



## **Meet “Preacher Bill”**

Bill Childress was born in Richmond, Virginia, where his father was studying for the ministry. He was the 6th of 8 children. *(Bill and wife, Roberta, on right)*

Bill has 2 wonderful Christian children, Beth and Tim, who serve faithfully in their churches along with a grandson, Aaron, and 2 grand-daughters, Cierra and Kenzie. Tim’s wife, Sandy, also serves Center Presbyterian faithfully as our pianist and choir director.

His father was the subject of the book "The Man Who Moved A Mountain" by Richard Davids.

Bill graduated from Hillsville Virginia High School after returning from serving in the European Theater during World War II, in the United States Army.

He graduated from King College in Bristol, Tennessee, where he met his wife, Roberta. They were married in 1949 while both were students at King College. He worked one year for King College as Director of Recruiting.

He graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur , Georgia, in June 1955. While at Columbia, he did his summer field work in the Tellico Plains, Tennessee area, serving 3 churches pastored by his father-in-law, C. McCoy Franklin.

Upon graduation, he accepted a call to those 3 churches, Brown Hill, Wilson Station and Sink, and moved to Tellico Plains.

In 1964 he was named "Rural Minister of the Year" for the state of Tennessee by the Progressive Farmer magazine and Emory University. He became pastor of Center Church in 1958 serving there until 1987 when he retired.

To this day Bill Childress remains a prominent inspirational force at Center Presbyterian Church.