View From The Hill
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**Clemette Haskins Feature**

She was a two time All-American at WKU and took the Lady Toppers to two Final Fours in the mid-80’s.

Now Clemette Haskins is back in Bowling Green but  in a very different role.

Amy Bingham talks with her in this week’s “View from the Hill”.

She was a celebrated player and later a coach…but after a lot of soul searching… Clemette Haskins says she has found her true calling and she feels it’s a profession she’s been prepping for her whole life.

“It’s a unique situation.  I feel incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to come back to Bowling Green.  When I left I was Clemette the basketball player and now I’m Clemette the Pastor. “

Clemette Haskins serves as a pastoral associate at the Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green. She’ll soon be an ordained minister after completing a three year seminary degree.
Clemette says it was a long journey going from this to this.

“Of course basketball was a way of life in my family and certainly I did the family business and I coached and then I felt a notion to be in search of my creativity.”

That search led  Clemette  to New York City and later to  Culinary school in Arizona.

“Even when I went to culinary school it was about gathering food and people around a table of diverse backgrounds and certainly I feel like that’s the work that I’m doing here, gathering people from all walks of life around God’s table.”

After graduating from culinary school, Clemette returned to her family’s farm in Campbellsville where she started to think about changing the direction of her life.  But what did her parents think about her decision to go into the ministry?

“I think there may have been trepidation about it at first but after they’ve seen me preach they are like any parent I think and the response is often like when I walked off the floor, they are very proud of what I’m doing and what God has done in my life.”

Clemette says her success on the court is key to where she is today.

“Going to the final four was great, two times was fantastic, Kentucky State Championship was wonderful and Kentucky Miss basketball was some of the greatest times of my life, I didn’t think any of those could be trumped.” (connect to)

“I really feel like this is why I’m here and my career in basketball was in many ways an opportunity to connect with people and I kind of see this as the same extension.”

She still gets a thrill thinking about her time as a Lady Topper.

“To understand what we accomplished back in the early 80’s with 13-thousand people in Diddle arena…so those are very fond memories and the beauty of it is those people in that congregation were many of those people cheering then so it’s really nice to be connected again.”

Of  all her accolades, Clemette calls winning the state high school basketball championship at Warren Central in 1983 the pie’ce de re’sistance.   Her whole family was at the girls state tournament in Diddle yesterday afternoon cheering for her cousin who plays for Marion County.

 With this week’s “View from the Hill”, I’m Amy Bingham.