

Employees Are Leaders In Community Affairs

Hundreds Are Volunteers In Worthwhile Endeavors

Employees of Firestone Textiles are good citizens, as indicated by the great extent of their participation in community affairs.

A recent survey among supervision and workers in the plant revealed a high degree of contribution to the church, the school and a host of other organizations and agencies that operate to make the community a better place in which to live.

Concentration of service is in the church—running the gamut from volunteer do-it-yourself projects on buildings and grounds to the complex work of regular ministers, who somehow manage to “redeem the time” in their off-the-job hours. And in between is an impressive list of lay workers who give freely of their time and energy as—to name a few—Sunday school officers and administrators, teachers, youth workers, members of committees and boards, elders, deacons, choir leaders and organists.

Other areas in which Firestone people are leaders include the various civic and service clubs, youth organizations, business and professional groups, fraternal organizations, better-schools groups, and welfare agencies. And then there are fields that defy classification.

Because of some time lapse, it would be very difficult to have the recognition lists up-to-date at the time of publication in this issue of the plant newspaper.

Names and services associated with them are published here with no attempt at being complete, but for the purpose of a salute to employees and of showing the vast extent of community service being rendered by Firestone people.



LEADERSHIP of Mrs. Mozelle Brockman in various phases of Women's Missionary Union work is example of services rendered by employees in churches of Gastonia and surrounding area. Mrs. Brockman, back row and right center, participates in a White Bible Ceremony at Loray Baptist Church. The presentation to brides-elect here goes to Tommie Sue Barton, who since the

photo was made, became the bride of Dean Atkinson.

In the picture, front row and from left: Rachel McArver, Marie Moore, Carol June Bolding, Elizabeth Ledford, Bonnie Sue Blalock and Joyce Sanders. Second row, from left: Nadine Gaddis, Mrs. Naomi Blanton, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Brockman, Mary Kate Blalock and Glenda Gaddis.

Eleven Men Active Ministers

Earl Redding, Shop. Minister of Love Valley Baptist Church, Route 2, Kings Mountain. Preacher at Love Valley for the past 13 years, now serves as chairman of Christian Rural Overseas Project in that community. Member of board of Kings Mountain Baptist Association and member of committee on care. With Union Road Volunteer Fire Department.

George Philbeck, Shop. A Free Will Baptist, preaches occasionally on week ends and conducts prayer meetings and revival services. Has assisted in organizing four churches during the past several years.

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Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them good citizens.—Daniel Webster

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Monroe Jackson, Ply Twisting. Traveling minister with Jehovah's Witnesses group. On time off from his job he distributes printed materials and conducts religious programs. Member of Kingdom Hall, Gastonia.

Melvin Knox, Shop. Member of St. James Reformed Righteous Church of God on Davidson avenue. An evangelist, traveling in the area. Conducts services on week ends and leads prayer meetings on week nights.

Emory Beaver, Carding. Member of Beech Avenue Baptist Church. Leads revival meetings and other services.

David Adams, Shop. A member of St. James Reformed Righteous Church of God, Davidson avenue. Preaches occasionally and holds prayer services at various churches.

Earl Shannon, Winding. Assistant pastor of Carolina Cathedral, Gastonia. Presbyterian. President of Religious Welfare, Inc.; chaplain, Woodmen of the

World; head of the Old Preachers' Fund. An elder, vacation Bible school teacher, Sunday school teacher.

Charles Hall, Shop. Church of God preacher-student, conducts open-air services and leads religious services in jails. Sunday school teacher, leader young people's work, program leader of youth activities in Bessemer City Church of God.

Charles Peterson, Shop. Member of Mt. View Baptist Church near Crowders Mountain. Preaches occasionally and conducts evangelistic services within 100-mile radius of Gastonia. Leads prayer meetings. Home and hospital visitation of the sick.

John Stowe, Rayon Twisting. Minister of the New Testament Church of God, Foundation of Truth congregation at Rock Hill, S. C. When he is not engaged in work with this church, he does supply preaching in churches of different denominations around Gastonia, Kings Mountain and Rock Hill.

Oliver Taylor, Spinning. Baptist evangelist whose ministerial work includes radio, prison, and street preaching. He occasionally conducts revival meetings in churches of the Gastonia area.

Baptists Lead In Church Membership

Numerically, Southern Baptists hold a decisive margin over members of all other religious affiliations among employees of Firestone Textiles, Gastonia. Methodist come in for second place.

A recent survey revealed that among the 1280 employees who indicated church membership, 787 were Baptists and 231 were Methodists.

Here is a break-down of the remaining 17 denominational preferences, in descending order of the number of membership:

Wesleyan Methodist, 64; Presbyterian, 63; Associate Reformed Presbyterian, 46; Lutheran, 19; Pentecostal Holiness, 14; AME Zion, 12; Assembly of God, 11; Free Will Baptist, 6; Catholic, 4; Church of Christ, 4; Episcopalian, 4; Congregational Christian, 3; Jehovah's Witnesses, 3; Salvation Army, 3; Christian (Disciples of Christ), 2; Church of God of Prophecy, 2; Four Square Gospel, 2.

One employee listed himself as a member of a church designated as “non-denominational.”

Church Activities Greatest Area Of Service

Of the total employee church membership of approximately 1400, more than 500 persons are actively engaged in some form of leadership in the many congregations to which they belong. And of the 1642 responses in the recent survey, 1280 indicated church membership. Within that 1280, 462 listed definite positions of leadership, ranging from a member of a committee to a full-time minister.

The following list suggests the extensive participation in church affairs.

Edgar Clawson, deacon, church clerk, Sunday school teacher; Albert Laughlin, deacon, music director, church secretary, church trustee; Harry Stewart, director religious education; Lowery Cobb, trustee; Oliver Hardy, SS superintendent, music director, leader young people's society; Walter Irvin, music director, SS superintendent.

Irene Williams, SS teacher, vice president young people's society, member of trio; Christine Davis, program chairman women's circle; Marvin McCurry, deacon, assistant SS teacher; Alonzo Smith, church treasurer; Wilma Hyde, vacation Bible school teacher; Wallace Floyd, deacon, church treasurer.

Annie Cosey, president SS class, secretary WSCS, home and foreign missions work; Corrie Johnson, VBS, SS teacher, member SS board, president mission-

ary society; J. C. Barnes, deacon, committee chairman; Marion Hughes, church clerk, VBS, SS teacher; James Haney, deacon, social director; Ruth McGhee, church secretary, VBS teacher; Ollie Propst, SS organist, leader beginner department Baptist Training Union.

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The enduring value of religion is in its challenge to aspiration and hope in the mind of man.—Ernest Hopkins

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Leola Chambers, leader Women's Missionary Union; Woodrow McKnight, elder, music director; Grady Taylor, church secretary-treasurer; Nell Robinson, SS teacher, chairman mission study group; Evelyn Mayfield, general secretary Women's Missionary Society, co-chairman Lydia Business Women's circle, VBS teacher.

Elizabeth Lewis, Bible quiz leader, circle chairman, SS teacher; Jurlene Strickland, assistant director training union, president WMU; Leila Rape, VBS, SS teacher; Bonnie Ledford, superintendent BTU (Junior); Grace Christopher, SS superintendent, director-leader BTU, superintendent Junior department, SS teacher.

Lillian Parham, leader missionary group; Loyd Wright, secretary SS class, usher; Lillie Bradshaw, superintendent young people's society; Vina Robinson, secretary promotion of missionary society; Verdie Smith, chairman women's circle, president SS class; Emma Jolly, leader training union; Mildred Redding, VBS, SS teacher, church pianist.

Pearl Edison, leader women's guild; Sara Fullbright, director Junior choir, VBS teacher, chairman committee charity workers; Gwynn Hardin, deacon, president SS class; Getty Davis, circle leader; Alice Bell, VBS, SS teacher, church clerk, BTU Junior leader; Carrie Spivey, VBS, SS teacher, BTU leader.

Curbie McGhee, church clerk, SS teacher; Barbara Sneed, lead-

er business women's circle; Edgar Riley, deacon, church treasurer, music director, VBS, SS teacher, president adult BTU; Donnie Medlin, secretary-treasurer SS class, SS program chairman; P. G. Cloninger, vice president SS class, leader BTU; Arnold Grindle, assistant church treasurer, deacon, assistant SS superintendent, chairman finance committee; Bertha Dettmar, nursery mother, superintendent nursery.

Ruth Cloninger, VBS, SS teacher, counselor young people; Faye Ross, director Junior choir, SS teacher, instructor training union for boys and girls; Faye Kennerly, SS program committee, assistant SS teacher; Katherine Davis, church historian, finance committee; Lillie Scism, leader in Catholic Women's Guild; Mae Grindle, VBS teacher, director training union; Mary Tindall, leader fund-raising group, circle work; Ruby Scism, keeper of nursery; Jessie McFee, VBS, SS teacher; Mildred Kelton, VBS teacher; Ruby McCoig, VBS teacher, leader BTU, WMU; Margaret Huffstetler, VBS, SS teacher; Ray Bagwell, church steward, SS teacher; Lewis Compton, group captain SS class; Lorene Owensby, VBS, SS teacher; Agnes Lowery, SS superintendent, VBS teacher; Sallie Spencer, SS superintendent, SS teacher.

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Philosophy makes us wiser, but Christianity makes us better men.—Fielding

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Arvel Green, SS teacher, BTU leader; Maude Peeler, WMU leader, VBS teacher; Lucy Allen, VBS, SS teacher, WMS leader; William Dixon, church clerk; John Cothern, deacon, VBS, SS teacher, BTU leader; G. W. Horne, church clerk, SS teacher; May Jones, VBS teacher, WMU leader; John Morgan, deacon, SS secretary, church clerk.

Lucille Davis, committee chairman, WSCS leader; David

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