

Gary Clark Redding

Augusta, GA – Memorial Services for Dr. Gary Clark Redding, 78, who entered into rest June 12, 2024, will be conducted Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at First Baptist Church of North Augusta, Dr. Will Dyer and Rev. Mark Owens officiating. Private interment will take place in First Baptist Church of Augusta's Memorial Garden. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Tuesday evening from 5 until 7.

Dr. Redding was born August 14, 1945, in Griffin, Georgia to the late J.B. and Velma Redding. He served the Lord for over 40 years as a Pastor in Florida and South Carolina, including 22 years at First Baptist Church of North Augusta where he grew, not only the size of the congregation, but also the physical plant of the church campus. Dr. Redding's heart was as a Pastor and shepherding the people to a relationship with the Lord. His happiest moments were with family, especially his grandchildren who affectionately called him, "Buddy." In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Kenneth Redding.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Carol Redding; daughters, Melissa Tripp (Ryan) and Jennifer Wilson (Rusty); grandchildren, Brayden Tripp, Benjamin Tripp, Barrett Tripp, Finn Wilson, Isla Wilson and Birdie Wilson.

<https://www.poseyfuneraldirectors.com/obituaries/gary-redding-2/#!/Obituary>

North Augusta First's Redding to retire

By [The Courier](#)

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Gary C. Redding will retire March 31 after serving 22 years as pastor of First Baptist Church, North Augusta.

Gary C. Redding is a native of Griffin, GA. He graduated from Stetson University, DeLand and Southern Seminary. Redding pastored three churches in Florida including Lakeside Baptist Church, Lakeland. He and his wife Carol have two daughters.

He came to the church in 1989, following three pastorates in Florida. He is a native of Griffin, Ga., and received his B.A. degree from Stetson University and his M.Div. and D.Min. degrees from Southern Seminary.

During Redding's pastorate, the church completed construction projects totaling more than \$20 million, including a new worship center and a children's learning center.

In 1989, Redding established "Business, By The Book," a monthly outreach to the area's civic and business community, a ministry that continues today. Two years ago, First Baptist Church established a church plant in Chepen, Peru.

Redding served as president of the National Alumni Association of Southern Seminary in 1999. On the occasion of his 20th anniversary at the church in 2009, Redding was presented The Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor presented by the governor.

His last Sunday at North Augusta will be March 27. A reception will be held from 2-5 p.m. at the North Augusta Municipal Center.

Redding and his wife Carol have two married daughters and five grandchildren. They plan to reside in North Augusta after retirement. Redding said he plans to remain active in pulpit supply, interim pastorates, conference and motivational speaking, and consulting.

Tempers flare in Dunedin: 'I've never seen a ruder audience'

By JEANNE PUGH
Pineles Times Staff Writer

DUNEDIN — Tempers flared in Delightful Dunedin Monday night as the City Commission faced a hostile audience of partisans whose strong feelings on a series of issues are threatening the traditional tranquility of the town.

"I have never seen a ruder audience in (the past) five years," lamented Mayor Judy Gould as she and the four commissioners waded through the stormy three-hour session during which a parade of complainants charged the commission with failing to respond to the wishes of the citizens.

The complainants, in turn, accused the commission of "putting down" those who voiced their concerns.

AT ISSUE were:

✓ The continued battle by residents of northeast Dunedin to prevent the sale of the King Arthur Courts condominium complex as a public housing facility and the failure of the commission to grant the protesting group its

request for "100 per cent support."

✓ The recent introduction of X-rated movies by the Dunedin Cinema — a development that drew a protesting petition signed by 50 citizens, a vocal second by a soft-spoken minister, and an impassioned defense of the theatre's right to show the films by an articulate 16-year-old student.

✓ And charges that the commission is ignoring public opinion or input in reaching a decision on where to build its promised practice fields for the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team — along with an accusation that the commission is contemplating a "rape of Fisher Field."

IRONICALLY, the tumult erupted during a session that began with the approval of a proclamation naming Dec. 6-12 as Human Rights Week in the city.

Simmering resentment among about a dozen impatient spokesmen for the group protesting the conversion of King Arthur Courts into rental-assistance housing for low-income fam-

ilies appeared to be aggravated by their two-and-a-quarter-hour wait to be heard by the commission.

After listening to the commission members and irate citizens exchange bitter comments on the two other issues, the protest group wasted no time on niceties as it plowed into criticisms of the city's leaders.

ROSALIE ROSSER, a leader in the campaign that has already led to three protest marches and the acquisition of about 2,000 signatures on petitions, accused Mrs. Gould of measuring the impact of the proposed public housing project by the amount of federal funds that it could make available to the city rather than by the feelings of the citizens.

Mrs. Gould defended her position by confirming that the placement of low-income families in the northeast section could open the door to using the city's federal community development funds for much-needed recreational facilities in that area. And she added, "I frankly am not strongly opposed to it."

Commissioner Manny Koutsourais told the protesters that "you are putting the commission into a terrible position" as he reminded them that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which must decide the virtues of the proposed project, has stated it would not be swayed by the commission's opinion — one way or another.

BUT CARL Courson, another member of the protesting group, said past history does not bear that out.

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Housing-project foes picket, get support

By JEANNE PUGH
Pineles Times Staff Writer

DUNEDIN — While more than 50 residents of northeast Dunedin braved chilling winds to parade in a picket line outside their city hall Tuesday afternoon, an aide to U.S. Rep. Richard Kelly, R-Port Richey, told onlookers that the congressman

is throwing his support behind their efforts to keep a low-income housing project out of their neighborhood.

Phyllis O'Connell, Kelly's district assistant, said Kelly has met twice this week with officials of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Washington

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"The same thing happened once in Clearwater," he said. "The city backed the citizens and (a similar project) did not go through."

Commissioner Herbert Donald, who said he hadn't made up his mind on the matter, nevertheless said the petitions have not yet convinced him that the commission should take a strong stand against it.

"How many names do you need?" he was asked.

"Probably about 50 per cent," he said, indicating that he meant half of all the city's 30,000 residents.

THE ONLY concessions came from Commissioner Cecil Englebert, who carefully explained that his stance was not motivated by impending plans to seek re-election to a fifth term on the commission.

"As a citizen, I think we should be concerned about the amount of money (involved in the project)," he said as he questioned the \$2,480,000 selling price on the 102-unit complex and the "country club atmosphere" it would provide for low-income occupants.

Complaining that the lowest monthly rentals in the subsidized project would be \$225, he said, "I think it's wrong."

Commissioner Don Jones had left the meeting to avoid any implication of conflict with his job as a branch manager for Clearwater Federal Savings and Loan Association, the owners of the complex.

Englebert asked the other three

commissioners to add the matter to the night's agenda, an act that would open the way to an official vote of support or condemnation of the protest movement.

All refused, amid shouts and groans from the audience.

EARLIER, the commission heard young Jeff Johnson quote portions of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights in voicing his "strong opposition" to attempts by other citizens to prevent the Dunedin Cinema from showing X-rated movies.

"Mr. (Durwood) Curenton (operator of the theatre) is not a sexual pervert," the 16-year-old student said. "He's doing it for economics . . . he showed Walt Disney films for \$1 admission and couldn't make it."

Judith Curenton, wife of the operator, confirmed that economics was the major reason for converting the theatre programs from family fare to sex-oriented films. She said business has doubled since the new format was adopted three weeks ago.

MRS. CURENTON added that the theatre showed its first X-rated movie about a month ago, then went back to family-type films for one week "to give the community one more chance," but had to return to the more popular fare to make ends meet.

Rev. Gary Redding, pastor of North Dunedin Baptist Church, admitting that "you always have conflict when you discuss rights," asked the commission to "please given consideration to the petitions" urging the city to ban such motion pictures. Turning to Johnson, he said, "I enjoy sex, Jeff —

every chance I get — but within certain limits of the marriage covenant."

"What it comes down to," **Rev. Redding** added, "is the right of the majority."

TO WHICH City Atty. John Hubbard responded: "There's no possible way to exclude X-rated movies from your town . . . Supreme Court guidelines demand that it be proven such movies violate the morals of a community, and I doubt we could prove that since their business has doubled."

Then Harry Greene and Joe Sweeney, both inveterate attendees of commission sessions, rose to air their fears about how the commission will handle its commitment to provide facilities for the Toronto Blue Jays.

"I'm an irate taxpayer who is concerned that you plan a rape of Fisher Field," Greene said, noting that the field is now used extensively for community recreational activity that would be disrupted if the American League expansion team's practice sessions are conducted there.

He added that "the residents of Dunedin were misled" by the commission into thinking that the team facilities would cause no additional burden to taxpayers. "The (estimated) cost has gone up from \$600,000 to \$720,000 already and I'm sure it will get to \$900,000," he said.

Sweeney joined Greene in asking the commission about the ultimate cost of the venture.

"Is it true? Just tell me the truth when I ask a question," he said. None of the city officials responded.

THE REV. GARY REDDING, assistant pastor of the First Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, will be the pulpit guest at the morning worship service tomorrow at the First Baptist Church of Tampa. He is a graduate of Stetson University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Tomorrow will mark the third anniversary of the Good News Baptist Chapel and a special anniversary service will be held at 3 p.m. in the chapel.

Revival planned

The Calvary Baptist Church, 9111 Timberlake Road, will have revival services Sunday through Friday at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday and 7:30 every other night.

The **Rev. Gary Redding** of Deer Meadows Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., will be the guest speaker.