

## MY PREACHING MINISTRY

William Allen Zulker

2011

I preached my first sermon in the fall of 1944 at my grandfather's church – The Linwood Community Church in Linwood, NJ. I was seventeen years old.

Then, while in the U. S. Army in Germany in 1946, I became a Chaplain's Assistant and also President of Frankfurt Youth For Christ. Several opportunities opened for me to preach, both at the Roundup Military Chapel as well as the Lutheran Church in the town of Hochst.

Upon returning to civilian life in 1947 I became the Director of Trenton Youth For Christ in Trenton, NJ, conducting Christian youth rallies each week. At the same time we started the Zulker Gospel Trio with my brothers Chuck and Walt, and had meetings at various nearby churches on Sundays. I also conducted a weekly religious radio program.

At Bob Jones University from September 1948 to June 1949, I was a member of a Gospel Team that sang and spoke at churches in the area around the University during weekends. Similarly, when I transferred to the King's College in the fall of 1949 and to Eastern Baptist College in the Spring of 1950, the Zulker Gospel Trio ministry continued.

### BETHANY TEMPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Beginning in September 1953 as the Assistant to the Minister at the Bethany Temple Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, and though Reverend Robert Beach Cunningham was the Minister and Preacher, I had only many opportunities to speak both at the church and at other churches. Sometimes they were at youth meetings, or church retreats, luncheons or at funerals. But I considered every invitation an opportunity to proclaim the Gospel, and I enjoyed them all.

Upon my graduation from Seminary, ordination to the ministry, and call as the Minister of Bethany Temple following the resignation of Rev. Cunningham, my preaching ministry became a dominant part of my life.

As stated elsewhere in this web-site under "Bethany Temple Presbyterian Church" I conducted 148 funerals while at the church between 1950 and 1960, officiated at 18 weddings, and preached 443 sermons.

### JUNE 1960 to 2011

When I joined the Administration at Eastern College in June 1960 my weekends were virtually free and I was able to accept invitations to preach at various churches.

Because of my affiliation with the Presbyterian Church, most engagements were in that denomination, but not limited there.

At times I became the Interim Preacher at churches without a permanent minister. When I was elected Moderator of the Philadelphia Presbytery, it resulted in even more engagements.

My records indicate that after leaving Bethany Temple in 1960 I have given eighteen-hundred (1800) messages at two-hundred twenty-seven different churches.

In addition, in connection with my book, John Wanamaker: King of Merchants, I have given one-hundred forty-eight lectures (148) on the life of John Wanamaker, Christian businessman and church founder, at churches, colleges, libraries, retirement communities and social organizations.

My files contain individual folders for each church indicating the dates of engagements and message titles. Other files list all speaking and preaching engagements chronologically.

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