

Darby left media for ministry

By ALISE MUNSON
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PEORIA — The ideas of being flexible and not giving up one's dreams has led the Rev. June Scott Darby, senior minister of the Valley Church of Religious Science, to her third successful career.

"I have reached this age with still some dreams ahead to achieve," said the 72-year-old Darby. "Growing older is not becoming over the hill; it's a march to the summit."

Darby, who has held her position since 1984, graduated from Kansas State University in the early 1940s with a bachelor's degree in journalism and a minor in broadcasting. She has also earned a master's degree in psychology.

In 1981, she continued her education at Ernest Holmes College, a United Church of Religious Science ministerial school in California.



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REV. JUNE DARBY — She is the senior minister at Valley Church of Religious Science in Peoria.

Darby's first job was in broadcasting with a company in St. Louis, her home for more than 40 years. From there she

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went into public relations and became an advertising and public relations officer. From 1978 to 1981, she owned her own public relations firm.

During her career, Darby tacked up numerous awards. She received the gold seal from the state of Missouri for her public relations work in 1969 and the key to the city of St. Louis in 1966.

In 1975-76 she was voted Advertising Woman of the Year. She was also listed in Who's Who of American Women from 1979 to 1984 and in Who's Who in the West in 1984.

After any early retirement, Darby became interested in clinical psychology and counseling older adults.

"I saw friends and acquaintances growing older and developing tendencies to give things up," she said. "I see this as a

period of possibilities."

Somewhere along the line, Darby said that she discovered she should pursue a career in spiritual counseling and not clinical psychology.

She was already an active as a licensed practitioner in healing at a Religious Science church in St. Louis. After one year of schooling, she became assistant minister of Pomona Valley Church of Religious Science in Claremont, Calif.

In the same year Darby moved to Sun City, she became a newly wed for the second time when she married Sean Biggs also from St. Louis.

When Darby first joined the Peoria church, she pastored to 58 members who gathered in a small storefront in Youngtown.

Now, the congregation has grown to a size of 200 and has purchased a former health spa at 9745 W. Peoria Ave. to accommodate the growth.