

First Presbyterian Church Servant of the Heart
November 2012
Bob Gamble



Interviewed 10/11/2012 by Roxanne Cheney

Trivia Questions: Bob once appeared on national television with multiple internationally-known performers. What was the show? When was it broadcast? Can you name at least one of the other performers? [Answers appear at end of article.]

Bob was born in Greensboro, NC. He grew up in the First Presbyterian Church where he was inspired by the internationally-renowned minister, Dr. John Agrippa Redhead, Jr.

Bob sports impressive academic credentials. He received a B.S. in Engineering from Duke University but soon realized mathematics was his true calling; he subsequently earned advanced degrees in that field from Clemson (M.S. 1963 and PhD 1971). Bob served on the faculty at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC, for 27 years during which he was active in the Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church. In 1990, Bob earned another M.S., this one in Computer Science from the University of South Carolina; before long he was wooed to Coastal Carolina in Conway, SC, where he taught for four years before retiring in 1994. About all those degrees Bob says, “You don’t have to be that smart; you just have to be stubbornly persistent.” (Sorry, I don’t buy that, Dr. Gamble!)

In 1994, Bob and Kelley (the love of his life whom he married in 1963) moved to Beaufort. Because singing was important to Bob, they did not immediately join a church. Instead, they visited different houses of worship and were contemplating joining Carteret Street Methodist when Bob decided to check out First Pres. The first night he arrived for choir practice he met Bill & Helen Knepp coming in from the parking lot – can you imagine better emissaries? Soon, the Gambles knew they’d found their new church home and they became members in 1996.

At the end of September, Bob completed service as an Elder (Class of 2012) and Chair of the Worship Committee. He previously served as a Deacon and has participated in all but one of our mission trips to West Virginia. He is active in Kiwanis (a service organization devoting talent, time, and love to those in

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need). Bob has three (step) children and he and Kelley enjoy three grandchildren and four great-grands. When he isn't serving others and/or singing, Bob enjoys fishing, flying, and hunting.

One thing that has changed since Bob joined First Pres is the very welcomed increase in the number of families with children; Bob recalls that most members were more mature [a euphemism for 'much older'!] in the late 1990s. Looking ahead, Bob is hopeful we'll continue to grow in numbers and in strength through increased mission work. Just as Jesus's love transforms us, we must share His healing love with neighbors. One way would be to become more involved at Thornwell. Even closer to home, we could reach out to those in need right here in Beaufort (through Kiwanis, Bob is aware that many in our own community are in dire straits).

Bob's favorite Bible verses include Mark 1:15 (the importance of repentance) and John 8:1-11 (Jesus demonstrates that we should not judge others). "Amazing Grace" is perhaps his favorite hymn – and not only because he once penned an additional verse:

*The Lord our God is great, indeed
God knows our every need.
And when we meet Christ face-to-face,
'tis Paradise indeed!*

Bob asks all members of our church family to help him be always diligent and dependable in following Christ's two great commands: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind; and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Finally, Bob wanted to be sure that Kelley – "my bride - my life" is recognized for the incredible woman and wife she is. Everyone knows that Bob is blessed to have Kelley at his side, assisting him in every endeavor and, together, enjoying this fabulous life.

Thank you, Bob, for setting an example we would all do well to follow. Your academic achievements are notable - but it is your sustained service to family, friends, and your fellow man that inspires us all. (And it must be noted for the record that your many contributions are made possible by Kelley's selfless dedication!)

Trivia Answers: On January 26, 1958, Bob (as part of the Duke University Glee Club) performed on the nationally-televised Ed Sullivan Show. Other guests that night were Jimmie Rodgers; Ted Lewis; Joyce Grenfell; and Buddy Holly & The Crickets.