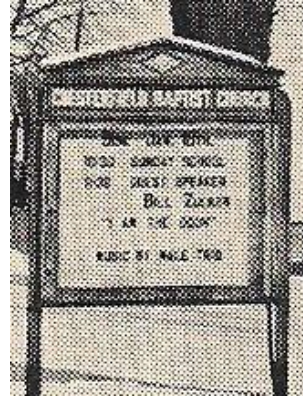


CHESTERFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH
CHESTERFIELD, NEW JERSEY
December 1947 – February 1948
Bill Zulker, Acting Pastor



In 1947, while I was the Director/Founder of Trenton Youth For Christ in Trenton, NJ, my brothers Chuck and Walt joined with me in forming the Zulker Gospel Trio. We sang not only at the YFC meetings which I led, and where Chuck was the song leader; we also sang at various churches in the area. One of them was the Chesterfield Baptist Church.

There were several people from the church, youth and adults, who also attended the YFC meetings as well as meetings held at the Shadyrest Bible Conference, just a few yards down the road from the church.

Interestingly, enough, the church asked me to be the Acting Pastor and preach for them during a two-month period while they were waiting for their new minister. Rev. Arthur V. Allen was not to arrive on the scene from his then-present ministry in Newburgh, New York until February 1948.

I served in that capacity from Sunday December 20, 1947 to February 15, 1948 even though I was just twenty years old (I turned twenty-one on that first Sunday), and had not yet been to either college or seminary.

During that time, the church celebrated its one-hundredth anniversary, and I was put in charge of the services. On "Centennial Sunday," January 28, 1948, as Acting Pastor, I led the morning service at which Chuck sang a solo, the Trio sang, and I preached the sermon, "Redeeming the Time."

At the evening service, I led the service, Ginny Lou Wright (later to become Chuck's wife) was the pianist, Chuck led the hymn-singing, sang a solo, and joined in as part of the Zulker Trio for another song. A guest preacher gave the message. On Monday night, I again led the service, Chuck led the singing, and the congregation reminisced. On Tuesday night at the Centennial Supper, the Zulker Trio sang and led the music, another guest speaker gave a message and I closed the service with prayer. Wednesday night was the final service of the Centennial Celebration. Again, I was in charge, the Trio sang, Chuck led the congregational singing, and our friend Rev. Virgil Geren, Director of Shadyrest Bible Conference was the speaker.

Some years later, Dr. Tony Campolo, my good friend and colleague at Eastern College served as its minister.