

Antioch - 1958

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~~1115-291-20~~

This woman's place is in the home — and in the church

Some of my ultra-conservative preacher brethren think that a "woman's place" is in the home washing dishes, making beds and raising babies — and when she ventures out to church she should keep her head covered and her mouth shut . . . ala Paul and the Corinthian Church.

Well, Judith Powell up at Antioch Church out from Enfield would cause these brothers to blow their theological scalps and lose their touchy teeth, for Judith not only has done all those womanly things with dishes and babies, but for the past 10 years she has been the college- and seminary-trained, ordained pastor of the Antioch Church — and is still going as strong as the central dynamo at Hoover Dam.

Judith gave me my first opportunity to work with a woman pastor in a revival — after I had been in the ministry for over 50 years —



~~1115-291-20~~

Just Lookin' Around

By
Cleve Wilkie

and I'm the richer for it. I did no differently than I've done in hundreds of revivals — visited, ate like a hog, preached, fellowshiped and just enjoyed working with a good Baptist pastor. I don't question the Good Lord's doings — I just jump in when He does it!

Judith is a native of West Virginia but grew up in
(See CLEVE, Page 15)

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(Continued from Page 14)

Greensboro, where she finished high school, married an Air Force man, bore two children, Peggy and Mike, and worked with the telephone company. Her husband, Charles, was killed in an accident when the children were quite small, and she later lost teen-aged son, Mike, too; but the young widow was convinced that God had called her to the ministry, entered the Baptist College in Charleston, S.C. — graduated summa cum laude, came to Southeastern Seminary and earned a master of divinity degree in 1982 — then went to Antioch Church. She lives and serves right on the field.

The lovely rural church has prospered and grown under her dynamic ministry, and is a close-knit, loving caring, well-organized fam-

ily of faith. Beyond the local church she has served as director of mission development for the North Roanoke Association; has served as a voluntary chaplain at North Nash General Hospital; in 1987 received the Warren Poe Award in Rural Church Ministry; in 1989 was appointed to the Presidential Task Force for Church Growth and Ministry in the N.C. Baptist State Convention; is a member of the State Baptist Historical Commission; and tops things off by serving as a valuable trustee of Meredith College. She also sings!

The loyal folks at Antioch affectionally call her "Our Judy," and would stand on their hands for her, or climb a telephone pole, or even jump into the river — and I know for sure would defend her with life and limb. She is something "special" to them.

Recently they celebrated her 10th anniversary with the church by turning back the pages of history and duplicating her first service as pastor. The congregation sung the same songs, the choir rendered the

same special, Judith preached the same sermon and a lot of the same folks were there, of course, plus many new ones. They placed a big vase of 10 yellow roses down front and decked out Judith with a beautiful yellow rose corsage. They capped things off by throwing a big pig-picking with all the trimmings, featuring a three-tiered cake, and a lot of toasting and roasting. Things got sweet and heavy, indeed.

But I believe the offering must have been a little better and bigger than 10 years ago, for the church presented her a large picture frame with 10 \$100 bills filling it, and sent her off to fancy Hilton Head Island, S.C., for a week of sun and fun. Talk about love, appreciation and respect.

She still cooks, makes beds and washes dishes!

11

SPECIAL SINGING

✓ The Pioneers Quartet will sing at the Antioch Baptist Church, located 7 miles south of Asheboro on Route 220 Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

DAILY TABS A-G

Asheboro: Courier-Tribune

Asheville Citizen

Asheville Times

Asheville Citizen-Times

Burlington: Times-News

Charlotte News

Charlotte Observer

Concord Tribune

Dunn Record

Durham Herald

Durham Sun

Elizabeth City Advance

Fayetteville Observer

Gastonia Gazette

Goldsboro: News-Argus

Greensboro Daily News

Greensboro Record

Randolph

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