

*This is
Your Life*



William Allen Zulker
"Young Man - Going Places"



"This Is Your Life"

William Allen Zulker
"Young Man Going Places"
March 8, 1957

When I was the minister at the Bethany Temple Presbyterian Church, Fifty-third and Spruce Streets in Philadelphia, the church celebrated it's fifty-first anniversary in 1957.

On March 8th, at the anniversary family night program, I was surprised when a play "This is Your Life" - was presented in my honor.

Following the pattern of the then-popular television program of that era, "THIS IS YOUR LIFE", the master of ceremonies introduced me with stories of my childhood, youth, and ministry. At several points, my parents, some professors, and other special friends stepped out from behind the curtain and became a part of the play.

The booklet, with many photographs and the narration, was then given to me, and I have kept it these many years. Now, I have reproduced it with the thought that some members of the family might enjoy reading it. The narration [with some corrections] was as follows:

"This Is Your Life"

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Presented by Bethany Temple
Fifty-first Anniversary - Family Night
"Anniversary Family Night"

A play, "This Is Your Life" will be presented portraying the life of one of the popular persons in Bethany Temple. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the Christian fellowship, fun, and of course, food.

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Preface

One short year ago, we of Bethany Temple,
(in celebrating our Fiftieth Anniversary)
looked with pride and joy into The Past.
Now, on our fifty-first Anniversary, we look with pride and joy to
the leader of Our Future.

The man next door!
The Rev. William A. Zulker



Yes, Bill, "This Is Your Life."

"The Tale Begins"

Shortly before Bethany Temple's twenty-first birthday, there was born in Pleasantville, New Jersey, twin boys, one of whom was destined by the will of God to serve Bethany as his first church.

The date was December 20, 1926. An older sister (Betty) and brother (Walt) were already on hand to greet the newcomers, Bill and Chuck, and another sister (Ginny) joined this happy Christian family six years later.

But Bill and his twin arrived in time for Lindbergh's historic flight from New York to Paris - in time for the stock market crash which led to the Depression - in time to see (if they had cared to look) a famous democrat named Roosevelt stepping into the presidency of these United States.

The pictures show us these inseparable twins smiling in their christening clothes, taking an early look at the world from their double coach, and sucking thumbs on daddy's knee - one year old and already attending Camp Meeting.



Bill + Chuck - 1927



Betty (7), Walt (4)



Bill + Chuck - 1927



Bill + Chuck and Father



Bill, Chuck (christening 1927) Dad, Mother, Walt, Betty

At two and three years of age, Bill and Chuck Zulker continued to have their pictures taken together here and there under Jersey skies.



Bill + Chuck



Bill + Chuck



Walt, Bill, Chuck - Betty

At the age of four and a half, in top hats, they won first prize in the Stone Harbor, NJ Baby Parade. Great Day!



Bill, Chuck - Baby parade

By this time, Mother had taught them two-part duet singing and their favorite "piece" was "The Lord Is My Shepherd."

We hear that they were even more talented at staging an uproar - especially when Bill awakened early and insisted that Chuck be up and going, too. Boys will be boys, even those who grow up to be ministers,

It was after the family moved to Cape May Courthouse, NJ that the two of them started to school together - hand in hand.

We see them here, in a picture from grandmother's album - a picture disclosing the fact that, in the days when chinchilla coats with brass buttons were the style. Bill and his brother Chuck were the handsomest lads in the Primary Department.



Bill, Chuck + School Mates

Family devotions had always been a part of their lives, the family usually kneeling by the couch in the living room and praying together. It was during one of those quiet times when Bill and his twin were seven years old that they decided to give their hearts to Jesus. And Mother felt that God received these small boys into His family right then and there.



Bill + Chuck

In 1934, their father was transferred again by the Gulf Oil Company to Lakewood, New Jersey.

The Bill of those days liked outdoor sports, enjoyed books, built model airplanes, delighted in visiting the grandparents, and even tried his hand at photography, doing some brave experimenting in a makeshift darkroom in the basement.

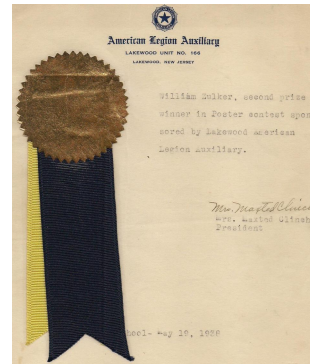
But he could draw pictures, too. Twice he won county prizes, age 9 and 11.



Scotty Dog



Poppy



American Legion Prize

Bill, do you remember when the two of you surprised your Mother by bringing home an xylophone and playing "Moonlight and Roses" on it after having taken lessons secretly from Miss Fields?

Do you remember when Mr. Hirshspiegles's field was set afire? by - you know who!

And how about the times you used to catch mice in Katy Padulchik's wood-shed and tie strings to their tails and race them?



Bill + Chuck

Nevertheless, you twins, according to the pictured evidence, turned out to be two upstanding gentlemen with carnations in their buttonholes for school commencement in 1940. Eighth grade was now an episode of the past. You were men now, and beginning to take your places in the world.



Bill + Chuck



Bill + Chuck



Bill + Chuck



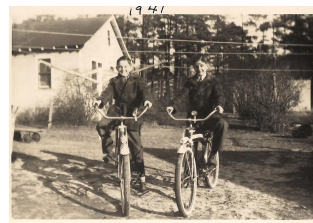
Bill

For two weeks every summer, the Zulkers went to the Methodist Church Camp Meeting at South Seaville in Cape May County. Bill was always eager to take his turn ringing the bell when his grandfather (Rev. Walter H. Ott) was ready to start the services.



Bill

Once home again , the two of them concentrated on stunts and tricks of magic, such as standing on the seat of a bicycle going downhill. The "Magic" consisted in not coming home with anything worse than a bumped head and a bloody nose!



Bill + Chuck

Those bicycles which appear in this 1941 picture were EARNED - for times were not easy financially with five growing children and much serious illness in the family.

The boys were taught to share the responsibility and the value of a dollar. They all had paper delivery routes and sold magazines and candy.

But if those were hard days, they were also happy ones. Bill made friends easily with all ages - a determined lad - and not easily discouraged when it came to his own plans. He showed interest in dramatics and music. For two years he studied piano and even



tackled the clarinet. Through the school, both Bill and Chuck learned to play the xylophone, and often helped at church and school entertainments.

Their most memorable concert occurred at Asbury Park, NJ. In attempting to play "Jesus Loves Me" in two parts, the xylophone fell apart. Fortunately, Daddy was able to put it together again.

Those were the days - High School days! And Mother looks back remembering how Bill always carried his New Testament with him along with his other books.

In summertime and after school, he worked in a Haberdashery store - which may partly explain his tendency to be the Beau Brummel of the family.

Which brings to mind the story recounted by his older brother. Walt tells of a fire in Lakewood which broke out in the middle of the night. Bill jumped out of bed with alacrity at 3 a.m. and hastily located his camera. While his brothers waited, Bill proceeded to get completely dressed - brushing his teeth, combing his hair and putting on a necktie. At fifteen, he liked to go to fires - but preferred going in style.

In the days when Rev. Yeaworth was our pastor here in Philadelphia, Bill's family moved to Trenton, New Jersey. There, the twins attended Hamilton High School, graduating in 1945.



Bill + Chuck



Bill + Chuck, High School Graduation



Bill + Chuck

But Uncle Sam called them both to military service after graduation and they left home for induction in June 1945. Pictures began coming home from Camp Croft, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

In the Army, the twins were parted. But a special request in accordance with military policy brought the twins, Bill and Chuck, together again for their "hitch" in the service.



_____? Chuck , Bill - Musical trio in South Carolina

Later, they sailed for France and landed "over there" in a blackout. Before being housed in a city of big tents, they were warned to look out for "thieving Frenchmen." Bill, it seems, was awakened in the wee small hours by a suspicious slithering noise beyond the tent wall. With a vision of greedy hands reaching in to grab their equipment,

he kept listening intently for further noise. It came - and in that clear voice which enables us to hear every word from the pulpit, he yelled., "Frenchman loose."

That yell was repeated from tent to tent and soldiers spilled out of the tent flaps to investigate. One group finally spied what appeared in the dimness to be a crouching figure. But "He" turned out to be a garbage can.

At that point, our hero decided that "silence was golden." Fortunately for him, nobody ever found out - till now - that he was the one who had started the whole business.

However, France was evidently just a way-station on their journey. For all their service-time pictures show that the twins were in Germany from then on.

There, as a dedicated Christian and a Chaplain's Assistant, William Allen Zulker became the President and Director of the Youth For Christ organization in Frankfurt. That is something to remember!



Bill, Frankfurt, Germany



with Chaplain's jeep



with Street Musician



Bill at IG Farben Bldg. - Germany



Don, Fred, Bill, Chuck- YFC Quartet - Germany

In Frankfurt, wonderful Saturday-night Rallies were held at Round-up Chapel. At the Army base in Hedderheim, Chaplain Dwight Lyman Baker held an evangelistic-revival campaign in a tent during which many servicemen were won to Christ.

And on Labor Day 1946, the Youth for Christ "Rally of the Rhine" aboard a yacht once used by Hitler, is spoken of by Chuck as the outstanding event in their Army careers. Bill was the originator and Director for the event, and Chuck was the Song Leader. Five-hundred GI soldiers and six Army Chaplains joined together for this memorable rally.



1946 - Labor Day - Germany, "Rally On the Rhine" - ship and sign - crowd



We find that, after being discharged from the Army and back in America in 1947, and learning from his experiences in Frankfurt, Germany, Bill founded and directed the Youth For Christ movement in Trenton, New Jersey.

In addition, Bill and his brothers formed 'The Zulker Gospel Trio' and traveled - holding services in towns both far and near, until Bill went off to college.



The trio, Bill, Chuck and Walt, went on an ten-day evangelistic tour in Kentucky with the Wiggins - a black minister, Lawrence, his singing brother Bob, and sister, Gladys - and three other ministers. Someday we hope to learn more of this missionary journey.

Bill also preached in his grandfather's pulpit in Linwood, New Jersey - and that preaching included his grandfather's funeral service. Rev. Walter H. Ott - Linwood Community Church.

He knew by this time just what he wanted to do with his life, and decided to go to college. And to college he did!

For the first year it was at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. Then The King's College in New Castle, Delaware. And on to Eastern Baptist College (now Eastern University in St. Davids, PA) from which he graduated on May 18, 1953.

He then went on to the Reformed Theological Seminary in Philadelphia for two years - finishing his theological studies at Temple University School of Theology. Bill Zulker graduated from there in June 1956.

As a student studying for the ministry he proved to be not only a man-of-books, but a man-of-action.

For Bill, romance dawned in Trenton, NJ when, as you remember, he was Director of Youth For Christ in his home city.

To its meetings young people came in crowds on Saturday nights, and Isabel was among them. There were plenty of girls in the audience, but the man in the pulpit saw only one of them.

Later, he caught this fellow-Christian at the door and asked her to go with him to a Youth For Christ Rally in Philadelphia with him. She refused, and kept on refusing when this determined young man persisted in asking for a date.

This young lady also had a mind of her own, and had already decided that she would never marry a minister.

But women have been known to change their minds. Providentially, some young program chairman planned a Treasure Hunt, and in the long search for a cola bottle, Bill seems to have made progress.

Anyhow, Bill and Isabel dated steadily from then on. At the shore, on July 14, 1949, he proposed. Our minister and his wife became engaged on Christmas Day 1949. And they were married at three o'clock on June 10, 1950 in the West Trenton Presbyterian

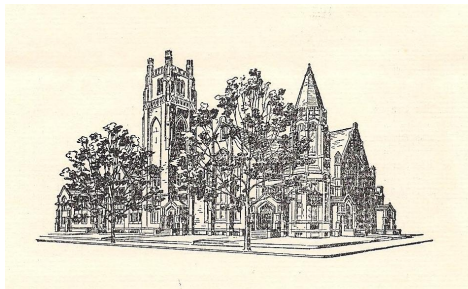


Church by the Rev. Walter H. Ott, Bill's grandfather. (Lorraine Flowers, Maid of Honor; Charles B. Zulker, Best Man.)



1950

This happy event occurred in college days, the groom taking an after-class job as an apartment-house receptionist and studying his books as he waited for calls. Services beyond-the-call-of-duty increased the income of the newlyweds.



BETHANY TEMPLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Here it is that Bethany Temple enters the picture. One of Bill's professors at Eastern Baptist College, Dr. George Claghorn, brought together this candidate for the ministry, and our pastor at the time, Rev. Robert Beach Cunningham.

On the last Sunday of September in 1953, he became our Assistant to the Minister, and began practicing in all its phases the profession he had chosen.

This young leader was soon energetically at work in our youth groups, found a welcome everywhere in visiting the congregation, conducted communications classes, worked zealously on our Missionary Conferences, and shouldered the tremendous responsibility of the Vacation Bible School. And he won many friends as he influenced many people!

In 1955, Rev. Robert Beach Cunningham resigned and left Bethany to work as Secretary of Evangelism in the National Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Denomination in New York City. Mr. Zulker continued as the Assistant to our Interim Minister, the Rev. Dr. Earl F. Ziegler, Editor at the Board of Education of the Presbyterian Church in the USA.

Under his encouraging leadership, the Assistant took on more ministerial responsibilities - and grew. So, too, did the prayers meetings on Wednesday nights. In the wake of Bill Zulker's scripture messages and his classmate Sam Seymour's messages-in-song, a wave of new life and interest spread through Bethany Temple's congregation and



brought them out in greater numbers than ever before. [Sam Seymour, later on, became Bill's Assistant in 1959].

The extra demands of Christmastime, of celebrating the church's Fiftieth Anniversary in March 1956, and the Annual Missionary Conference in May, were met by this young man still attending Seminary - and crowned with success.

In the midst of these efforts, he preached his ordination trial-sermon from our pulpit - and his parents were not alone in feeling pride and joy that night. For in that month, this young servant-of-God graduated from Temple University's School of Theology.



1956

On the evening of June twenty-second, nineteen fifty-six, he was ordained to the Gospel Ministry of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ - and received in the form of a Golden Book, the affection and good wishes of a grateful congregation. [This large decorative scrapbook contained numerous greeting and congratulatory cards from members and friends of the congregation.]

After prolonged negotiations with the Philadelphia Presbytery, he was appointed our Stated Supply for six months - and responded with a message expressing his joy and gratitude and expectation. [See his letter in *The Presbyterian Messenger* - September 1956.]

[The Ministerial Relations Committee of the Presbytery expressed its concern regarding Bill's ability to lead such a large congregation in his first pastorate, and the fact that he had only become a Presbyterian a year and a half earlier caused them to wonder if he fully understood Presbyterian policy, practices, and doctrines. Because neither the selection committee at Bethany Temple, nor Bill could be persuaded to withdraw his candidacy, the six-month's "trial" period was granted by the Presbytery, after which the congregation was permitted to vote. He was then officially "called" and granted full pastoral stature by the Presbytery.]

Bill faced his big task with courage and energy; but when Fall came, he in turn, needed an assistant, to serve in the position he had left vacant.

Bruce Alan Giles - also a student at the Temple University School of Theology - joined our pastor as Assistant to the Minister in September 1956 - and in his ever-widening ministry we rejoice also.

Actually, we had double reason to rejoice last September - for on the twenty-second of the month, Elizabeth Ann Zulker was born. Beth Ann we call her. And, even before she came home to live in the manse with Mother and Daddy, we heard that she had made a brilliant start in life by writing her proud father a letter. -

"Dear Daddy: Even though you haven't had a chance to get very close to me or to hold me yet, I know that you do love me very much. You see, my Mommie has told me lots



about you and has even hugged and kissed me for you. Also, I saw the pretty flowers you sent to my Mommie and me, and they were so pretty that I knew then that you really must love us both.

I'm anxious to be able to come home to you so that you can get a good look at me and know just what I look like.

I'll try to be good for you when I first come home and I'll try not to cry too much or make too much of a mess around the house. Don't forget that I'm kinda little and I don't know too much about the way you folks live, but I do want both you and my Mommie to be very happy with me so that the three of us can love each other very much.

I know that you are very busy as the minister of such a great big church, but I just can't wait to get to meet all of your congregation and I'll try not to let them spoil me too much. But I do know that I'm going to like being the daughter of a minister, and even though I won't be able to tell many people, I want you to know, that I'm awfully glad that I got you for my Daddy!

Love and kisses, Beth Ann."

Since then, she has continued her good work by winning the hearts of a whole congregation.

For such a one as this, it comes natural to prophesy that she will "grow in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man."

And not long ago, on January twentieth, to be exact, this congregation of 1300 people called the Rev. William Allen Zulker to be their minister.

ROLL OF MINISTERS

Reverend Asa J. Ferry, D.D.	1907-1921
Reverend Walter B. Greenway, D.D.	1923-1928
Reverend Karl Frederick Wettstone, D.D.	1928-1937
Reverend Russell Paynter, D.D.	1938-1940
Reverend Irvin Shortess Yeaworth, D. D.	1941-1950
Reverend Robert Beach Cunningham	1951-1955
Reverend William Allen Zulker, [D.Min.]	1957- 1960

A Letter From The Clerk of the Session

"During the past year, particularly, Mr. Zulker has served our church in such a remarkable way, first as a student assistant to the minister in visiting in the homes of the sick and shut-ins, working with the Sunday School and Youth Groups, and helping the Session in planning and carrying out the program of the Church, including the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of our Church. Secondly, after his ordination as Stated Supply of the pulpit and Moderator of the Session, Mr. Zulker has proven to the Session and other officers and members of our Church, his interest, zeal, ability and judgment in this capacity in Bethany Temple.

Digressing a little from this thought, on behalf of the Session and personally, I would like to thank each member of the congregation of Bethany Temple Presbyterian Church for the excellent cooperation and understanding-spirit manifest throughout the Church during this time we were without an installed minister. Your faithful support of the complete program of our Church has been an inspiration and challenge to the session.



Now, as the Reverend Mr. William Allen Zulker is installed as the Minister of Bethany Temple Presbyterian Church in accordance with the action of the congregational meeting, Sunday, January 20, 1957, when we voted to call him as minister, let us all with renewed vigor support him as he endeavors, under the guiding hand of our kind and loving Heavenly Father, to show us the Lord's will for our beloved Church, that we may go on following the example of the many saints who have labored diligently in this great Church."

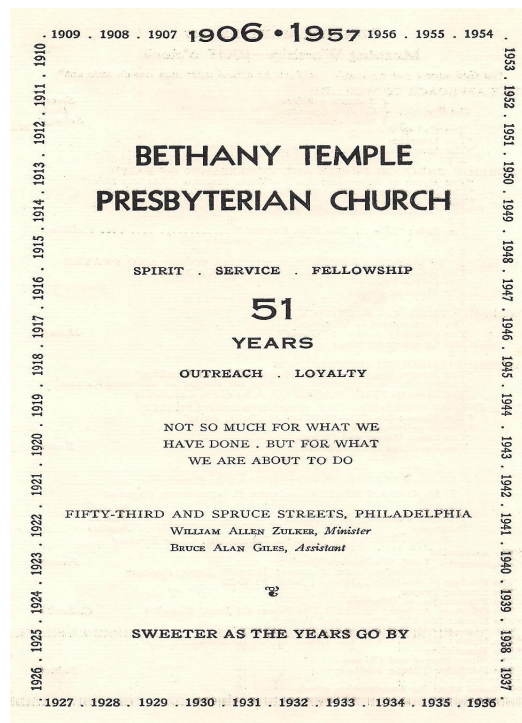
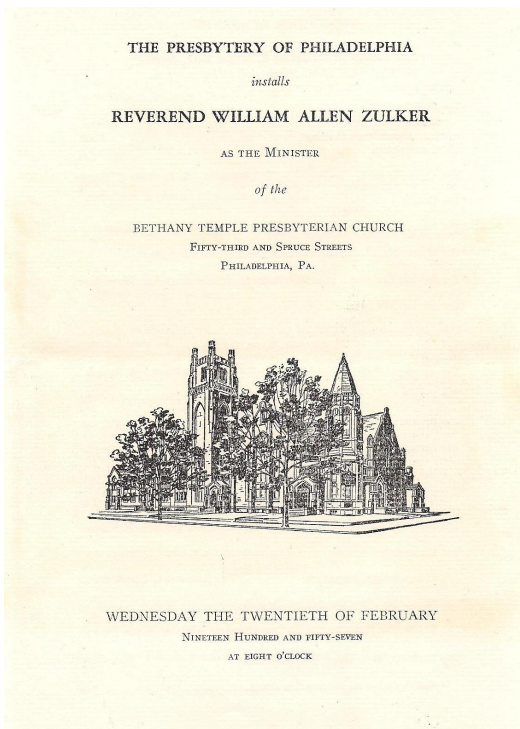
Edward D. Cox, Clerk of Session.

His installation and reception came on the twentieth of February 1957, and his first sermon as our chosen leader was preached on February twenty-fourth to a crowded church.

EPILOGUE

We look to him now
with confidence and hope
as we conclude our
Fifty-first Anniversary
with this Family-night presentation,
Remembering that with him
as with the church we love,
"The Past was given to make the Future great."

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END - November 2013