewarding." However, his one great disappointment continued to be that his beloved wife, Maxcine, had not been there beside him.

Dr. White's accomplishments at Pepperdine have been recounted often—and will be recounted in the days to come. Even after retiring as president in 1985, he continued to serve as president emeritus and as a member of the Board of Regents until his death. Let us only say here that the University's call came to him at a very crucial moment in its history, and he answered it superbly. He was a scholarly yet humble man, an exceptional administrator yet a devoted Christian servant. Through the years ahead, his memory will continue to shape our lives and influence the future of the institution he loved so much.

Dr. White is survived by two sons, Ashley and Elliott; by two brothers, Clyde and Earl; and by a sister, Claire.

PEPPERDINE PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

by Mary Speaks

William Adrian, provost, preached for the Church of Christ in La Mesa, California, January 20 and for the Churches of Christ in Palm Springs and Palm Desert, California, January 27.

Dan Anders, minister for the Malibu Church of Christ, spoke at the Pan American Lectureship in Guadalajara, Mexico, November 5-9. He spoke at a leadership training program held at the Church of Christ in Ventura, California, November 20 and preached for the Newland Street Church of Christ in Garden Grove, California, January 27. He spoke two times at the 35th Annual Northeastern Christian Junior College Bible Lectureship in Villanova, Pennsylvania, held March 24-27.

Garry Bailey, visiting professor of communication, preached for the Church of Christ in Baldwin Park, California, January 6.

Andrew Benton, vice president for university affairs, along with **Thomas Bost**, chairman of the Board of Regents, spoke to leaders from Churches of Christ in the Conejo Valley area of Southern California December 2. **Benton** preached for the Conejo Valley Church of Christ in Thousand Oaks, California, January 13. He and **Bost** spoke to leaders from Churches of Christ in Northern California from the Campbell and San Jose area in the morning, and the Pleasanton and Walnut Creek area in the afternoon February 9.

Ken Berry, visiting professor of religion, preached for the Church of Christ in Diamond Bar, California, January 27.

Harold Bigham, professor of law, preached for the Allied Gardens Church of Christ in San Diego, California, January 6 and for the Vermont Avenue Church of Christ in Los Angeles, California, January 13.

Calvin Bowers, professor of communication, gave the Founders Day address at Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, November 18 and taught a two-day class there on Christian education November 19 and 20. He preached for the Church of Christ in La Puente, California, January 27.

Larry Bumgardner, assistant vice president for communications and grants, preached for the Compton Avenue Church of Christ in Los Angeles, California, January 6 and for the Church of Christ in Torrance, California, January 27.

George Butterfield, program specialist for the National School Safety Center, preached for the Church of Christ in El Segundo, California,

January 6 and for the Los Altos Church of Christ in Long Beach, California, January 27.

Mike Casey, associate professor of communication, spoke at the 35th Annual Northeastern Christian Junior College Bible Lectureship in Villanova, Pennsylvania, held March 24-27. He will speak on hermeneutics at the Annual Preachers' Forum at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, to be held April 15-16.

Randy Chesnutt, associate professor of religion, gave the keynote lecture for the Preachers' Workshop hosted by the Harding Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tennessee, held October 29-31. He preached for the Decatur Church of Christ in Decatur, Georgia, December 16 and for the Cloverdale Church of Christ in Montgomery, Alabama, December 23.

Professor of Religion **Royce Clark** preached for the Church of Christ in Redondo Beach, California, January 13.

International Student Advisor **Rich Dawson** preached for the Church of Christ in Glendale, California, January 20.

Douglas Dean, professor of biology, preached for the Church of Christ in Indio, California, January 20 and for the Long Beach Church of Christ in Long Beach, California, February 24.

Professor of Communication **David Dowdey** preached for the Church of Christ in Temple City, California, January 6.

Wayne Estes, professor of law, preached for the Church of Christ in Oakview, California, January 13.

John Free, adjunct faculty member, preached for the Church of Christ in Ridgecrest, California, January 27.

Terry Giboney, assistant vice president for special programs, preached for the Clairemont Church of Christ in San Diego, California, January 13 and for the Ball Road Church of Christ in Anaheim, California, January 20.

Campus Minister **LaJuana Gill** spoke to a women's Bible study group at the Church of Christ in Corbin, Kentucky, December 23.

Randy Gill, associate professor of fine arts, spoke at a youth rally held in Tampa, Florida, January 18-20. He spoke for Pepperdine's campus ministry retreat in Santa Barbara, California, January 25-27.

Professor of Social Science **Bob Gilliam** taught a series on counseling for the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Arkansas, October 31, November 7, 14, and 21. He also

recently preached for the 40th and Hazel Church of Christ in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

James Greer, associate professor of social science, taught at the Church of Christ in Ventura, California, for their leadership training program December 9-16. He preached for the Highland Church of Christ in Bakersfield, California, January 13.

Professor of Social Science **Clarence Hibbs** taught at the leadership training program held by the Church of Christ in Ventura, California, January 20. He spoke at the Abilene Christian University Bible Lectureship held February 18-20 in Abilene, Texas.

Ron Highfield, associate professor of religion, preached for the Church of Christ in San Gabriel, California, January 20.

Herman Hughes, associate dean of education for the Graduate School of Education and Psychology, preached for Churches of Christ in California at Magnolia Center in Riverside, January 6; Hemet, January 20; and at Kinneloa Canyon in Pasadena, California, January 27.

Richard Hughes, professor of religion, preached for the Church of Christ in Shafter, California, January 6.

Bernard James, professor of law, preached for the Church of Christ in Inglewood, California, January 20.

Terry Kite, associate professor of physics, preached for Churches of Christ in Beaumont, California, January 20 and Cypress, California, January 27.

Campus Minister **Scott Lambert** preached for the Vinton Avenue Church of Christ in Pomona, California, January 6.

Hung Le, assistant director of campus life, preached for the Church of Christ in Moorpark, California, January 27.

Dean of Students **D'Esta Love** spoke on the program for the Columbia Christian College Lectureship in Portland, Oregon, held October 16-19. On October 26 she spoke for the chapel assembly at Michigan Christian College in Rochester, Michigan, and on October 27 she was the featured speaker for a women's day fellowship hosted by the Church of Christ in Birmingham, Michigan.

Stuart Love, associate professor of religion, was the keynote speaker for the Columbia Christian College Lectureship held October 16-19 in Portland, Oregon. He preached for the Anna Lane Church of Christ in Vista, California, January 6.

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PROFILES



BRUCE LOGUE

Bruce Logue began work in mid-October as the pulpit minister for the Church of Christ in Lodi, California. Previously, he served the Green Lawn Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas, beginning his work there in 1982.

Prior to his ministry with the Green Lawn church, he was pulpit minister for Churches of Christ in Murray, Kentucky, (1979-82) and Winona, Minnesota, (1973-79). He also served the Meadowbrook Church of Christ in Jackson, Mississippi, as youth minister (1970-72) and the Winnsboro Church of Christ in Winnsboro, Louisiana, (1969-70) as pulpit minister.

Bruce received a B.A. in Bible (1969) from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, and an M.S. in counseling (1978) from Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota.

He recently served as president of the High Plains Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and is a clinical member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

He and his wife, Beverly, have two children: Angela, 20 (Mrs. Mike Anthony) and Jonathan, 17.



MARK LOVE

Mark Love began as full-time pulpit minister for the East County Church of Christ in Gresham, Oregon, on November 8, 1990. He served for the past five years as associate minister for the Park Row Church of Christ in Arlington, Texas.

Mark received his B.A. (1982) and M.A. (1984) from Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas. He is currently working toward a Master of Divinity from that university.

He is managing editor for *Leaven* journal and

occasionally writes for the publication. He has also written for *IMAGE* magazine and co-authored *Good News for Marriage* published by DMS publications (1987).

He is married to the former Nancy McLeskey, and they have one child, Joshua Mark, age 4.



MICHAEL ANDERSON

Michael Anderson assumed responsibilities September 1, 1990, as pulpit minister for the Church of Christ in San Luis Obispo, California. Originally from Dallas, Texas, he and his wife, Debbie, are most recently from Abilene, Texas.

As Michael grew up, he and his family were active members of the Waterview Church of Christ in Richardson, Texas. He considers one of the most positive influences in his life to be Tim Willis, who now teaches on the religion faculty at Pepperdine, but during Michael's high school years served as youth minister for the Waterview congregation.

Michael received his B.A. degree in Bible (1986) and the M.Div. degree (1990) from Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas.

Although there is no family relationship, he was mentored by Dr. Lynn Anderson at the Highland Church of Christ for one year during his studies at Abilene. At that time he and his wife were very involved with Highland's young marrieds' group.

This is Michael's first full-time position with a church.



DALE MANOR

Dale Manor recently moved from Chelsea, Michigan, to assume responsibilities as pulpit minister for the Mt. Vernon Church of Christ

in Prescott, Arizona. While in Michigan, Dale preached parttime for the Church of Christ in Chelsea and also served as associate editor of archaeology and historical geography for the six-volume *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, under the general editorship of David Noel Freedman.

Dale has served Churches of Christ in San Manuel, Arizona, (1984-89) and in California at El Cajon (1977-84); Ojai (1974-77); and Lynwood (1972-74).

He received his B.A. in Religion from Pepperdine University and is currently working toward the Ph.D. in Ancient Syro-Palestinian archaeology from the University of Arizona.

Dale served on the staff for excavations at Tel Mique/Ekron in Israel and was awarded the Kress Fellowship for a year's appointment at the William F. Albright Institute for Archaeological Research in Jerusalem (1988-89).

He is married to the former Sharon Reynolds, and they have two children: Cynthia, 17 and Elijah, 13.



VAN ROBARTS

Van Robarts began as full-time pulpit minister for the Central Church of Christ in Stockton, California, on September 16, 1990.

Van received a B.A. in Bible (1979) from Freed-Hardeman College in Henderson, Tennessee, and is nearing completion of an M.A. in New Testament from Harding Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tennessee.

He most recently served as pulpit minister for the San Jose Church of Christ in Jacksonville, Florida, (1985-1990). Prior to that work he was pulpit minister for the Green Hills Church of Christ in Nashville, Tennessee, (1981-1985) and pulpit minister for the Christian Chapel Church of Christ in Huntingdon, Tennessee, (1979-1981). He preached part time for the Broadmoor Church of Christ in Ridgely, Tennessee, (1976-1979).

Van has contributed Bible Lessons to the 20th Century Christian Adult Quarterly teaching material.

He is married to the former Patricia Holland and they have two children: Lauren Elizabeth, age 3, and Grant Harrison, 16 months.

Workers Together with God: Bill and Virda Stevens

by Dan Anders

"This is God's ministry," says Virda Stevens of the Lord's work in Redwood City, California. "If God wants it to continue, it will. If not, then we can't hold it up long."

That philosophy explains why Bill and Virda Stevens are pillars of the Redwood City Church of Christ. They have worshiped and served in this San Francisco Bay area congregation since moving there in 1959. Through the years they have entertained thousands—visitors at church, young adults moving to the area, summer youth interns, missionaries, and newcomers to the congregation. This list could go on and on. Their lives and the lives of the whole Stevens family are interwoven with God's ministry in Redwood City.

With a background of several generations in Churches of Christ, the Stevenses carry a rich heritage passed from their parents. Bill is the son of a Kentucky preacher, and his great grandfather was baptized by the famous restorationist Alexander Campbell. Virda's family also has a long history in Churches of Christ, and her own father was an elder. So, family and faith tie closely together for them. They have happily passed on life in Christ to their children and grandchildren.

Son Mark and his wife, Karen, and their four children are members at the Redwood City Church of Christ. Son Gary and his wife, Denise, are members of the Christian Life Fellowship in Santa Cruz. Daughter Jean is a Pepperdine University student, and foster-son Leonard Sperandio worships at the Winding Way Church of Christ in Sacramento.

Family gatherings are rounded out by Virda's mother, Lena Walker, of the Redwood City Church, and brother, Ken Walker, who attends the Livermore Church of Christ. It's hardly a surprise that get-togethers center around worship, prayer, and conversations about church life and ministry.

Bill Stevens served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict, and it was in the military that he was introduced to the field of electronics. After his discharge, he studied electrical engineering in San Francisco and received on-the-job training at the Stanford Research Institute in Palo Alto.

By 1969, Bill had worked his way to the position of president and chief executive officer of Data Disc, Inc. But two years later, when he lost that position, he and two partners formed a new enterprise, Triad Systems Corporation, a computer systems company.

Bill served his company as president and CEO until 1985, and from that time on, he has continued as chairman of the board. His dream has grown from three employees (Bill and his two



In 1990, after a successful campaign at the Eastleigh Church of Christ in Kenya, the Stevens and other American volunteers visited Samburu game park at the Samburu Serena Lodge.

partners) to more than 1,400 employees and from a small initial investment to \$144 million in total annual sales. Triad has 125 field service offices and 575 field support staff serving 10,000 small and medium businesses in 3,500 cities around the nation and Australia, Canada, and Great Britain.

When Bill Stevens was appointed an elder at Redwood City in 1974, it was a clear recognition of his spiritual leadership among God's people. He is willing to do any job that needs doing: taping sermons, preparing a classroom, cleaning up camp messes, greeting visitors, and hosting home meetings of church leaders—all of which he has done—and more. He visits the sick, meets with anyone who asks, and goes with Virda to see the parents of the Redwood City Church's pre-school program.

For her part, Virda has been a model in Christian education. For many years, she has taught fifth and sixth grades for three quarters

of the year. She has developed "station teaching" to an art, using a combination of exciting and varied activities to share God's word with her students.

In 1971, when Bill lost his job with Data Disc, Inc., the Stevenses didn't know how they would afford nursery school for three-year-old Jean. The answer? Virda launched a pre-school Bible class at the church building. Twelve children enrolled for a 2-hour session each Tuesday morning.

Nearly 20 years later, Virda still directs and teaches in the daily pre-school classes. Ninety-six children share six classes. Forty women of the church participate in staffing this ministry. In addition, three classes are held each week to encourage and evangelize the mothers of the pre-school students.

Through the years, Bill and Virda have been sparkplugs for many new ministries at Redwood City. The works that they have



In Kenya, Bill and property manager Isaac, discussed how to best utilize the facilities for Eastleigh's vacation Bible school in 1990.



Virda and Bill Stevens celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary February 4, 1990.



Virda shared her teaching expertise with 35-40 volunteer teachers during two days of teacher training prior to the 1990 vacation Bible school program at Eastleigh. This year's program in April will be run completely by members of the Eastleigh church who were trained by the Stevens and other Americans.

birthed or significantly nurtured is truly amazing.

In 1970, a summer recreation program for children 6- to 12-years old was begun with a plan written by Virda. Today it serves more than 100 kids for seven weeks each summer. A summer camp was kicked off at Daybreak Camp in 1971; it continues today with 90 community children. Yes, the Stevens are involved each year with the camp.

A bus ministry, begun in 1975, now reaches 60 children weekly, and Bill and Virda have knocked on doors and prepared meals for bus workers. Also, the summer intern program for Christian college students benefits from the Stevenses hospitality.

This tireless couple participates in Redwood City's prayer chain, encourages the congregation's youth ministry, hosts one of the Sunday night Shepherd Groups, and has been a great support to Manna International, a far-

reaching benevolence ministry begun at Redwood City in 1983.

The Stevenses are boosters of Christian education beyond the local church: Bill is a member of Pepperdine University's Board of Regents and Virda has served on the Board of Trustees of Columbia Christian College. And both of the Stevenses have helped with Madison Christian School since it opened its doors in 1986. In fact, three of their grandchildren are enrolled there.

Believe it or not, Bill and Virda have recently involved themselves in African missions! In 1989, they participated in a campaign at Eastleigh church in Nairobi, Kenya. Then last year, they led a group in a vacation Bible school and teacher-training program for the Eastleigh congregation. Over 400 Nairobi children were taught God's word. Plans are under way for a similar effort this summer. It's not surprising that more than 1,000 have been

baptized into Christ at Eastleigh church in the last two years.

Another of Bill's new interests involves a great concern for multiplying adult Bible classes. He has spurred preparation of new offices and classrooms at Redwood City. Having taken the role of "church handyman" from his father-in-law, Fred Walker, when he died in 1987, Bill has actually done much of the work on the new offices.

Charles Coulston, longtime minister at the Redwood City Church of Christ, sings the Stevenses' praise. "They support ministers and ministry. They develop close and quality friendships. They can cry and laugh. They worship and pray and encourage. They know how to show people a good time. Those who know them are glad."

Bill and Virda Stevens—truly, workers together with God.

Portrait of a Great Church

by Bill Henegar



Westside's classrooms and fellowship hall were built in 1973; then the auditorium was added 11 years ago, forming a beautiful mall.



Westside's ministry team includes (l to r) Campus Minister Andy Miller, Youth Minister Willie Sanchez, Pulpit Minister Garth Black, and Education Minister Dan Whitaker.

What makes for a great church? Many church leaders around the nation ask themselves that question quite often. Certainly, the answer will vary from region to region, from city to city, from neighborhood to neighborhood. But there is one characteristic that is almost always present in great churches, and that is a sense of balance.

Over the years, the Westside Church of Christ in Bakersfield, California, has achieved that sometimes elusive quality of balance in all its many ministries. For example, the congregation can justly be described as evangelistic, and yet, it is not the frenzied evangelism that causes some Christians to overlook other important aspects of ministry in order to "preach the gospel to every creature"—the kind of activity that often ends in over-stimulated, fatigued discouragement.

The growth at Westside has been solid. With only a couple of flat spots that lasted no more than a year or so, the congregation has experienced consistent increases in membership and attendance since its beginning in November 1969. Westside was formed when members from other congregations in the area, especially from the Central Bakersfield church, saw the need for a new suburban church near the rapidly growing city. The new work seemed to be an almost instant success. In less than two years, membership had shot up from 96 to 192—exactly doubling. All statistics—membership, giving, worship and Bible school attendance—have been on a fairly smooth upward slope from that time on. And today, membership stands well over 500, making it one of the largest Churches of Christ in California.

At first, the new group held its services at the Seventh Day Adventist building on Wilson Road. But within two years, they had purchased three and one half acres of land at the corner of El Rio and Stockdale Highway for the grand sum of \$28,000. Another single acre was added later at a cost of \$52,000, an indication of how seven years can inflate real estate prices. In 1973, two years after the original land was purchased, they moved into the first new buildings. The facilities they chose to begin with are somehow a foreshadow of the future direction of the church: they built a fellowship hall and two classrooms. The auditorium, seating 750, was not added until 1980, seven years after the first buildings. Finally, offices and additional classrooms were completed in 1984.

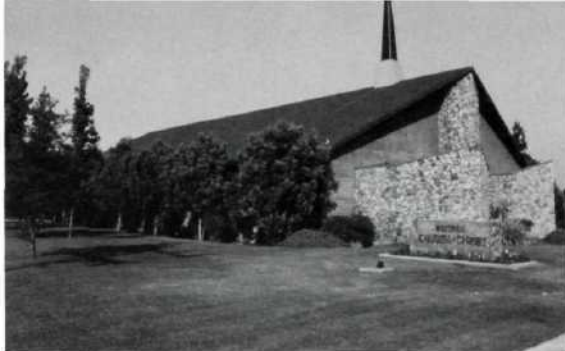
The first elders and deacons for the Westside Church were appointed in 1971; the elders were Bill Barksdale, Leo Ethridge, Ben Leverett, and Lindel Smith. The extent of leadership continuity that the congregation has enjoyed can be seen in the fact that three of the four original elders are still serving in that role after nearly 20 years. Only Ethridge is absent today. Three new elders joined Barksdale, Leverett, and Smith in 1989: Norm Jensen, Rick Pitts, and Jeff Williams.

The Westside Church's first full-time minister was Lloyd Smith, who began his work in January 1976. By that time, the membership

grown to about 300. In August 1977, Garth Black became the minister and has remained with the congregation for the past 13 years. His stabilizing influence and leadership have contributed greatly to the continued growth and maturity of the church. An intense and dedicated person, Black is a scholarly preacher and "one of the finest Bible teachers in the state," according to many. Under his preaching, the congregation has grown by more than 225 people.

In addition to its emphasis on evangelism, Westside has at least three other characteristics that have helped to establish it as a leading church in California. Two of these characteristics are: an emphasis on relationship in the church family and an emphasis on education for all ages. The first buildings were a fellowship hall, where the members could not only worship but also become involved in one another's lives, and classroom facilities, where people could learn God's Word. These emphases are very much a part of the church of today. News is communicated efficiently and members are very supportive of one another. Visitors are recognized, given a special packet, and received warmly.

The educational program is a high priority and is planned far into the future. Because of the vision of early leaders, their abundance of



Shepherding the Westside church are elders (l to r) Lindell Smith, Rick Pitts, Norm Jensen, Bill Barksdale, Jeff Williams, and Ben Leverett.



The interior of the auditorium lends a warmth and dignity to worship.

classrooms make it possible to have many small classes. Regular Bible school seminars bring outstanding Christian educators to the church to improve the entire teaching program.

The third characteristic became more focused about five years ago. The congregation had always been involved in a number of different ministries. But in 1985, they organized the ministries into a coordinated, structured system. Now, things are less likely to "slip through the cracks," a common problem among churches. In addition to the daily activities, once a year the church uses a protracted Sunday morning assembly to allow the various ministry leaders to explain their work and recruit members to help them serve. The result has been a much larger number of involved Christians.

There is an interesting balance in the ministry system, everything from "caring" and "women's growth" and "prayer" ministries to the more usual ministries of education, youth, and facilities. There are

weekend marriage enrichment retreat for husbands and wives.

1985 was also an important year because of the addition of Willie Sanchez as a full-time youth minister. Today the Westside youth group is one of the largest and most active in the state. And the annual Bakersfield youth rally, organized by Sanchez, draws over 375 teenagers from across the state.

Three years after Sanchez was hired, the Bible school program took a giant step forward with the addition of a full-time minister of education. Dan Whitaker has brought tremendous expertise not only to Westside but to the entire region, as other churches call on him for advice and support.

In 1990 the church launched an aggressive campus ministry program with the hiring of Andy Miller. He is busy working with college students on the campuses of California State University, Bakersfield, and Bakersfield College. More than two dozen students are already active in the new program.

Over the years, the Westside Church has established a tradition of reaching out beyond its own area of concerns. Even before they had appointed a full-time preacher for themselves, they were supporting ministerial students in schools far across the country. Among other works, the church supported a missionary to British Columbia, Canada. And many members are involved in overseas outreach through World Bible School.

When one steps back to view the overall picture of this body of Christian people, it seems to be a beautiful portrait of balance. Somehow they have found the secret of doing a large number of things well. It is an "encouraging church," as one former member recalls. And it is a church where many different people are involved in many different ministries.

Active, faithful, warm, growing, loving, and *balanced*... if these are the adjectives that paint a portrait of a great church, then the Westside Church of Christ in Bakersfield qualifies.

Helen Pepperdine

Continued from page 2

wield an influence for the Lord. And whether the event involved people from the church, the school, or the community, she always invited me, as "her minister," for whatever influence I might have.

Dr. David Davenport, president of Pepperdine University, called Helen "The First Lady of Pepperdine." I would add that as "First Lady," she was also "A Grand Lady," whose life has blessed multitudes and who has typified the spirit of Christ in so many ways.

When I think of her great heart, her love for truth and biblical preaching, her appreciation of missionaries... and when I think of her special place in the pew, empty now but somehow still belonging to her, I want to say to her, "Helen, we will miss you deeply, because you filled such a grand place in our lives. You enabled us to see more clearly what a sacrificial life lived for God can become."

1991 Family Encampments

Red River - June 23-26

Grand Canyon - July 7-10

Yosemite - July 21-26

Pepperdine People on the Move

Continued from page 4

Stuart and D'Esta Love conducted a marriage seminar for the Southern California School of Evangelism students and their wives November 9-11 in Buena Park, California.

David Lowry, associate professor of communication, preached for the San Fernando Church of Christ in California, January 13.

Randy Lowry, director of the Institute for Dispute Resolution, was the keynote speaker at an education workshop hosted by the Northwest Church of Christ in Phoenix, Arizona, October 20 and preached for that congregation on October 21. He preached for the Sunny Hills Church of Christ in Fullerton, California, January 13.

Rick Marrs, associate professor of religion, preached for the Culver-Palms Church of Christ in Los Angeles, California, January 6 and for the Church of Christ in Lancaster, California, January 13. He spoke at the Abilene Christian University Bible Lecture-ship, held February 18-20, in Abilene, Texas.

Religion Division Chairperson **Tom Olbright** preached for the Wembley Church of Christ in London, England, November 11 and for the Hollywood Church of Christ in Belfast, Ireland, December 9. He preached for Churches of Christ in Hollywood, California, January 13; Bellevue, Washington, January 20; and Compton, California, January 27. He preached for the morning services of the Church of Christ in Vancouver, British Columbia, and for the evening services of the Church of Christ in Victoria, British Columbia; February 10. He gave three lectures at the Abilene Christian University Bible Lectureship February 18-20 in Abilene, Texas.

Vice President for Finance **Mike O'Neal** spoke for the San Diego Christian Foundation at their Christian Estate Planning Seminar October 24-27. He preached for the Coastline Church of Christ in Harbor City, California, January 27.

Frank Pack, professor of religion emeritus, preached for Churches of Christ in Van Nuys, California, January 13 and La Habra, California, January 20.

Dean of International Programs **William B. Phillips** preached for the Church of Christ in Fillmore, California, January 6.

Professor of History **Paul Randolph** preached for Churches of Christ in Alhambra,

California, January 13 and Norwalk, California, January 27.

Rick Rowland, associate professor of communication, conducted a seminar on campus ministry at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho, November 17. He taught the adult class and preached the morning sermon for the Eldorado Church of Christ in Boise as well as conducted a seminar for the elders, ministers, and campus ministry committee members November 18. He preached for the Church of Christ in Ventura, California, January 6.

Jerry Rushford, associate professor of religion, preached recently for California Churches of Christ in Costa Mesa, Chula Vista, Fremont, Campbell, and Camarillo. He preached for the Southwest Church of Christ in Pueblo, Colorado, February 10 and will preach for the Oak Hills Church of Christ in San Antonio, Texas, March 17 and for the Stadium Boulevard Church of Christ in Ann Arbor, Michigan, April 14.

J. P. Sanders, professor of religion emeritus, preached for the area-wide worship service in Portland, Oregon, November 4. More than 2,000 were present for the annual event held at the new Portland convention center.

Milton Shatzer, associate professor of communication, preached for Churches of Christ in Lompoc, California, January 20 and Malibu, California, January 27.

Don Shores, chairperson of the communication division, preached for California Churches of Christ in Newhall, January 13 and San Clemente, January 20.

Professor of Law **LaGard Smith** spoke for the Church of Christ in Tahlequah, Oregon, November 3 and 4 and for the Pan-American Lectureship November 9 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Ron Stephens, executive director of the National School Safety Center, preached for the Church of Christ in Simi Valley, California, January 6.

Professor of Communication **William Stivers** preached for the Spanish and English services of the Church of Christ in Montebello, California, November 4 and for their Spanish speaking congregation January 6. He preached for the Church of Christ in Costa Mesa, California, January 13 and for the Westchester Church of Christ in Los Angeles, California, January 27.

Bob Thomas, vice president for administration, preached for the Westside Church of Christ in Bakersfield, California, January 20.

Kanet Thomas, assistant to the president, spoke on behalf of the Associated Women for Pepperdine at the Church of Christ in Glendale, California, October 21 and at the Church of Christ in Campbell, California, February 8.

Professor of Religion **Ron Tyler** preached for the Church of Christ in Exeter, California, January 13.

Associate Seaver Dean **Dwayne VanRheenen** preached for the Painter Avenue Church of Christ in Whittier, California, January 20.

Keith Whitney, associate professor of business, preached for Churches of Christ in California at Figueroa in Los Angeles, January 13; at Arlington in Riverside, January 20; and at South Hills in West Covina, January 27.

Don Williams, associate director of church services, spoke at youth rallies for Churches of Christ in Conway, New Hampshire, October 26-28 and in Visalia, California, November 3-4. He spoke for a family workshop November 10 at the Church of Christ in Upland, California, for a singles' seminar hosted by the Church of Christ in La Habra, California, December 2, and at a youth rally hosted by the Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, December 27-29. He preached for Southern California Churches of Christ in Hesperia January 6; Santa Paula January 13; Pacific Beach January 20; and for Central in Bakersfield January 27. He spoke in Seattle, Washington, for the advance of the Northwest Church of Christ February 1-3. He spoke for the graduation ceremonies of the Southern California School of Evangelism in Buena Park, California, February 14.

John Williams, associate professor of communication, preached for the Church of Christ in Oxnard, California, January 20.

Tim Willis, associate professor of religion, preached for Churches of Christ in California in Mission Viejo, January 13; Tehachapi, January 20; and San Luis Obispo, January 27.

Seaver Dean **John Wilson** received the "Outstanding Alumnus" Award from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, October 26 and delivered the first annual "Ebrite Lecture" on "Christianity and the University" at Southwest Missouri State University, October 29. He lectured on excavations in Caesarea Philippi at the national meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 17.

Jere Yates, chairperson of the business division, preached for the Church of Christ in Redlands, California, January 13.

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Out of the Dust of Disaster

by Mary Speaks

In the days following the disastrous Central California earthquake of October 17, 1989, monies for relief from many parts of the United States poured into the Campbell and Redwood City Churches of Christ. More than \$257,300 has been received from over 220 churches representing ten states.

In a little more than a year nearly \$124,000 has been spent on repairing property damage, putting victims into emergency housing facilities, providing rent, and helping to settle families into new rental situations. Also, because of the generosity of concerned Christians across the United States, it has been possible to spend the \$70,000 required to meet the food demands throughout the hard hit areas of Santa Cruz, Watsonville, and Hollister. In addition, about \$6,000 has been given in direct financial help and \$11,500 spent on repairing damage incurred by the Watsonville church building.

However, the most significant need met was of a spiritual nature. When the Redwood City and Campbell churches were inundated with money, they distributed the funds wisely, but never did they realize how far reaching the blessings would be. Over the past several months, these Christians in the earthquake impacted area have been meeting more than physical needs. With the surplus funds they have also been able to support two full-time Hispanic ministers for a year.

This newly founded Hispanic work began when the Watsonville congregation decided to place a Bible or portions of Scripture in each sack of distributed food. People began to respond to the material they had received and Bible studies were arranged with the new contacts. There have been a number of baptisms and between 35-40 people are currently in attendance at the Sunday morning Hispanic services.

Ramon Hinojos and Cadelario Rodrigues are now serving full-time with this new group of Christians which meets at the English-speaking Watsonville church building for their weekly services. Weekly attendance and interest is growing at a steady pace. Not only have the two full-time salaries been supplied, but housing for the two ministers as well as the extra church building expenses were covered through December 1990.

The surplus funds were finally exhausted in December of 1990. Now the Redwood City, Campbell, and Watsonville churches would like to hear from interested individuals and churches who might want to assist financially in this flourishing ministry.

A Vision for the City

Although the weekend is over, the "workshop" is just beginning. On October 21, 1990, buses were loaded, planes boarded, and cars filled as over 500 students, faculty members, and sponsors left Malibu and the 1990 World Mission Workshop and West Coast Campus Ministry Seminar came to a close. The theme, "The Call: A Changeless Christ in a Changing World," spoke to bright minds and caring hearts, October 18-21. Many left with a new world view, a different outlook upon the cities of the world, a changed heart, and a soul thirsty to serve.

The main goal was to truly have a **World—Mission—Workshop**. Participants got a little taste of the world through "The Urban Plunge"—a tour of the ethnic diversity that exists in virtually every neighborhood of the thriving Los Angeles metropolis of Southern California. They worshiped and fellowshiped with Christians in local Korean, Black, Hispanic, and Anglo congregations involved in bridging the gaps and creating cross-cultural evangelistic efforts. They shared with people who are different from themselves ethnically—yet bound together in the Spirit. They witnessed opportunities God has placed in our urban areas and could almost hear him saying, "If you aren't going to go into all the world, I'm going to bring the world to you." And He has. "God has placed the world in our own back yard," said Everett Huffard, associate professor of missiology at the Harding Graduate School of



Some of the approximately 500 conference participants took an "urban plunge" to Chinatown in Los Angeles.

Religion in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jesus' words concerning the hungry, poor, and imprisoned rang in the ears of those who viewed the effects of the city's rampant diseases—poverty, drugs, gang activity, and homelessness. A new vision that sees the city's "problems" as opportunities to serve and help others became clear to participants of the urban plunge. Walter Surdacki, student coordinator of The Call, said of the plunge, "this experience was a bit overwhelming, but it was also exciting and motivating."

A thirst for service and ministry to the disenfranchised of the world forged itself into the hearts and souls of the participants. Their eyes now see "red and yellow, black and white" as something more than those who are different, but as people who are truly "precious in His sight."

Pepperdine People on the Move

Continued from page 10

Helen Young, adjunct faculty member, spoke at a ladies day at the Church of Christ in Lancaster, California, February 2 and at an AWP luncheon held at the Church of Christ in Campbell, California, February 8. She taught at the Broadway Church in Lubbock, Texas, February 17 and spoke at the Pepperdine University breakfast program at the Abilene Christian University Bible Lectureship in Abilene, Texas, February 18. On February 19, she spoke at the annual women's dinner at the ACU Lectureship.

Norvel Young, chancellor emeritus, spoke for

the World Evangelism Forum at the Sunset School of Preaching in Lubbock, Texas, October 6. He spoke to preachers at their monthly luncheon in Singapore November 2; preached for the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ in Singapore November 4; and preached for the Church of Christ in Taipei November 11. He preached for Churches of Christ in Santa Barbara, California, January 6; Corona, California, January 27; Bellflower, California, February 3; and at Broadway in Lubbock, Texas, February 17.

The Youngs visited with missionaries (Choates, Hendersons, Davidsons, and others) in their recent trip to the cities of Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, Jakarta, and Taipei October 20-November 14.

Study Religion This Summer in Malibu!

The Religion Division of Pepperdine University announces four 2-week, summer courses for 1991.

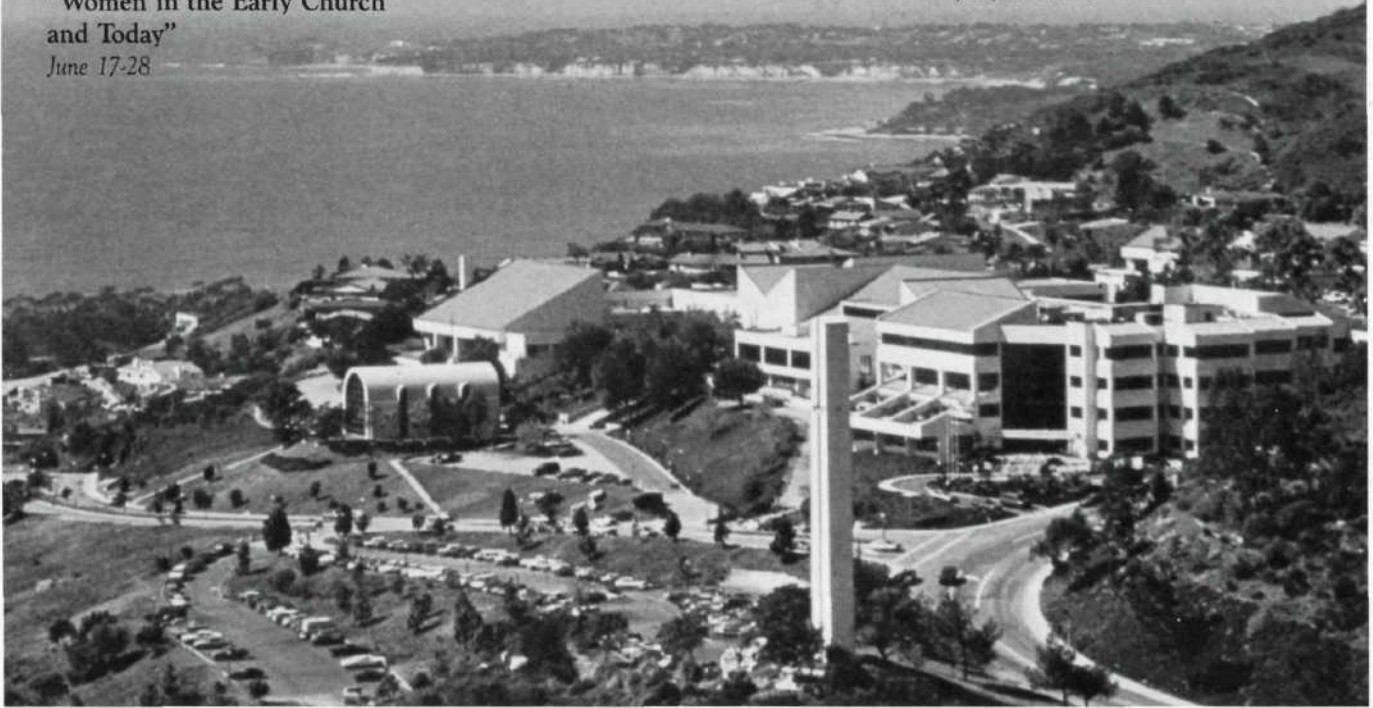
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May 20-31

Dr. Stuart Love
Malibu, California
"Women in the Early Church and Today"
June 17-28

Dr. L. Michael White
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