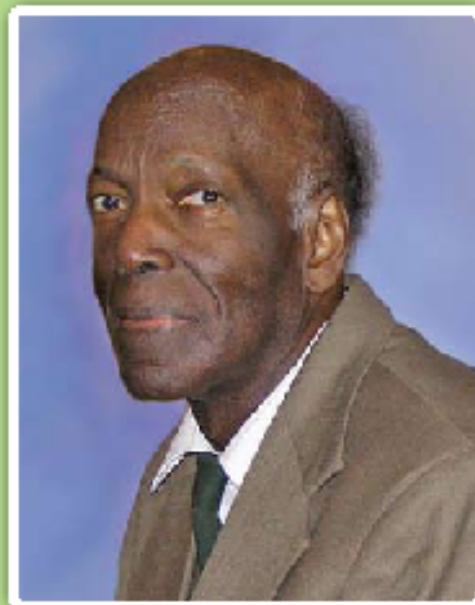
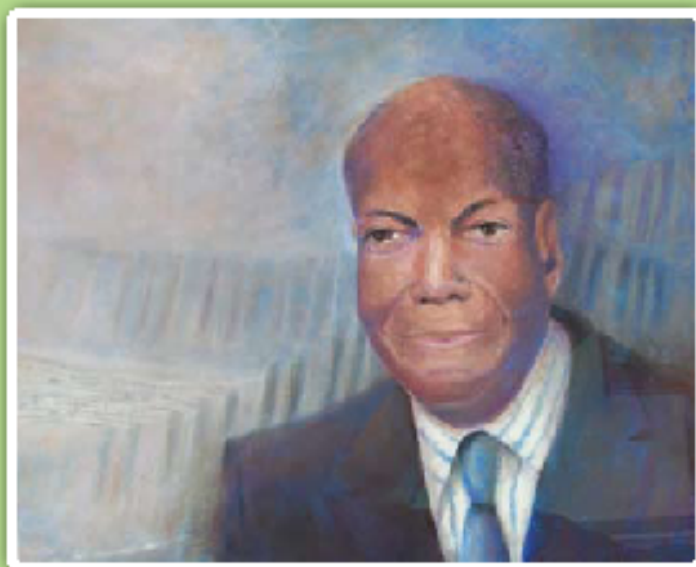


a quiet, humble steward

Nelson Gipson spent nearly his entire life in Pleasant Hill, Missouri. Except for the four years he attended the University of Kansas to earn his degree in economics and business administration, Nelson lived in his family home with his mother. He worked for the Social Security Administration in Kansas City and retired in about 1982.

Nelson learned to play piano as a child. In 1957, when St. Bridget Parish needed someone to play the organ, he agreed to "fill in." As he stated about 40 years later, "I'm still fillin' in." All told, Nelson played music at St. Bridget for 52 years, literally until the Sunday before his death in May 2009.

Msgr. Brad Offutt, who was then pastor of St. Bridget, recalls that when the parish built its new church and shopped for an organ, he met with Nelson on a very hot summer day to consider what type of new organ should be procured. Once a decision was made, Nelson literally got out his checkbook and wrote a "five-figure gift to pay for the new organ." Msgr. Offutt, who observed Nelson's devotion to the parish, remembers his "profound gentleness and kindness that generated immediate respect among all members of St. Bridget Parish."



Mr. Nelson Gipson

Nelson Gipson loved playing music, reading biographies and taking care of his yard. He served on the Board of the Pleasant Hill Historical Society for over 15 years. He was a profoundly private man who drew almost no attention to himself.

Literally on the day before he died, Nelson Gipson signed his last will and testament by which he left well over \$1,000,000 to charity. The two principle recipients are Kansas University Endowment for scholarships to honor his mother and grandparents (note: not himself) and St. Bridget Parish.

We draw attention to Nelson's Gipson's life and generosity in a way that he never would have agreed to while he lived. We do so to honor this quiet, humble steward to provide an example for others to follow.

This portrait of Nelson Gipson will be dedicated in May at a Mass of remembrance for Mr. Gipson, and will hang at St. Bridget Parish in Pleasant Hill.

The artist, Mary Lou McLagan, is a parishioner of St. Bridget and local studio owner. Her studio, *The Art & Craft Crossing*, is Pleasant Hill's historic train depot.