

Leadership from Earliest Days

writing various articles for magazines. In retirement he also conducted special Christmas Eve services in German for all Atlanta area German-speaking people as he had done for years.

on The Lutheran Hour, he entered Concordia Seminary- Springfield, Illinois, before he was eighteen. Upon graduation he was assigned as Missionary-at-Large to the Southeastern

“Undoubtedly, the Spirit of God, brooding there above the empty silence of that Convention assembly room ... still breathes His divine benediction upon our days in a solidarity of spirit and singleness of purpose in mission which has distinguished our District since its organization.”

In 1956 Pastor Kimberley began chairing the Evangelism Committee, a sub-committee of the Commission for Missions and Church Extension, developing a District-wide Preaching, Teaching, Reaching program for 1960. He served as Area Director of PTR Missions for the Synodical Evangelism Department in North Carolina, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. A PTR mission was conducted in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area in November of 1956, and in Greater Atlanta in February of 1958, with Kimberley serving as District Director.

Pastor Kimberley was LWML District Counselor 1950-54; Workshop Presenter 1958, 1960; 1962; Retreat Master 1965. At many of these gatherings he created memorable chalk talks using colorful pastels to illustrate Bible lessons and truths. He worked closely with the LWML in numerous activities along with his wife Bertha (Bert), who was extremely active in local

and District LWML positions such as Zone President, Chairman of the District Christian Growth Committee, District II Vice-president, Directory Chairman, and Historian.

In February 1957, Kimberley accepted a call to Our Savior-Lake Worth, where he shepherded a congregation of more than 1,000 souls and a day school of 282 pupils. Here he continued his colorful chalk talks for students and LWML rallies, captivating listeners with artistic sketches that materialized before their eyes.

1984-86 stewardship effort. He received the *Doulos tou Christou* award in 1985 for meritorious service.

For another of his well-respected chalk talks, Kimberley drew an exact replica of Albrecht Durer's print "The Praying Hands." Kimberley's chalk drawing was artistically sketched in realistic detail as he spoke of the importance of prayer in the Church and in the life of every Christian. Kimberley's prayer was expressed in action as he helped to develop District mission fields. In his District history, he wrote,

Rev. Ted Ahrendt rejoiced that his ministry was spent laboring in fields of "high cotton." When the cotton was high the pickers had less back pain and rejoiced. As he sowed seeds of the Gospel, high cotton sprang up through God's grace and brought joy to this well-respected patriarch of LCMS Georgia missions.

In 1981 he received the *Doulos tou Christou* award for mission outreach, District activities, and for his outstanding work as the patriarch of Georgia missions.

In addition to writing magazine articles, Ted Ahrendt had two books published. The first one was *The Lutherans in Georgia*, an account tracing Lutheranism from its beginnings in the state. In that book he wrote, "If Lutherans will be alive to the Gospel and live by that Gospel, then we can indeed expect a great future for the Church of Jesus Christ in this region." His second book, *High Cotton for the Georgia Preacher*, is a lighthearted, often humorous account, complete with cartoon sketches drawn by Ahrendt himself, about the joys of laboring in the mission fields of Georgia. He rejoiced to see the seeds of the Gospel blossom into high cotton through God's grace and guidance.

District and served as an Armed Services Commission contact pastor to military personnel in North and South Carolina during World War II and as chaplain to German Prisoners of War.

At the close of World War II, Kimberley was called to Redeemer-Miami Shores, where he served for ten years, from 1947-1957. In 1948 his congregation joined the newly formed District as a charter congregation. At Grace-Key West, he helped out as interim pastor and held services until a permanent pastor arrived.



Wyatt A. Kimberley

"Why?" asked the curious children who stared at the life-sized picture of Christ drawn by Pastor Wyatt Kimberley. They noticed that the hands and feet of Jesus were missing. Why, they wondered? "You must be the hands and feet of Jesus and continue his work," was the answer. "You must be missionaries for Jesus and spread God's Word."

This visual object lesson was only one of the many chalk talks for which Kimberley was known. Not only was Kimberley a gifted artist working in pastels, he was also an artist with words, writing descriptive sermons and preserving the early history of the District in stately prose.

Wyatt Kimberley was born on November 23, 1918, in Maxwell, Iowa, the grandson of a pioneer homesteading family. Through the influence of Dr. Walter A. Maier's sermons

As the youngest pastor at the Organizational Convention of the Florida-Georgia District, Kimberley nervously mounted the steps at Trinity-Orlando, to lead the morning devotional on February 6, 1948. The theme of the text, Luke 5:1-11, was "Following in Faith." His artful phrasing was chosen as the theme of our present celebration of District's sixty years of ministry. Kimberley also wrote a masterfully descriptive twenty-five year history of the District in 1973, while serving as District Historian. Kimberley wrote this regarding the District's organizational convention:

Pioneers of the Faith

Missionary Heroes from the Florida-Georgia District's First 60 Years



Florida-Georgia District
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Copies of *Pioneers of the Faith* are available from the District office; please contact Kathy Keene at KKeene@FLGA-LCMS.org.



Pioneers of the Faith