



An Example of Faithfulness and Service

Bernice Loperfido for forty-two years on Sunday mornings walked out her front door, crossed Main Street to the Greenup Presbyterian Church and at 10:20 she has rung the church bell. The whole community witnesses her faithfulness.

She began ringing the bell in 1966 after the sudden death of her husband, who served the congregation as pastor. She rang the bell in all kinds of weather and has missed only a couple of Sundays.

Each New Year since 1966, Bernice rings the church bell at the stroke of midnight on New

Year's Eve. She has missed only one New Year when her mother rung the bell because she thought Bernice would be late.

Bernice had been a stay-at-home mom until her husband died. But, with one son preparing for college and another in elementary school she began to work outside the home. She began working for the Greenup County Health Department when she was fifty years old and that turned into a twenty year career.

She has remained committed to the Greenup congregation that her husband served. The current pastor, Jack Edward, was quoted by The Greenup County News-Times as saying, "His faithful wife carried on his ministry". The Congregation in March celebrated Bernice's 90th birthday and Margarette Fannin, Clerk of the Session, said "Mrs. Loperfido has always been available to help her, and when called on, Mrs. Loperfido's only question was, when can we meet at the church".

The thing that distinguishes Bernice is not the ringing of the bell as much as it is her spirit of service that leads her to do whatever needs to be done. She has served as secretary of the church, writes notes of concern and remembrance to others,

It has been said that a call is to "see a need and have the opportunity to meet that need."

Bernice has responded to many calls all her life. You may catch yourself looking for needed things to do if you spend much time with her. It seems to rub off.

(Article by Jack Haga. ARMSS Contact, Transylvania Presbytery, Lexington, during a tour of the Greenup Presbyterian Church by Mrs. Loperfido for Jack and Jo Anne Haga, and Ray and Betty Davis)