

Dr. Paul W. Powell

December 6, 1933 - December 28, 2016

Paul Powell, a long time Baptist leader and community servant died Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at the age of 83.

Paul was born December 6, 1933 in Brookeland, Texas. He grew up in Port Arthur, the son of Jodie and Mary Powell.

He was a pastor for 34 years, 17 of those at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler. He also worked as President and CEO of GuideStone Financial Services, an organization that manages the retirement accounts of ministers and missionaries worldwide. For six years, he served as Dean of Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary. For two years, during the 1980s he served as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Powell earned his degrees from Baylor and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Paul also served as past Chairman of the Board at Christus Trinity Mother Frances Health System, past President of Robert M. Rogers Foundation and was active on the Board of Directors of Southside Bank. He was a member of numerous boards and recipient of numerous honors for his service to the Tyler community and his denomination. He authored over 50 books that focused on encouraging pastors and inspiring others to reach their full potential in Christ, which was his greatest passion.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Cathy Powell of Tyler; son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Suzanne Powell of Tyler; daughter and son-in-law, Lori and Mitchell Gropper of Dallas; grandchildren, Jordan Powell, Katie

Kallas and Matt Kallas; and sister, Lillian "Punk" Wassenick of Nederland. He was preceded in death by his son, Kent, who died in April.

Visitation is scheduled for 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 1, 2017 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler. A memorial service is scheduled for Monday, January 2, at 2:00 PM in the Chapel of Green Acres Baptist Church, private burial at Cathedral In The Pines Cemetery under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Memorials can be made to Baylor University, noting the "Paul W. Powell preaching fund" on the memo line, and mailed to Baylor University, George W. Truett Theological Seminary, One Bear Place, #97126, Waco TX 76798-7126 (this fund will be used to teach and train pastors for the ministry), Meals on Wheels Ministry, 3001 Robertson Rd., Tyler, TX 75701 or a charity of your choice.

His last prayer was for God to bless his family, friends and America.

Cemetery Details

Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery

7825 South Broadway Avenue
Tyler, TX 75703

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 1. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Mem. Service

JAN 2. 2:00 PM (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church - Chapel
1607 Troup Hwy
Tyler, TX 75701

Tribute Wall

CD

“ *Kathy and family,*

I am so sorry for the loss of your loved one. There was certainly rejoicing in Heaven on his Homegoing. May God give you peace and comfort during these days.

I am a retiree at GuideStone (after 23 years) and worked there during the years of Dr. Powell's service. What a blessing and inspiration he was to so many people.

Connie DeFore

(Public Relation under Dr. Tom Miller)

Connie DeFore - January 13, 2017 at 09:46 AM

DB

“ As a former member of GABC and being involved in many of its ministries, I witnessed Paul’s many qualities and talents so well expressed by other writers of these tributes. Is there a good and noble trait that wasn’t a part of Paul’s life and ministry? Don’t think so! To what has already been written, I just want to add my heart-felt AMEN ... and a bit of humor, which also had a prominent place in Paul’s life.

I was visiting with a couple in the vestibule of what once was the main auditorium. We were discussing the portraits of pastors hanging on the wall when out of the corner on my eye I saw Paul coming around the corner ready to start the evening service. As I pointed to Paul’s portrait, I said loud enough for him to hear, “We had these white preachers before we got this colored one.” Paul couldn’t think of anything to say. It was the first and only time that I ever knew Paul to be speechless.

I pray that Almighty God will make His presence felt for you Kathy and the rest of your family as you all deal with Paul’s absence. I can hear him now singing “Victory in Jesus” because that’s Who he now is with. God bless you all. Dick Borrmann

Dick Borrmann - January 01, 2017 at 09:26 PM



“ Rosie and I would like to add our praise to the Choir of those who would honor Brother Powell...He touched so many in our community...The Rich, the poor, the well-heeled and the unwashed...He was without a doubt one of the wisest and most thoughtful men, I have known...just his service as Chair of the Governing Board of Trinity Mother Frances Health would put him at the top of the list of East Texans who cared about others...God Bless All..

William Bellenfant - January 01, 2017 at 06:01 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Life Tributes*




Stewart Family Funeral Home - January 01, 2017 at 01:53 PM

JV

“ *Kathy, my heart and prayers are with you and your family, especially today. How I wish I could be there in Tyler with other Floyd Faithfuls. I know you will have many many there from all over to pay loving tribute to Paul - and to you. What great memories we have of you both at Park Cities, our SS Class and our Retreats together. How he stood tall for Baptist beliefs and Christian integrity and how smart and fun he was. God bless you and your children and family at this time of his Homecoming. We hope to see you in the coming days. Much love, Jodie and Joe Vaughan*

joanne C vaughan - January 01, 2017 at 11:48 AM

 Larry
Kellam

“ *Mrs. Powell, Mike and Lori. Celeste and I send our prayers and condolences. Bro. Paul was such a large part of our lives not only as our pastor but our friend and mentor. On October 11th, 1980 he married Celeste and I and I still vividly remember to this day how comfortable and special he made our wedding. I also remember his competitiveness on the basketball court. He always remembered he was first a pastor, but he didn't let that sacrifice any of his intensity to be the best he could be. He relished competing with us youngsters. Although, we are saddened by the earthly loss, heaven is rejoicing and we can just imagine what he is doing right now. May God bless you.*

Larry & Celeste Kellam

Larry Kellam - January 01, 2017 at 10:37 AM

JS

“ *Mike and family:*

My sincere condolences on Dr. Powell's passing. A towering figure and a true gentleman -- as down to earth as you please, especially for one with his accomplishments, and a man of great wisdom. I took special note of his reflections on vision, judgment, courage, and trust as quoted recently in the Tyler paper. His memory and legacy will live on for many years to come.

John Sims - January 01, 2017 at 08:23 AM

JC

“ Dear Cathy, Mike, and Lori,

38 years ago we moved to Tyler. We had had a very disturbing experience at an extremely liberal Southern Baptist Church and did not want to repeat it. We asked Paul to come over to our home, we wanted to know what he believed, his doctrine, and what he taught. (Our sons, Stephen and Charlie we on the floor. I'm sure we embarrassed them.) Praise the Lord, we all agreed!!!! Paul was a good pastor and a good friend. I know each of you will miss him and sometime forget he is not on this earth any more, just wish you were with him. May our Lord Jesus hold your hand and show His love in many ways.

May God guide, guard, and go with you.

John Oakley and Thelma Ruth Childs

John Oakley and Thelma Ruth Childs - December 31, 2016 at 05:12 PM



“ 72 files added to the album Life Tributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - December 31, 2016 at 01:02 PM

CJ

“ I knew Bro. Paul Powell only through TV appearances until about three years ago when I helped him officiate a funeral service for Paul Chance. Bro. Powell was such a down-to-earth individual with seasoned wit and wisdom. Our church family is lifting the Powell family up to the throne of grace.

Charles Johnson, pastor
Rosewood Baptist Church-Gilmer, TX

Charles Johnson - December 30, 2016 at 10:33 PM

SD

“ Most of us have someone here on this earth that we strive to emulate. Mine was Dr. Paul Powell. Bro. Paul was a true example of what it means to be a "minister." He made everyone who came in contact with him feel special and understood how to share the gospel in its simplest form. I am grateful for the opportunity to know him and spend a little time with him along my life's journey. He never minded sharing his own struggles and shortcomings. When I saw him recently, he reminded me that he would be glad to come and preach for me and that he "still preaches pretty cheap." I had the opportunity to tell him that I always wished that I could be just like him. I told my son, Cortland Davidson that I wanted him to attend the funeral with me on Monday to just get a glimpse of what a great man Bro. Paul was. He was truly a man of God!

Shelby Davidson - December 30, 2016 at 07:31 PM

AF

“ Aaron Baker and Family purchased the Heart's Companion Bouquet for the family of Dr. Paul W. Powell.



Aaron Baker and Family - December 30, 2016 at 05:27 PM

LJ

“ Love, Janet Suddreth, Katie Thompson & Leah Johnson purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Paul W. Powell.



Love, Janet Suddreth, Katie Thompson & Leah Johnson -
December 30, 2016 at 04:39 PM

EM

“ Elizabeth & Drayton McLane purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Paul W. Powell.



Elizabeth & Drayton McLane - December 30, 2016 at 12:17 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Paul W. Powell.



December 30, 2016 at 12:14 PM



“ Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Paul W. Powell.



December 30, 2016 at 12:02 PM

SH

“ Oh, Catherin, so many memories! My prayers go out to you and yours. Paul had a fantastic life that God used in a mighty way! He will be missed by many.
Our love, Shirley and Doyle Watson

ShirleyWatson - December 30, 2016 at 11:59 AM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Dr. Paul W. Powell.



December 30, 2016 at 09:59 AM

OT

“ Overhead Door Company of Tyler purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Paul W. Powell.



Overhead Door Company of Tyler - December 30, 2016 at 09:43 AM

PH

“ I was so sad to hear this. Brother Powell was so important in my life as a young child of God. I would love to come to church on Sunday morning at First Baptist Church in Taylor to hear him preach. I really think it was the way he preached that I loved. He was funny, he got down to business, and more than anything he cared. I was blessed to visit with him when he returned for a visit and I was lucky enough to purchase some of his books. As I was watching this man greet his former congregation, I could not help but think of how many people this man touched sharing the word of God. God has a good one for sure. I am so blessed by knowing this wonderful person. May you rest in peace and may God surround your loved ones and give them peace as well. "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Pat Guthrie Helbert, Taylor, Tx

Pat Helbert - December 30, 2016 at 09:12 AM

BP

“ I have so many fond memories of Bro. Paul. He was my pastor at First Baptist, Taylor. My parents, Elizabeth and J. B. Dabbs, loved and respected him and Cathy. I especially remember how he could use his sense of humor to make people feel more comfortable in unusual situations. For example, when he asked me and my husband Herb how our married life was one week after he had performed our wedding, I explained that my husband was sick with a stomach virus for the first 3 days that we were married. Bro. Paul's response was, "Well, aren't you glad I said 'in sickness and health' in your vows and put sickness first."

I am so grateful that I had an opportunity to know Paul Powell and experience his ministry, and I know our world is a much better place because God shared him with us. I pray for God to surround Paul's family with His comfort and love.

*Betsy Dabbs Polgue
Rio Frio, TX*

Betsy Polgue - December 29, 2016 at 09:22 PM

LK

“ Paul was a good friend from student days. I had been trying to call to thank him for the gift of his latest book which ought to be required reading for ministry students. He was an all too rare combination of creative preacher, effective leader, dedicated soul winner and caring pastor. Cathy and family, Jean and I are praying for you. We treasure the memories.

Leroy Kemp

Leroy Kemp - December 29, 2016 at 08:52 PM

BP

“ Paul and Cathy were a ministry team that touched a multitude for Christ. We thank the Lord for them both and pray for Cathy in this time of Paul's Homegoing. My memories of Paul would fill a library and all of them good. In a long phone visit with him that I had the day before his stroke he was sharing plans for the future, plans to help others as was his usual approach to life. His devotion to Christ, his amazing preaching ability, his compassion, his leadership skills, his sense of humor, plus scores of other marvelous God-given attributes made him special indeed. How he will be missed by a multitude of people. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of Paul Powell....Bill Pinson

Bill Pinson - December 29, 2016 at 06:59 PM

LF

I came to know Dr. Powell personally when he served as interim at FBC Tyler and I was the Pastor's secretary. He was wise, kind, funny, a joy to be around. He helped our church immensely. We became good friends. His influence on so many cannot be measured. I know you will miss him greatly but can rejoice that he is home in heaven. Linda Fielder

Linda Fielder - December 30, 2016 at 01:24 PM

CG

Brother Powell will be missed here on earth, I can only imagine how blessed he is in heaven! I met him when I was a teenager and he would always listen and pray with us anytime we saw him or dropped in his office. His door was always open. He made a huge difference in all of our families lives. Prayers and thanks to his family for sharing him with so many!

Cindy Cox Gorman - December 30, 2016 at 09:23 PM

JD

“ *Judy Dudley*
Marvin and I are sad to hear of Paul's passing. Paul Powell was a true man of God. There are countless people who have been touched by his preaching. It was my honor to have worked with Paul when he was interim at TWBC. He is rejoicing with the One he preached about for so many years. Our prayers are with Cathy and family at this time.

Judy Dudley - December 29, 2016 at 02:41 PM

TM

“ *The Midway Baptist Church Family would like to extend our sincere condolences to Dr. Paul Powell's family as we reflect on and rejoice in his ministry to the people of God; he was truly a "Soldier of the Cross and a Follower of the Lamb."* Tim Mason, Interim Pastor

Tim Mason - December 29, 2016 at 02:28 PM

SK

“ *I remember Bro Paul preaching a revival at Pershing Park Baptist, Killeen in the early 70s and followed his ministry from then on. "Paul Powell preaching and packing pews" What a wonderful christian man he will be missed but his legacy will continue.*

Sheroa Hennigan, Kilgore - December 29, 2016 at 11:19 AM

JJ

“ *Words cannot describe Mary Ann and my feelings toward Paul. Paul will always be in our Heart and thoughts. May God give the peace that only He can give in the day's ahead for Kathy, Mike and the rest of the Powell family. Paul was not only our pastor but our friend for life. Jeff and Mary Ann Jones*

Jeff Jones - December 29, 2016 at 08:59 AM

CG

Paul will always be my pastor! From the time I moved to Tyler as a baby Christian, he taught me the Word of our Lord. He performed my wedding ceremony, baptized my oldest daughter and held my husband's funeral service. Along the way he and Cathy would put their feet under our dinner table for so much laughter and fun times. I will miss 'P. Paul' ...as he was known to my daughters. He will forever be a part of my life and his teachings and idioms will live on in so many people who love him. He will always be an icon in my life. My deepest sympathies to Cathy, Mike, Laurie and their families. We have lost one of the greatest men I have ever known!!

Charlie George - December 29, 2016 at 10:56 AM

MM

I rejoice to have known him, grown in Spirit through him, been blessed by him, and loved him. He was an inspiration to me and to all he met. Praise God for enabling him to move among us.

Mac Moseley - December 29, 2016 at 05:00 PM

JS

Bro. Paul was my Pastor for many years at Green Acres, His sermons were truly gifts from God as was Paul. He could make you feel comfortable and had a great sense of humor. I pray for God to comfort Cathy, Mike, Laurie and families. Heaven gained a great saint. Thank you for touching my life.

JoAnn Swain, Southlake

JoAnn Swain - December 30, 2016 at 08:22 AM