

Souvenirs of West Side Central Church of Christ

2-6

by Dr. Vernon Boyd



Claud and Minnie Witty served the West Side Central Church of Christ in Detroit for over 32 years before he died on November 26, 1952. After preaching throughout the Midwest, he moved to Detroit and transformed a storefront congregation into one of the most successful ministries in Detroit at a time when a constant stream of disciples flooded into the city from the South. Claud was best known for creating unity between members of the churches of Christ and members of the Christian Churches/Churches of Christ.

Minnie out-lived her husband several years. She preserved items from the old church building on Grand River and Kirby before it was taken by the city to make the I-94 expressway, which began construction in 1950 and ended in 1953. Austin Gilley, a member at the West Side Church, donated the collection basket, the pitchers used to fill communion cups and the electric wall clock to the Michigan Church History Collection at Rochester College.