PASTOR OF THE WEEK

Rev. Yerby was meant for pulpit

REV. WARD D. YERBY

The Rev. Ward D. Yerby, 66, pastor of Perkins Square Baptist Church, was destined for the ministry — at least his pastor thought so.

As a young man in Sharps, Va., where he was born on a farm, he taught Sunday school, visited the sick and was active in other good will activities.

But the idea of being a minister was "the furthest thing" from his mind.

"I couldn't talk in public at all," he said. When I tried to make a speech, I got nervous and would forget what I had to say."

The Rev. Mr. Yerby's future was determined during his third year in college, during a summer vacation in New York City.

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HE WAS in the city earning money to pay his way through Virginia Union University. To pay his way through college, he worked on a farm, milked cows, and worked on the pleasure boats around New York.

"I went to a revival meeting there," he said, "and I gave myself to the Lord."

He remembers "crying like a baby" after the decision.

Later, while standing watch on a boat, "I got my call from God. It was around 1 a.m," he said.

The next morning, elated, the Rev. Mr. Yerby sent a note to his pastor in Sharps telling him of his conversion.

"I sent the letter right away," said the Rev. Mr. Yerby, "before the devil could turn me around."

With his mind resolved, the Rev. Mr. Yerby got his BA degree from Virginia Union and won his bachelor's degree in divinity from Oberlin Theological Seminary.

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"DURING MY senior year at Oberlin," he said with relish, "I preached at Perkins Square. The church did not want to hire me then because it thought that I was too young."

Three years later, in 1929," he said, "Perkins hired me as associate pastor to the late Rev. Frank R. Williams.

His salary was $50 monthly plus lodgings.

Eleven months after arriving at Perkins, he assumed full duties after the death of the Rev. Mr. Williams.

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BEFORE ACCEPTING the position in Baltimore and immediately following his graduation from Oberlin in 1926, the Rev. Mr. Yerby was pastor of Mount Bethel Baptist Church, Ridgewood, N. J.

"I should have stayed in Ridgewood," he said. "But I wanted to come to a big city."

He said that Ridgewood was a small town, but it was progressive and growing and there was no unemployment problem.

"Everyone had a job," he said.

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THE REV Mr. Yerby has carved quite a niche for himself in the Baltimore community.

He was corresponding secretary of the United Baptist Missionary Convention for 30 years, visiting chaplain at Johns Hopkins Hospital for 10 years; president of the Trustee Baord o the Maryland Baptist Aged Home for seven years president of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Baltimore, trustee and teacher of the Baptist Center and School of Religion, president of the part-time chaplains at Crownsville State Hospital and secretary of the Interracial Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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HE IS a registered Republican. Because of his political affiliation, he was appointed by the then Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin as executive secretary of the Governor's Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations. Served for four years.

The Rev. Mr. Yerby is a firm believer in the views that religious leaders and clergymen should become involved in practical politics.

He said that one of the weaknesses of clergymen is that they divorce themselves from politics.

The Old Testament prophets attacked the evils of political institutions during their time, he said.

He is fully in accord with the current drive for civil rights and with ministers becoming involved in demonstrations and picketing.

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OF THE Old Testament prophets, the Rev. Mr. Yerby singled out Amos as his ideal.

"He was a country boy and a strong, determined man," he said.

Perkins Square Baptist Church is located at Edmondson and Warwick Aves.

The Rev. Mr. Yerby was married to the former Miss Portia Harrod, of Philadelphia, in 1935.

They have one son, the Rev. William H. Yerby, who is a medical student at the University of Maryland.

Wayland honors first pastor

Sunday at Wayland Baptist Church, Monroe and Franklin Sts., is dedicated to the memory of the church's first pastor, the late Dr. Willis J. Webster.

At 8 a.m. a family worship hour will be held. Sermon will be by the pastor, the Rev. William W. Payne.

Church School will be held at 9 a.m.

The pastor will preach the 11 a.m. morning worship.

BTU and Bible study will be held at 5 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir No. 2 will hold its eleventh anniversary.

The Rev. Perry Tilghman, the choir and congregation of Trinity Methodist Church, will help the choir celebrate its anniversary.

TINDLEY TO LAY CORNERSTONE SUNDAY

PHILADELPHIA — Consecration and cornerstone laying of the $300,000 Christian Education Building of Tindley Temple Methodist Church will be held Sunday.

James Blue

Funeral services were held in Emmerton, Va., Thursday for James Blue, 40, of 1510 Franklin St., who died Nov. 29, after a short illness.

Mr. Blue, who had been ailing for several years, was a native of Emmerton, Va., but had lived in Baltimore form any years.

A veteran of World War II, Mr. Blue is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ruby Blue, and two children, Anthony Blue, 15, and Miss Ruby Blue, 13, both students at Herring Run Junior High School.

He is also survived by a sister Mrs. Gustella Jenkins, of Va.

SECRETS OF PSALMS

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