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Women's Missionary Union

First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

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2021

## History of the Women's Missionary Union at First Baptist Church Shelby

Mrs. John Wacaster

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*History of W.M.U. - First Baptist, Shelby, N.C.*

In 1889, the state office in Raleigh reported that the First Baptist Church of Shelby, North Carolina, gave \$60.00 to Foreign Missions.

In 1891, G. P. Hamrick was pastor of the church, It had a total membership of 283 members, and the W.M.S. sent \$34.65 to Missions.

In 1893, the associational minutes show that Mrs. G. P. Hamrick pledged \$1.00 for State Missions at the association, and the church pledged \$31.00. This is the first recorded gift for State Missions.

In 1896 the church had 200 enrolled in Sunday School and the W.M.S. gave \$12.00 to Missions.

1897-Shelby reported a Sunbeam band.

In 1898, a quote from a S.B.C. report says that, "women were being recognized and were giving liberally to Missions.

In 1900, at the Assoc. Meeting, the church pledged \$60.00 to Foreign Missions. The W.M.S. \$5.00, and the Young Ladies \$10.00, this is the first mention of Y.W.A. gifts.

In 1902, Mrs. A. E. Harrison is listed as the first President of the society. They had 23 members and gave \$28.54.

1904-Mrs. George English was President.

In 1905, a committee was appointed by the moderator of the Association to bring a report on woman's work at the next session. The committee - B. T. Falls, George English, and C. C. Roberts.

For the years 1906 through 1910, Mrs. William Archer served as W.M.U. President.

1911-12, Mrs. C. J. Woodson was President; 1913, Mrs. L. W. Swope; 1914, Mrs. W. H. Blanton; 1915, no name given, possibly Mrs. Blanton; 1916, Mrs. Archer; 1917, Mrs. Colin Hull. Mrs. Hull is our oldest living W.M.S. President. 1918 & 1919, Mrs. W. J. Roberts; 1920-21, Mrs. S. A. McMurry. In 1920, the 1st. Baptist Church and the Assoc. entertained the W.M.U. State Convention.

1922-23-24 Mrs. J. R. Dover was President.

1925-No name given for President, but the General Associational Meeting was held here, W.M.S. in charge of food.

*Mrs. J. W. Little - found in 1925 minutes Kings Mtn. Bapt. Association*

1926, Mrs. John Suttle served as President; this year the W.M.S. of the church and the W.M.U. of the Kings Mt. Assoc. gave Mrs. John Wacaster, associational W.M.U. Supt. a Ford car.

1927-28, Mrs. W. B. Nix President.

1929, Not sure who was President, but most likely it was Mrs. T. W. Hamrick, we know she served one term. <sup>30</sup>

1930, No President's name given, but the W.M.S. gave \$3,028.00.

1931-32, Mrs. J. A. Liles was President, saying the only thing she could remember about her term of office was that she organized and named the McMillan Circle.

1933-38, Mrs. Stroup President. In 1934, the W.M.S. entertained the Associational W.M.U. Meeting- Miss Kathleen Mallory was the guest speaker.

In 1938, the W.M.S. celebrated their golden jubilee year.

1939, Mrs. Jarrett was President. She says things moved along at an even pace. She doesn't remember anything outstanding happening.

1940-45, Mrs. Rush Stroup again served as President.

In the minutes of 1945, (have minutes for 3 years), we read, "Now that the war is over, we decided to shake up the circles. The Heck Circle became active again and a new circle was formed and named the Vena Aguilard.

In 1945, the society was host to the R.A.'s of the Hickory Division-Remember, they almost took the town!

During Mrs. Stroup's term of service, the first B.W.C. in the Association was organized.

Mrs. Fred Swift was President for 3 years-1946, 47, 48. She was during these years that the women of the Assoc. helped raise funds for the President's home at Gardner-Webb. Mrs. Stroup led the women of the First Baptist Church to give \$1,000.00.

During Mrs. Swift's term as President, the church celebrated its centennial-(1946). Mrs. J. M. Dawson of Texas and Washington D. C. spoke.

The B. W. C. in our church was organized in 1947. At the close of a general meeting, in 1947, the society had a shower for Miss Attie Bostick who was soon to be married to Mr. League.

*Married  
January 1947*

1949-1950, Mrs. George Carpenter was President. The first morning circle, named Frances Eskridge Roberts was organized.

The Hickory Regional Meeting met here in 1950, and the Kathleen Mallory Circle was organized.

1951-52, Mrs. Lowery Austell served as President. During her time of service, the time of circles and General Meetings were reversed. The Young People's work was re-organized. Miss Ina Belle Coleman visited the society and spoke in 1952.

1953-54, Mrs. Cecil Gilliatt served as President. During her Presidency, the By-laws were changed to read-No President to serve more than two years, and she must have been on the executive board before being President. Mrs. John Wilkins was President during 1955-56. The Laura Cornwell Circle was organized.

Mrs. Alton Hopper succeeded Mrs. Wilkins serving during 1957-58. One new circle was organized. The Hickory Region had its leadership conference here in 1958. The W.M.S. received an advance award during this time.

The next President was Mrs. John Ed Davis who served in 1959 & 60. During her term of service, Royal Service and the Young People's Magazines were put in the church budget.

Up until this time only one General W.M.S. Meeting was held per month. Mrs. Davis began having two General Meetings. One in the afternoon, and one at night. During both years the society was rated as an Advanced Society;

1961-62, Mrs. Paris Yelton was President. It was under her leadership that the society adopted the "B" plan, that is, having two W.M.S.-with a complete set of officers for each. One for Day Circles, and one for Night Circles. Mrs. Yelton labored and

1963 & 1964, Mrs. Harold Gausby was W. M. U. President. During this term the Baptist Jubilee was celebrated with a combined program honoring our pastor and a Jubilee gathering of all W. M. U. organizations. A day long prayer retreat was held one year. Both years the Day W. M. S. received an honor award and the Night W. M. S. an advanced award. Her record remains to be written.

While Jesus was here on earth, he saw and called the individual to serve him. When he touched the blind-man's eyes and asked him what he saw, he replied "I see men as trees walking." Jesus touched the man's eyes the second time and then he was every man clearly.

Today we've seen how in W.M.U. God uses individuals to promote his cause. May we like the blind man come back for the second touch of Jesus in order that we may see individuals the world over who are in need of Him, and then commit ourselves anew to serving and witnessing for Him.

To express your love and appreciation for those who have gone before, for those who follow in their train, for all who serve and labor in any way won't you stand now and remain standing for the closing prayer, remembering the words of Mondecai to Esther- "who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this"?

Mrs. John Wacaster

Note: This paper was given at the General W.M.S. Meeting in May when we honored the living Presidents. -

Mrs. J.W.