

A Service of Recognition and Appreciation for James B. Stephenson's 25 years 1947 - 1972 at First Baptist Church, Delaware, Ohio

Sunday, October 1, 1972	6:30 p.m.
PRELUDE	les Brown
WELCOMEJohn B.	McTaggart
PRAYERJames Va	n Brimmer
ANTHEM "Rejoice in the Lord!", Anon	Choir
MESSAGES OF GREETING	
Congregation	, Delaware hell Roper
Community Friends	
County Library Board Mrs. Wi Librarian, Delaware County Distr	
Ohio Baptist Convention Dr. Joseph Executive Minister	
SOLO "Reach Out and Touch", Brown Fred (Grubbs, Jr.
MESSAGE	
PRESENTATION	
SOLO "Bless This House", May Bahe	C. Wickum
POSTLUDE "Peaen", Roy Nolte Mrs. Cha	ırles Brown
You are invited to greet the Stephenson family in a Recein the adjoining Assembly Room. Then we will go to the	

Hall on the lower floor of the Educational Building for our Recep-

tion time.



Born October 7, 1918 in Pomeroy, Ohio, James B. Stephenson spent his early years in that Ohio River Community. He attended Pomeroy High School, Ohio University - taking a double major in speech and philosophy as well as being active in varsity debate and theater, Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, and Bexley Hall Divinity School, Gambier, On April 16, 1943 he was ordained in the Pomeroy First Baptist Church. The following September he became minister of the Williamstown, West Virginia Baptist Church. He and Sophia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Blazewicz of Pomeroy, were married on April 17, 1944 in the home church. Their first son, Ted Douglas, was born on March 3, 1945. In the fall of 1945, the family moved to Perry, Ohio, where he became minister of the Baptist Church. He accepted the call to the Delaware First Baptist Church beginning the first Sunday of September, 1947. Two more sons were born, James Michael on August 21, 1952, and Robert Whitman on November 6, 1956.

During this ministry in Delaware some of his community interests have included: serving several terms as president of the Delaware County Ministerial Association, helping establish the Delaware County Inter Church Council and serving as second chairman of its' Ecumenical Institute of Christian Studies, serving as member and president of the Board of Trustees of the Delaware County District Library, and he was a founding member of the Delaware County Mental Health Association serving two terms as president. He has been associated with the Ohio Camp Farthest Out, a non-denominational retreat movement, and served for four years as its state chairman. He is a frequent speaker at retreats in Ohio and elsewhere, the most recent of which was in the Rockies near Denver, Colorado.

Some of Pastor Stephenson's favorite quotes.

"I feel like a man who lands on a vast continent and makes his home near the shore, but realizes that behind his frail and homely dwellings are inpenetrable forests and unscalable mountains, of which he can as yet know nothing. Scholars may make a few inroads and saints climb a few foothills. But what lies in the depths of the silent forest, and what could those unstained heights reveal?"

- Leslie Weatherhead

"A wind from far away, out of forever, Blows sometimes from I know not what strange strand; Then I am as in a dream, a dream I never Remember, yet somehow understand.

I turn, although I know no road returning
To the high country whence me mind's winds come
To fill me full of dreams and full of yearning.
What fair land, what far shore the wind blows from --

I cannot say, but when the wind is blowing, It blows to me a sense of truths more true, Of lives beyond this life, and worlds past knowing. Companions, does the wind not blow for you?"

- James Dillet Freeman

"You did not choose me; I chose you. I appointed you to go on and bear fruit; fruit that shall last."

- John 15:16

"You are not a reservoir with a limited amount of resources; you are a channel attached to unlimited divine resources."

- Unknown

The Planning Committee wishes to thank everyone for their help and cooperation. We especially thank each one who has participated in any way to make our Service and Reception a happy, memorable event for our Pastor and family.