



**WOMAN'S  
MISSIONARY UNION**

**FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
BRISTOL, VA.-TENN.**

Bristol

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FIR

**"THINGS  
REMEMBERED"  
1987**

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"Laborers Together With God"  
1 Cor. 3:9



BAPTIST WOMEN



BAPTIST YOUNG WOMEN



Woman's Missionary Union



ACTEENS



GIRLS IN ACTION



MISSION FRIENDS



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## Dedication

When I began this project it was my intention to "cameo" some of the W.M.U. members who had distinguished themselves through the years, briefly pointing up something of each that would help us to remember them. Then I realized this would simply be an impossible task (even for me) since there was no way I could begin or end.

So it came down to the one person who really sums up all the attributes of those wonderful Christian women I had in mind. She has meant so much to so many all these years; has known how to do so much and has done it so well, for all of us. I even dare to designate her "Mrs. First Baptist Church W.M.U.".

With very deep thankfulness for her friendship, her encouragement, her very life; and her love for the Lord's work in our church and through missions all over the world; and for the Glory of God, I dedicate this "Things Remembered" to:

Mrs. C.D. "Susie" Pulliam

*Nancy Burn*

Historian, 1985-1987

*"Foreward  
and  
update"*

**"THINGS REMEMBERED"**

1987

## Foreword

The seeds for this update in the history of the W.M.U. of the First Baptist Church, were sown during the church's 125th anniversary celebration in 1984, when a circle (group) program was prepared based primarily on the written history, covering 1882-1956, and published in 1957 and which was written by Lillian Gose Boggs, Mary Lucie Crockett, and Lillian K. Flenniken. This was extended by a history covering 1956-1965, written by Mrs. Boggs and Mrs. A.K. (Pearl) Turner. The 1956-65 history was never published, but we are making it a part of this manuscript. It was written during the term of office of Mrs. C.D. Pulliam.

In fact, it is due to Susie Pulliam's having kept the records of the W.M.U. intact that we are able to write what we have here.

We will call this "THINGS REMEMBERED" and as we work will pray that it will be of interest and inspiration to our coming generations.

For those who may not still have a copy of the first published history, we would like to include here, the concise history of the W.M.U., which was sent to W.M.U. Headquarters in Birmingham on July 5, 1985 to be included in the history being compiled to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of W.M.U., Southern Baptist Convention in 1988.

Also included will be the history mentioned above, 1956-65, which has not previously been printed; as well as a "throw out" presented by the W.M.U. at their booth in the Church Fair held Fall of 1982. This is to give details of the work at that time and to encourage participation by all women, particularly as the fair was a promotion of church activities in preparation for pledging the 1983 budget.

Beginning from the last history we would like to pinpoint some items of each year until now, and give you some highlights and "firsts" from the beginning of our organization.

### 1965-67

W.M.U. work continued under the direction of Mrs. Wayne Fuller, with W.M.S. Day President being Mrs. Jack Keith and Night President, Mrs. Charles Coffey.

We had 16 circles, including 2 at the Mission Center; and a strong complement of Directors for the Young Peoples Mission organizations, including Mrs. J.R. Laws, Y.W.A. Director, Mrs. C.D. Pulliam, G.A. Director, and Mrs. Frank Thrash, Sunbeam Director.

Prayer chairmen--Mrs. Walter Crockett, for Day W.M.S. and Mrs. W.K. Lawson for Night W.M.S. kept the members aware of prayer needs and requests, both local and throughout the mission fields.

Mrs. Carlton Lowder, for the day W.M.S. and Mrs. George Gose, for the Night W.M.S., promoted a strong program of services in the community--including ministering at Katie Lockett Home, Haven of Rest Rescue Mission, work with Juvenile Counselors in both Bristol VA and TN, work with college students and an on-going visitation program among our own and mission center shut-ins and convalescents.

1967-69

Work progressed under the leadership of Mrs. Walter Crockett, who served for one year, to be replaced for '68-69 by Mrs. Jim Pruner.

Night W.M.S. president was Mrs. George Gose; and Day W.M.S. president was Mrs. Elmer Doak.

It was at this point that community service became "Mission Action" with Mrs. Richard Styles and Miss Muriel Butler as Mission Action chairmen. It was especially geared to serve not only our own, but to extend the ministry to those in the community. It brought the establishment of the Jamie Maiden Extension Circle, made up of shut-ins and a specific program of ministry between the circles and the extension circle. A "sister", or sponsoring circle, named the Judy Hutton Brice, a Bristolian, serving on the mission field in Feira de Santana, Brazil was designated our first Mission Action circle. This service gained recognition in the Religious Herald in 1973 as a pattern for the establishment of Extension Circles, in Virginia.

We continued with strong emphasis on Youth Work, with Mrs. J.R. Laws again Y.W.A. Director; Mrs. Wilfred Gillenwater, Girls Auxiliary Director; and Mrs. S.L. Faulkenberry as Sunbeam Director. GA's and Sunbeams were very active at the Mission Center.

And as usual, we continued to be a part of Baptist Business Womens Federation, Bristol Group, and Lebanon Association; and promoting Weeks of Prayer and Missionary offerings.

1969-71

W.M.U. President was Mrs. J.W. Fitzgerald; with Mrs. Wayne Fuller as Youth Director. The Day W.M.S. President and Night W.M.S. President gave way to Day and Night circle chairmen, later designated as Day and Night Co-ordinators, to act as liaison officers between the Day and Night circles, for a much smoother process. These chairmen were: Day-Mrs. C.D. Pulliam, and Night-Mrs. Christine Rose.

We had 8 young peoples organizations, with 23 leaders, making for a very strong program, both in the church and at the Mission Center.

Mission Action projects continued under Mrs. P.E. Caldwell; and the Extension Circle members were distributed among the various circles, as prayer partners, for special attention. It was about this time that Griffin Nursing Home, Kings Mountain Nursing Home, Bristol Nursing Home and Stant Hall were added to our regular Mission Action projects.

1971-73

Mrs. Herbert Miller was the next President, Mrs. Wayne Fuller, Youth Director, Mrs. Claude Crockett Day Group Chairman and Mrs. Mack Gillenwater, Night Group Chairman.

We had a full complement of Youth organization leaders, and our Mission Action work progressed under Mrs. Earl Eades and Mrs. J.W. Fitzgerald.

We had 13 circles, plus the Extension Circle; and our number, as of March 1973 was 229. We continued the ongoing work for White Cross, and of our Educational Loan Fund; and support of Lebanon Association and Inter-racial work.

1973-75

This period covers the 100th Birthday of Virginia W.M.U., in which we participated, with Mrs. Claude Crockett as President.

Mrs. Jim Pruner was Youth Director, with 11 organizations, and 25 leaders and assistants.

Mrs. Claude Wallace was Mission Action chairman, and added several new projects for participation by the circles.

1975-77

The Bicentennial of the United States of America, and we celebrated by joining with other W.M.U.'s throughout the Southern Baptist Convention by singing as our W.M.U. Hymn "My Country, Tis of Thee" and promoting the denominational emphasis for the year "Sharing Christ by Proclaiming Liberty".

Our W.M.U. President was Mrs. Carlton Lowder; and Vice-President (Enlistment chairman) was Mrs. Clifton Noble. One of the items we had for this study was the alphabetical list of members, prepared by Carolyn Noble, and it is of much interest to go over it, add and delete names, thinking of those who have left us and welcoming new members. Go over your copy sometime.

Our Youth Director was Mrs. Claude Crockett, and we had 8 youth organizations, with 15 leaders.

We had 16 circles plus the Extension circle and the Round Table. The Grace Faulkenberry Prayer Group was established to minister to and assist the Faulkenberrys in their work in Lynchburg and later in Clinchco. This was made up of members of other circles who were glad to extend their ministry and service to this field; and they received strong support from other W.M.U. circles, as well as the church as a whole.

This was the last time we carried the Lillian Isaacs and Maude Lanier circles from the Mission Center, since the Mission Center, was constituted the Norfolk Avenue Baptist Church on June 10, 1979. We miss working with them, and pray the Lord's blessing on the work and witness of our Friends in Christ. (A copy of their history is included in this document).

At this time we were ministering to, as our "own" missionaries, Miss Cornelia Leavell who was serving in Hong Kong and Miss Barbara Lawson, a missionary nurse serving in Indonesia.

1977-79

This is the first of 2 terms served by Mrs. Ed (Jean) Cartwright. Under Jean's leadership we greatly expanded our horizon covering participation in area and state mission work. Jean served on the Board of Southwestern Hospital and made this a special ministry by our W.M.U.

Stewardship and Prayer became Mission Support, under Margaret Novak, who had a strong background of mission activities, both home and state.

Mrs. Jack (Reba) Keith was Mission Action chairman, and our activities were extended to serve three nursing homes, the Sheltered Workshop, Child Development Center, Haven of Rest Rescue Mission; and we added "Meals on Wheels" under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson.

### 1979-81

Jean Cartwright began this two year term, but was taken from us by death, and her term was completed by Jean Belton, who had served as president in 1963-65.

Mrs. Claude Crockett, Sr. remained as Youth Director, with Mrs. Autry Doak continuing as assistant; with groups for Acteens, Girls in Action, Children in Action, and Mission Friends.

Mrs. Jack Keith continued as our Mission Action chairman, and the Community Pantry was added to our list of projects. We continued to minister lovingly to our prayer-partners in the Extension Circle.

### 1981-83

This was Jean Belton's second full term as President, since she had served in 1963-65, and completed Jean Cartwright's term in 1979-81.

Beverly Bowers began a long, continuous term as Youth Director, with a nice complement of leaders, working to start our young people on the road to becoming our future W.M.U. Leaders.

We had 14 groups--formerly called circles--including a Baptist Young Women, a Bible Study group, a Mission Action group, a Prayer group, and our Jamie Maiden Extension group. Our membership as of October 1, 1981 was 205.

We numbered among our Mission Action projects Bristol Nursing Home, Griffin Rest Home, Bristol Health Care Center, Child Development Center, Sheltered Workshop, Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, Haven of Rest Rescue Mission, and Jamie Hammett Home, under the leadership of Connie Glass; and of course our ministry to our shut-in prayer partners under the leadership of Mrs. Goldie Gibson and Mrs. E.K. Everett.

It was during this period that we became acutely aware of the world hunger situation and the way our missionaries on the field could handle relief funds and made this a large part of our mission effort.

### 1983-85

This period began the administration of Muriel Butler, who had on 3 occasions spent time as a missionary volunteer--in Venezuela, in Upper Volta (now Burkina Fasso) and in Chile. In this administration our "Love For Missions" dinner meetings, with special speakers, were held in February, with a Valentine motif and emphasis on love; and Mother-Daughter banquet in May, to emphasize our youth organizations.

Beverly Bowers continued as Young Peoples Director; Mrs. Rouse Fleenor, Mission Action; with Mrs. Claude Crockett in charge of Meals on Wheels. Mrs. William Novak and Mrs. W.K. Lawson were Co-Chairmen of Mission Support, and as always, we had strong observation of Weeks of Prayer for Foreign, State and Home Missions.

Mrs. Jack Keith and Mrs. Ford Caldwell were Co-Chairmen of the Jamie Maiden Extension Circle, ministering to our prayer partners themselves and encouraging our groups to minister.

1985-87

Muriel Butler continued her administration for a second term; Margaret Novak as Mission Action, and Dot Fleenor as Mission Support.

Beverly Bowers continued to serve as Youth Director, assisted by Mrs. Don Norman, Miss Barbara Watson, Mrs. Warren Cheves and Mrs. Steve Plumblee.

As of October 1, 1985, we had 13 groups, including B.Y.W., with 167 members, plus 19 in the Extension Circle.

We have had much emphasis on Foreign and State Missions; and have observed all prayer seasons. Our projects have included support of the Baptist Mission at Clinchco; under the leadership of Audrey May Doak; and cooperation with the Lebanon Association and Bristol Group of Lebanon Association.

In May 1987, we had Christine Gregory, former First Vice President of the Southern Baptist Convention, as speaker for our Mother and Daughter Banquet.

It was during this time that Dr. and Mrs. Calvert went to Tanzania for a two week mission under the sponsorship of Virginia Baptists, as a part of the Tanzania-Virginia Program of Missions.

And it was during this term, that we encouraged and supported Barbara Watson, one of our members, as she went as a teacher to China.

1987-89

We look forward to a full and productive term in our W.M.U. - led by Mrs. Rouse ~~(Dot)~~ Fleenor and a fine complement of officers and activities directors and chairmen; and we pray God's continued help as we "LABOR TOGETHER WITH GOD".

**HISTORY OF THE  
WOMAN'S  
MISSIONARY  
SOCIETY**

**FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

**1956 - 1965**

**BY MRS. R. M. BOGGS, SR.  
AND MRS. A. K. TURNER**

HISTORY - WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

BRISTOL, VIRGINIA

1956-1959

The W. M. S. year for 1956 - 1957 began October 1st under the leadership of the new president, Mrs. C. D. Pulliam, who served untiringly for three years. (Section 3 C of the Constitution and By-laws which limits a president to two consecutive terms was unanimously set aside in order that Mrs. Pulliam might serve the third year). One new circle, the Kay Culpepper, brought the number of circles to seventeen (17).

The work was well organized and functioning smoothly but several changes in policy were necessary during the three year period:

- (1) All morning meetings were changed to open at 10:00 A.M. in order to avoid confusion in time.
- (2) Aims for advancement replaced the Standard of Excellence.
- (3) Executive Board meetings were changed to meet quarterly on Monday before the business meeting on the first Tuesday of each month.
- (4) The educational loan fund which had been set up in 1955 with \$100.00 and the same amount added each year from the W. M. S. budget was made a "designated fund".
- (5) On April 2, 1957 the Policy was amended to read "New officers, counsellors, committee chairmen who have not been to Ridgecrest, and whose expenses have not been paid, have first preference to go with the President and Youth Director, expenses paid. Other members who have had their expenses paid, to go at their own expense.
- (6) The office of Historian was added to the list of officers in August 1957.
- (7) In September 1957 it was decided that the coming year, the shut-in members would form an Extension Circle.
- (8) Thirty-five (\$35.00) dollars was set aside for financing a Round Table (A S.B.C. study on general information) and the first one was organized on July 22, 1958 with nine women present. Mrs. John Carriker was elected leader and meetings were held in the morning. A second group was organized on September 2, 1958 to meet at night and Miss Peggy Smith was named as leader.

- (9) On May 5, 1959, a committee composed of Mrs. J. L. Rosser, Mrs. Ray Williams and Mrs. P. E. Caldwell was named to study the W. M. S. Policy and make any necessary changes or revisions, subject to the approval of the W.M.S.
- (10) The policy to return a portion of our State Mission offering for work at the Goodwill Center was changed on July 7, 1959, when a letter from Miss Carrie Vaughn, Virginia State W.M.U. Executive Secretary was read - stating that "the return of one-half of the State Mission offering for the Goodwill Center is not in accord with W.M.U. policy, which reads as follows: "For assistance in the support of W.M.U. sponsored mission projects, one-half of the State Mission offering may be returned to the Associational group or local W.M.U. on the annual request of the W.M.U. submitting the respective gift". Since the Goodwill Center is owned and operated by the First Baptist Church, it is not eligible to receive these funds and after this year will not be privileged to do so, as this need is not nearly as great as many others". On motion by Mrs. Earl Francisco, it was voted that a letter be written to Miss Vaughn stating that "we as an organization will be so glad to have a greater part in our State work by leaving our entire State Mission Offering at their disposal." (A letter in reply was received from Miss Vaughn expressing her appreciation for the understanding and action taken.

The meetings were always opened with the members repeating the Watch words and singing the Song of the Year, followed by prayer and devotional message with the Prayer and Stewardship chairmen directing. While all of these messages were inspiring, a few are listed:

On January 7, 1958, Mrs. W. S. Erwin gave the "Five F's -- Fear not, Forget not, Faint not, Forsake not and Fall not", and closed with this prayer: "God give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference".

On June 3, 1958, Mrs. Ray Williams used the subject of "Hinds Feet in High Places" and Miss Muriel Butler brought a message from John 15:16, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you".

On October 7, 1958, Mrs. Louis Foreman, Chairman, presented Mrs. Bill Treadwell, Mrs. Alton Good and Mrs. George Bundy in an excellent choral presentation of our W.M.U. Hymn of the Year, "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing".

On May 5th, 1959, Mrs. David Mefford brought the message on "Sins of being busy".

In 1956-1957, the programs at the monthly meetings featured the lives and stations of service of the Missionaries for whom our circles were named and the programs were given by that circle. Copies of these accounts were placed in the circle leader's book in order that as the circles changed, new members might be informed and inspired.

Programs for Focus Week of W.M.S. and the Youth organizations were featured each year. One such was an outstanding program given in the church Sanctuary by the Y.W.A.'s through a series of "living pictures" setting forth the Y.W.A. ideals which are based on W.M.U. fundamentals". Also at this time Mrs. J. R. Laws presented slides with comments on the Carver School of Missions and Social Work, which was celebrating its 50th anniversary in 1957.

Our W.M.S. celebrated its 75th anniversary on September 3, 1957 with a special program at the supper meeting with 150 present. Among the guests were Rev. Mefford, pastor, Dr. J. L. Rosser, former pastor, Gent Cofer, Summer Assistant pastor, \*Miss Cornelia Leavell and her cousin from Cincinnati, Mrs. Frances Kiltrell, (\* Miss Leavell, our Missionary to Hawaii, Mrs. Lockhart from Knoxville, Miss Nelda Mefford, sister of our pastor, Mrs. Swinney, Mrs. Mefford's Mother, Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Robinson from the Lee Street Baptist Church, who were guests of the Susan Anderson Circle. Mrs. Hobart Maiden from Meadow View, (Mother of Dr. Joanna Maiden, Medical Missionary to Nigeria); Mrs. Spence, mother of Mrs. Ray Williams, from Roanoke; Mrs. S. T. Schroetter, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Carl Todd from V. I. College. Special recognition was given by Mrs. Pulliam to all past presidents of W.M.S. in attendance. Copies of the 76 years of the History of First Baptist W.M.S. were available and were dedicated in a prayer by Rev. Mefford.

A stage simulating the pulpit of the early church was set in the Fellowship Hall, using the first pulpit furniture. On the communion table were the silver tankard, two goblets and 2 plates - each engraved with "The Bristol Baptist Church", (the name used preceding that of First Baptist Church.)

A brief memorial service was conducted by Miss Lillian Flenniken, assisted by Mrs. J. L. Rosser and Mrs. C. D. Pulliam. A memorial song was sung by Mrs. Alton Good, accompanied by Miss Joan Feazell.

Excerpts from the church History were related by Mrs. J. A. Crockett, Mrs. Eugene Alderson and Mrs. Arthur Byrd.

A quartet of grandmothers (Mrs. J. B. Thomas, Mrs. Alice Kilgore, Mrs. Edgar Good and Mrs. R. A. Whittaker) accompanied by Mrs. Clyde Crowell, sang "Sweeter as the Years go by".

Our pastor, Rev. David Mefford, gave the opening prayer and Dr. J. L. Rosser gave the memorial and benediction prayers.

A summary of the History of First Baptist Church was given at the May 5, 1959 supper meeting when the W. M. S. joined with our church in the observance of its 100th anniversary.

The Missionary Program, with the ultimate goal of Soul-winning has been, and is, the center of every phase of our W.M.S. work under the following categories:

(1) Enlistment - This program has been a real challenge due to the city's rapid population growth and change. New people are constantly coming into our community but frequent transfers and removals make the number lost almost keep pace with those enlisted. Names of new members and prospects listed in a religious census have been secured by the enlistment Chairman from the church office and newcomers from the Chamber of Commerce - these names have been distributed to the Circles, contacted and reported on.

(2) Magazines - With the belief that being informed is a prime requisite, subscribing to and reading our denominational papers have been stressed. The Calendar of Prayer in Royal Service has been followed under the leadership of the prayer chairman and the Missionary programs have been given at the Circle meetings. ( In the coming year, 1959 - 1960, the regular program will be given at the W. M. S. General meeting and the Circle program at the circle meeting). The W. M. S. has cooperated with the church in the Religious Herald club plan in securing a larger number receiving our State denominational paper.

(3) Mission Study - New Mission Study books have been added until an up-to-date library is now available. A new card system was started in 1957-1958 for keeping track of the books as they are distributed each year to the circles. The older books were not discarded but twenty-eight were sent to the Lebanon Association in 1958 for distribution to smaller churches, where needed. Chairmen for this work have been Mrs. John Sexton, 1956-1957 and Mrs. Raymond O'Dell in 1957-1958-1959. Circles having 100% of their members reading books have been the Susan Anderson, Hannah Barlow, Cornelis Leavell, William Wallace, Elizabeth Johnson and Floryne Miller.

(4) Youth Organizations - Sponsoring the youth organizations has been continued to be a primary interest and responsibility of the W. M. S. and the constant plea has been for more adult leadership as the number of organizations grew.

In 1956-1957 Miss Peggy Smith was Youth Director and after attending a youth meeting at Natural Bridge suggested a receiving council for the youth organizations, a youth committee to be formed with a member from each circle.

In 1957- 1958, Mrs. Julian Burroughs served as Director and in 1958-1959 the plan was changed from 1 to 3, each with a group of coworkers; serving that year were Mrs. Wayne Fuller for the Y.W.A.'s; Mrs. Carl Benison for the G.A.'s and Mrs. George Gose for the Sunbeams.

The regional Queen's Court for the Lebanon Association was held in our church on May 10, 1957 and was an outstanding success.

Youth week has been held regularly each year under the direction of the Youth Council of the church and ably assisted in every way by the youth organizations of the W. M. S. and their directors.

The boys and girls who have attended Summer camps have been guests each year at a supper meeting and have brought excellent reports along with words of appreciation for the privilege of participating in camp life.

Members of the W. M. S. have continued to "adopt" college girls and entertain them in their homes.

A new Y. W. A. group was formed in 1959 and named for Mrs. Victoria Laws who has been such an inspiration to the youth of our church and who, along with her husband, Mrs J. R. Laws, has worked so faithfully with them.

In conjunction with the Drama Department of the church under the chairmanship of Miss Muriel Butler, the Business Women's Circle sponsored in December 1958 the religious drama "Her Lengthened Shadow" with the young people taking part.

The Brotherhood took over the work with the R. A's October 1, 1958 although the W. M. S. has stood ready to lend a hand when called upon.

(5) Mission Study Classes - Mission Study classes have been held regularly preceeding each of our seasons of prayer and special offerings.

(No. (6) on next page)

(7) Community Missions -

Schedules for systematic work have been arranged and distributed to each circle at the beginning of the year. This work included the nursing homes, hospitals, Janie Hammit Home for children, Katie Lockett Home for older women and the Goodwill Center. In 1959 a new project was undertaken - visiting the juvenile center at the Virginia Jail and taking small copies of the Bible, suitable records and books and reading and telling stories to those confined. In addition to the above list, visiting the sick and shut-ins, sending cards and letters, and furnishing transportation to circle and W. M. S, meetings where needed, were also included.

Tithing and establishing family alters were key aims of this committies work.

"Protest" stickers were distributed and mailed by members to publishers, radio and T.V. stations advertising alcoholic beverages and "Commendation" stickers to those who did not so advertize.

Good citizenship was urged by using the privilege of voting.

A special offering of \$245.35 was made in 1958 to help buy pews for the new chapel at Camp Cedars at Marion. On motion by Mrs. J. L. Rosser, this gift was made as a memorial to Mrs. O. L. Jones, a former member and President of our W.M.S., who was one of the main workers in securing the camp at Marion.

In 1959, \$25.00 was given to the Braille Evangel, an organization supported by Southern Baptists, through individual donations and controlled by an independent group of Southern Baptist men for work with the blind. Mrs. P. E. Caldwell and Mrs. Herbert Miller have been the chairmen of this work.

Donations or gifts of \$10.00 per month have been sent regularly to Miss Christine Garnett for use in her work in Cuba. In a letter from her on June 4, 1959, she expressed herself as follows: "Just before leaving Monday your love-gift arrived. Each month it seems to me larger and bulging out at the seams with love. Only God could calculate the hours that you give each day to His work when you supply a helper for me. ---What co-workers you have been".

(8) Goodwill Center - Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Lanier have continued their splendid work at the Goodwill Center on Norfolk Avenue, through these past three years with financial and moral support of our church and W.M.S. In the summers of 1958 and 1959 they have had the assistance of Misses Joyce Potter and Joyce Baker, Summer Student Missionaries, working under the Home Mission Board and partially financed by a portion of the State Mission offering from our W.M.S. and returned to us for work at the Center. A full schedule of activities has been carried on with workers from our W.M.S. assisting in many volunteer capacities.

Part of the State Mission Offering returned to us has also been used for sending boys and girls to Camp Cedars and Ridgecrest. Members of the W.M.S. contributed good used clothing and toilet articles to help outfit these children and Miss Virgie Cross offered her services to do any needed mending.

The number of Youth Groups has grown slowly at the Center. In October 1956 it was reported that two new G.A. Groups had been organized. Special recognition was given by our W.M.S. in August 1958 for the splendid work done with these groups by Mrs. Claude Crockett, Counselor, and Mrs. Carl Bebison, G. A. Director with the help of Virginia Intermont College girls.

Mission Study Books have been taught by Mrs. Glyn Harwood, wife of the new mission pastor, Mrs. Carl Todd of V. I. and Miss Dorothy Pineseault.

(2) Lebanon W. M. U. - Mrs. H. C. Epperson, (who has served as leader for 12 years), Mrs. W. A. Tanner, Mrs. C. J. Crowell, Mrs. Herbert Miller, Mrs. Guy McNeil and Mrs. J. R. Laws.

(3) State W. M. U. - Mrs. H. C. Epperson has served on the Executive Board.

Mrs. J. R. Laws was the Virginia W. M. U. representative to the Carver School of Missions until it was taken over by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Attending our Southern Baptist Convention during this period have been Mrs. H. C. Epperson and Mrs. W. B. Hulsey.

Each year, representatives attended the summer camps and training courses at Ridgecrest and Eagle Eyre. In the summer of 1958, Mrs. Jeanette Reynolds and Mrs. Robert Boggs served as volunteer hostess at Camp Cedars during Royal Ambassador Camp.

Our church was host for the first day of the annual meeting of the Lebanon Association in August 1959, as part of our church Centennial observance and the W. M. S. food committee, with the help of volunteers, prepared and served lunch to approximately three hundred people.

The social committee, with Mrs. O. E. Campbell chairman, and Mrs. W. B. Nunn, assisted by a representative of each circle and the church hostess, Mrs. J. B. Patton and Clara Cansler have been most active in serving delicious meals at the quarterly night meetings when all circles met together - and at such other times as needed. Also serving at these meetings was the flower committee with Mrs. E. K. Everett, chairman, Mrs. W. Z. Mynatt, Mrs. B. M. Kiser and Mrs. C. W. Coffey, assisted by volunteers.

A major undertaking in the Social work was the beautiful reception given in Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoon of April 26, 1959 for the Church Centennial when approximately four hundred members and guests were present. Mrs. C. D. Pulliam served as chairman for this occasion and was ably assisted by the centennial committee and other members of the W. M. S. who planned and carried out every detail for an afternoon long to be remembered in the church.

In summarizing the three year's work, we have not reached the "honor goal" under the aims for advancement which we had aspired to, but those points where we were short, were those requiring every member participation.

The very fine statistical reports of the three years which have been prepared by Mrs. Pulliam show in figures what has been accomplished, but beyond that has been a spirit of unity and a deepening spiritual atmosphere in all of the work. Upon her retirement from office, a beautiful and well deserved tribute was made in rhyme to Mrs. Pulliam by representatives from the W. M. S. officers; by Mrs. Louis Foreman, youth organizations,

On March 4, 1958 an impressive memorial service was held at the Center, honoring Mrs. George Leavell who had worked so faithfully there and had been such an inspiration and help. At this service a beautiful framed copy of the painting of Soulman's Head of Christ was presented to the Center by the women there and hung on the assembly room platform.

Appreciation for the work done by our W.M.S. and Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Pulliam personally (Mr. Pulliam has served as Treasurer) was expressed in a letter from the Goodwill Center directors which read: "Would you express to your W.M.S. and to each circle chairman our sincere appreciation for their splendid cooperation in the work of the Center. I just don't know what we would do without them for the tremendous job you are doing for the Lord through the mission work at our church".

(9) Inter-Racial - The inter-racial work has been done mainly with the Negro race and has been one of the most important phases of our missionary endeavor. Mrs. P. E. Caldwell and Mrs. Herbert Miller have been most zealous in their leadership and have kept in constant touch with the women of the Lee Street Baptist church in seeking ways for our W.M.S. to be of service.

Each year a sum of money has been set up in our budget for this work and has been used for buying literature, sending representatives to Camp Carey, near Petersburg, Virginia.

Financial aid was given to help rebuild the Valley Street Negro church in Abingdon, Virginia after it was destroyed by fire and to Lee Street Church after a fire there; aid was also given to the New Hope church (near Janie Hammitt Home) for transportation of a Negro summer missionary for vacation Bible School and other work there.

A generous graduation gift of money to start her college fund was given in May 1959 to Elvira Cansler; daughter of our church maid.

Mrs. Nonie Lollar and Ceola Thomas, one of the girls who had been sent to camp, from Lee Street church attended our W.M.S. meeting in August 1959 and expressed such sincere and heart-felt appreciation, not only for the financial help but for the friendly Christian manner in which it had been given - that our members felt very humble.

Our W.M.S. has taken an active part in the work and attendance of representatives at all regular meetings of the Bristol Group, Lebanon Association and State W. M. U. meetings.

Among the women from our W. M. S. serving during the past three years have been:

(1) Bristol Group - Mrs. W. P. Greer, Mrs. J. B. Metheny, Mrs. Ray Phillips, Mrs. W. A. Tanner, Mrs. C. J. Crowell, Mrs. Wayne Fuller and Mrs. E. F. Layman.

Mrs. Carl Benison; Circles, Miss Muriel Butler; Members at large, Mrs. J. R. Laws and a W. M. U. gold pin and gavel guard were presented to her.

RANDOM NOTES -----

March 1957 - Virginia State W. M. U. meeting in Norfolk.

April 1957 - Virginia State Board reported that 121 Missionaries were appointed last year by the Foreign Board and only 1 from Virginia.

July 1957 - An invitation to affiliate with the United Church Women of Bristol - an affiliate with the National Council of Churches - was declined after the Pastor, Rev. David Mefford, explained the Baptist position.

Miss Cornelia Leavell at home on leave from her Missionary post in Honolulu.

August 1957 - Mrs. David Mefford, bride of our pastor was welcomed; also Mrs. Wilford Beale, wife of the educational director.

200 copies of First Baptist W.M.S. History printed and distributed at W. M. S. Meeting 75th Anniversary meeting.

1959 ----- Year of evangelism in Southern Baptist Convention stressed.

Feb. 3, 1959 - Thanks received from the Janie Hammitt Home for W.M.S. "goodness" to them".

March 1959 - State W. M. U. meeting in Roanoke.

April 1959 - "Recognition Day" for our newly established Mission Church in the Goodwill Center building.

August 12, 1959- Arrival of baby boy, James David, to Rev. and Mrs. Mefford.

July 7, 1959 - Mrs. Walter Crockett was appointed to represent the W. M. S. on the church financial committee.

----- Foot note -----

In 1958 the name of First Baptist Goodwill Center was changed to First Baptist Mission Center and Rev. Glen Harwood was employed as pastor.

Weekday activities were carried on as usual, with some volunteer help from women of the First Baptist Church W.M.F. The Goodwill Center Directors were retained for some time to carry on the weekday activities.

(This information was omitted in preceding records.)

W.M.S. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Number members beginning October 1, 1958 . . . . .	314	
Number members gained . . . . .	32	
Number members lost . . . . .	31	
Net gain . . . . .	1	
Number members at close of September 1959 . . . . .	315	
Members listed in circles . . . . .	294	
No. not listed in circles . . . . .	4	
Number of shut-ins . . . . .	17	
Number tithers . . . . .	165	
Number magazine subscriptions . . . . .	383	
Number reading books . . . . .	264	8 - 100% Circles
Number books read . . . . .	594	
Visits for Enlistment . . . . .	412	Avg. per circle per month - 2
Number points on Achievement chart . . . . .	360	
Average attendance at bus. meetings . . . . .	106	

AIMS FOR ADVANCEMENT ON WHICH WE FAILED TO QUALIFY

1. Study of Year Book and Va. Supplement.
2. Regular planned meetings of all committees.
3. Every member receiving Royal Service.
4. Subscriptions to Commission & Home Missions equalling 1/2 membership.
5. All members reading a missionary book.
6. All members giving through the cooperative program.
7. Division of youth organizations.
8. Organization of new circle.
9. Average attendance equalling 1/3 of circle members at the general monthly meeting.
10. Directors, counselors and Sunbeam band leaders holding accreditation card, or studying leadership course.
11. Meeting apportionment cannot be checked until end of calendar year.

This is slightly better than our record for last year, but not enough to reach our goal of an Honor Society. We will be an Advanced Society IF we meet our apportionment. To do this we must reach our goals for the three special offerings. The Home Mission offering was about \$300.00 below our goal, let's not fail to reach the other two.

Contribution by the circles to the Negro Camp Fund . . . . . \$90.00

Again let me express my sincere thanks and appreciation to every officer, committee chairman, circle leader and individual member for the support and cooperation given me during my term of office. As "Laborers Together with God" may we covenant to make the coming year the best ever, and I am sure that you will support Patty (Mrs. P. E. Caldwell) just as you have me.

Susie R. Pulliam.

HISTORY OF WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

BRISTOL, VIRGINIA

1959-1961

Mrs. P. E. Caldwell, affectionately known to as "Patty", began her service as President of the W. M. S. on October 5, 1959 and served faithfully through September 1961. During this period continued efforts were concentrated on spiritually broadening and deepening the work, however, some changes in organization were again deemed necessary and are listed as follows: -

- (1) Executive Board meetings were held monthly on Monday night preceding the W. M. S. general meeting instead of quarterly. (W. M. S. general meetings continued to be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 O'clock A.M. with the exception of a quarterly supper meeting when the night circles could attend).
- (2) In January 1960, it was voted that matters concerning W.M.S. business occurring between meetings should be handled by the executive committee and this should be incorporated in the W.M.S. Policy.
- (3) The word "endeavor" was added to the W. M. S. Policy in the statement "to follow this policy". (In July 1960, a committee composed of Mesdames J. L. Rosser, C. D. Pulliam and Henry King III was appointed to study the policy and recommend such changes as were needed. A report was made at the August meeting and the minutes stated that "the changes were accented", though they were not listed).
- (4) April 1960: Announcement was made that the Virginia Supplement would be enlarged to adequately meet the needs of the Societies and the Southwide plan would no longer be needed - only the Virginia plan of work would be used. (Mimeographed copies of these plans were included in the "Circle Leaders Packet" - which has grown until today it is quite a booklet).
- (5) The Executive Board approved, and the W. M. S. accepted the recommendation of the Southwide Union that "each Society should have a 1st Vice President to aid the President and be in training for office of President. (Plan was not carried out).
- (6) April 1960: - Voted to appoint a leadership training chairman to form classes and select qualified teachers for these classes. (Mrs. Jack Keith most ably served as Chairman and classes were held each year of this period. In August 1960, six members attended a training course at "The Cedars").

## Circles--

(7) In April 1960, a general discussion was held on the method of drawing circle names but the final decision was that "if members would give full co-operation, the present was perhaps the best".

Circles were requested to make a periodic check against the aims for Advancement and to make a written report on the monthly blank of any suggestions made in circle meetings that would be of value to the W.M.S.

(8) Authority was given to the President to send a letter in the name of the W.M.S. to circle members who plan to have their names dropped and to ascertain the reason.

(9) Circles will have an "active and inactive" list and the inactive list will be reviewed at the end of the year. If members have not been active her name will be dropped from the full and placed on prospective list. Circle transfers will be counted as new members.

(10) Prospective members of W.M.S. may be invited to the quarterly supper meetings as guests of the W.M.S.

(11) Oral circle count was discontinued to conserve time. Reports were posted on the black board for the previous month.

(12) January 1961 -- The amount of monthly Community Missions money for each circle was reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.50 with the privilege of asking for additional, if needed.

In March 1960, Mrs. W. S. Erwin, Enlistment Chairman, presented a new circle - "The Frances Leavell Circle", from the East Bristol Baptist Mission with six members and Mrs. Mildred Bridgeman, leader and Mrs. Claude Crockett, Sponsor. (In May, tribute was paid to this circle for having ten tithers).

Mrs. J. R. Laws presented a new circle in May 1960 composed of brides or young matrons and named "Nan Herring Circle". (This made a total of 20 circles, but announcement was made in July that in the coming year smaller circles would be combined and there would be only 18).

## Meetings and Programs -

The meetings were always opened with a devotional and prayer period led by the Prayer Chairman or one of her committee members. The Royal Service calendar of prayer was followed - remembering especially those missionaries whose birthdays were on that day: the sick and shut-in members and the bereaved; our church and church family; our Mission Church and its work. Special objects noted were - selection of a pastor, for guidance in voting for right political leaders at election time and for the ones in office, racial problems and integration. Following this or at the close of the meeting our Watchwords both permanent and yearly, were repeated.

The Enlistment committee was composed of Mrs. W. S. Erwin, Mrs. R. D. Poindexter and Mrs. R. M. Huffine, who studied the rolls of both the church and W.M.S. and then distributed to the circles the names of all unenlisted or inactive, as well as the new Baptists for visitation.

A report in July 1961, stated that 80% of W.M.S. members were subscribing to a missionary magazine. A number of gift subscriptions were made by the W.M.S., including a year's subscription to Royal Service in 1960 to a new circle at the Bristol Baptist Mission (formerly the Good Will Center) and the Y.W.A.'s there were given the "Window" - also those listed under the youth program.

#### Mission Study -

Mission Study classes were held prior to each of the three seasons of prayer and were augmented by two beautiful plays presented by the church drama guild composed of young people and directed by Miss Muriel Butler and Mrs. C. D. Pulliam.

A number of new mission study books were brought and distributed to the circles and announcement was made in January 1961 by Mrs. Bill Treadwell, Jr., that ninety-six members had read a total of 107 books. A Mission Study award was received from the State for the year 1961. Mrs. Grace Harris announced that 80% of the W.M.S. members were subscribing to a mission magazine in 1961.

In 1960, members participated in an Associational School of missions - the first to be held in the Lebanon Association. This lasted for five days with meetings on the second of the days, held in Bristol.

Letters were received by the W.M.S. during the period 1959-1961 from missionaries Eva Sanders, expressing her gratitude for remembrances from friends in the church; from Christine Garnett, who is sent a check each month from the W.M.S. to help with her work in Cuba; our own missionary, Cornelia Leavell, with thanks for a gift; and from Mrs. Hobert Maiden, who expressed appreciation for a gift of money to her daughter, Dr. Joanna Maiden, serving as a medical missionary in Nigeria. The money was used to help send a national student to school.

#### Inter Racial -

Despite the strained relations between the races in the country generally, due to the Supreme Court's ruling in integration, the most cordial and co-operative spirit continued to exist between the Lee Street New Hope and First Baptist Church.

Excellent programs were given by two circles each month, using the Royal Service general program. At the beginning of the year 1960, Mrs. Louis Forman, W.M.S. program chairman, presented the Dorcas Fowler and Susan Anderson circles who gave a short skit entitled "I Give Myself", which challenged each one present to first give herself to the Lord in Service. Following this, a program was given by the W.M.S. officers and general chairmen, when they presented an ideal circle meeting, challenging each member to do her best in her specific job for the coming year. The fact was stressed that circle meetings are a link with the general meeting, thus forming a chain of the W.M.S.

Adding to the Royal Service programs, the following were noted: November 1959: The Publications Chairman, Mrs. Boyd Ray, introduced a skit entitled "A Woman's Tool", encouraging women of the W.M.S. to take at least one publication.

February 1960:- The Mission Study Chairman, Mrs. Glen Harlow, presented a program of interviews with three Lebanon Associational workers. The Associational Missionary, Rev. J. B. Matheny, told of his work among the churches; Rev. Glen Harwood, Budget Chairman, discussed the budgets of the rural churches and the necessity for having a budget; Rev. A. R. Baumgardner, Pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church, told of the activities of a rural church.

Reports at different times were given by the delegates to State and Associational meetings; young people who attended Ridgecrest and Eagle Eye and the negro youth and leaders who attended Camp Carey. Mrs. David Mefford, Mrs. H. C. Epperson and Will Lanier told in July 1960, of the meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention in Miami.

A beautiful coronation service was held on May 2, 1961 in the church sanctuary when Mrs. Glen Harlow presided and Mrs. H. C. Epperson presented 16 awards at a candle light service. The different steps leading to the roll of queen were explained by each girl as she received her award. Joann Barrington and Sue Fuller had earned and were given the highest award - that of Queen, and each was crowned.

Enlistment continued to be a major problem. One reason was because of Bristol's population "turn-over" and our church membership fluctuated as we gained and lost members. Among splendid workers lost from the W.M.S. during this period because of removal from the city were Mrs. Boyd Ray, W.M.S. Publication chairman and Mrs. Glen Harlow, W.M.S., First Vice president.

In 1960, the circles were asked to use any excess Community Missions money to help send negro children to Camp Carey and if insufficient, the balance would be taken from the Inter-racial fund. In 1961 the entire amount needed to send seven children and two leaders was taken from the \$100.00 budget allocation. Also, that year two women attended a leadership training class with assistance from our W.M.S. Good reports were made and appreciation expressed to the W.M.S. by those attending.

Three Y.W.A. and one G.A. from our church helped with the Vacation Bible School at Lee Street Church in 1961.

### Youth Organizations -

The youth organizations continued to be of major concern with the usual need and plea for more capable and consecrated leaders, but those who did serve, were most unselfish in their efforts with the support of the W.M.S. in their prayers and financial help. Focus weeks were observed as they became due and were given recognition by the W.M.S.. The annual youth revival of the church was also supported.

Items especially noted in the minutes concerning the youth work were:

October 1959- Thirty copies of magazine "Tell" were furnished to the G.A.'s. It was also voted to give gift subscriptions to Royal Service to the Y.W.A.'s and brides of our church and this was continued in 1960 and 1961.

Supplies for the G. A. Coronation service and a film strip were bought.

In 1961 Y.W.A. girls were "adopted" by different circles and were shown individual attention and financial help in attending Ridgecrest and Eagle Eyre. Fifteen girls and three boys attended. Mrs. C. R. Price sponsored a group of Y.W.A. girls and Jane Brooks accompanied them.

The Sunbeams celebrated their 75th anniversary in August 1961 during their focus week.

HISTORY - WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

BRISTOL, VIRGINIA

1961 - 1963

Mrs. Earl Eads (Chloe) was installed as President of the Woman's Missionary Society by Mrs. J. R. Laws on October 3, 1961 and served through September 1963 in a most capable and dedicated Christian manner. Her leadership put into practise a statement she made early in her term of office, that "Every Christian is selling Christianity". During this time there were only two (2) additions or changes made in the W. M. S. Policy - namely:

1 - Officers, general chairmen, circle chairmen and circle officers shall remain in office for two (2) years. (This was voted in April 1962).

2 - Two societies were formed; a day society composed of circles meeting during the day and night society of circles meeting at night with a W. M. U. Board to serve both and conduct the quarterly supper meeting. Each group to have its own slate of officers. (This was voted in August 1963 and the plan was to be tried for two years).

The following statistical table, submitted by Mrs. Eads summarizes the work accomplished:

	<u>1961-1962</u>	<u>1962-1963</u>
Resident church women members .....	483	
New members in W.M.S .....	326	313
Average attendance at Gen. Meeting ...	102	96
Number of circles .....	18	17
Number Tithers .....	123	112
Number holding leadership card of accreditation.....	29	-
Number members reading a missionary book.....	131	221
Number mission study books taught in W.M.S.....	5	5
Number subscriptions to magazines ....	316	267
Number in youth organizations.....	54	54
Y.W.A. ....	20	21
G. A. = Junion and Intermediate .....	23	26
Sunbeams .....	11	7

Both years we would have been an "advanced" Society if we had had one-half of our members tithing or had reached our apportionment.

In a discussion in April 1962 concerning an adjustment of our W. M. S. apportionment, Mrs. H. C. Epperson explained that we had been getting credit for half of the gifts to the cooperative program and that this has raised our apportionment to the point that we cannot reach it for the church has not raised it. In order to arrive at a correct figure, Mrs. Epperson and Mrs. Eads, President, were asked to work with the church office and find out the amount the women gave last year - take half, and then add 10% increase. This will not reduce what we will give, but we will get credit only for the amount actually given.

There was no change in the schedule of meetings and in view of the well organized plan previously followed, details will not be repeated. At the beginning of each W.M.S. year a study of the manual was held for all officers, circle leaders and committee chairmen. An "in-service" circle composed of officers and councellers met quarterly during 1961-1962 but no further mention of this was recorded.

Good programs were provided by Mrs. Jack Keith, program chairman but attendance at the W.M.S. meetings continued to drop, tho circle meetings had better attendance. Noting one or two special programs, one was in October 1962, when a "Retrospect 1888-1963" was given by Mrs. Scotty Thompson, who in appropriate costume, represented the past, Mrs. Dale Swafford, the present, and Mrs. Jack Keith the future. In March 1963, at the beginning of the trouble in Cuba when so many refugees came to the United States, a thought provoking program was given on the subject "Unexpected Guests from Cuba" and what the churches could do to help.

A skit was presented at the November 1962 meeting commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Virginia W.M.U. In this program Mrs. Charles Ryan wore a dress which her Grandmother had worn to the founding meeting.

Missionaries heard during this period were Miss Joanna Maiden, Medical Missionary in Nigeria who spoke at the Group Meeting at Grace Baptist Church, October 10, 1961. Miss Floryne Miller from Japan spoke at the Wednesday night service at our church during the Week of Prayer in December 1961 and Miss Ola Lee from Taiwan spoke at the Group Meeting at Bradley Street Church in October 1962.

A prayer retreat in connection with State Mission day of prayer was held on September 4, 1962 at Virginia Intermont College.

A school of missions was held at Euclid Avenue church on September 15 - 20th, 1963 with outstanding speakers and members of our W.M.S. and church attending.

Mission Study books studied were:

1961-1962 - "Hands Across the Sea" by H. C. Warren, taught by Mrs. Ray Williams and Mrs. Sam Smalling.

"Enlistment for Missions" by Mrs. Robert Fling, studied in the circles.

1962-1963 - "New Frontiers in the Old World", by Winston Crawley- (Teacher not listed).

"The Chairs are Strong", by W. C. Fields, taught by Mrs. Carlton Lowder and Mrs. Paul Harting.

Youth work during 1961-1963 with Mrs. Wayne Fuller as director and her assistants was carried on in an active program. Focus weeks were observed with each circle serving as sponsor for the group. In December 1961 the plan was voted for each circle to "adopt" a Y.W.A. girl to give encouragement and spiritual help through that year, and that if the circles so desired, to contribute to a general fund to send the girls to Ridgecrest or Eagle Eyrie. In 1961-1962 the sum of \$233.23 was given but in 1962-1963 an amount was included in the budget for this work.

Coronation services were held each year for the G.A.'s and in May 1963 they observed their 50th Anniversary and in this service Sandra Bryant, accompanied by Roger Butler, sang the anniversary song.

In 1962 the Y.W.A.'s helped with the Lee Street Vacation Bible School and also had a beautiful Bible ceremony when a white Bible was to \_\_\_\_\_ (name not given) who was to be married. In Feb. 1963 the Y.W.A.'s were special guests at the supper meeting of the W.M.S. and Barbara Lawson was presented as the Y.W.A. of the year and Sally Price was runner-up. In April 1963 a group was sent to the "house party" at Eagle Eyrie with the W.M.S. helping with the transportation.

One hundred dollars (\$100.00) was added each year to the Student Loan Fund, but was unused during this period- though availability was announced. The March 1961 minutes record that the balance in this fund was \$708.95.

#### Committies:

Enlistment	1961-1962	.... Mrs. Glen Garlow (moved out of city)
	1962-1963	.... Mrs. Jim Beckam

Names of new church members were received regularly from the Pastor or church office and Baptist newcomers to Bristol and also from the Chamber of Commerce and these were distributed to the circles for visitation and enlistment.

Community Missions; Chairman	1961-1962...	Mrs. George Bradfute
	1962-1963...	Mrs. Louis Foreman

Regular monthly gifts of \$10.00 were sent to Miss Christine Garnett for her work in Cubs and after the Communist takeover there, the checks were sent to her sister in Georgia to save for her on her return to the States for use then. Mr. and Mrs. Faulkenberry, Directors at the Baptist Mission Center (First Baptist Mission Center) expressed their appreciation for the help given them in all phases of their work at the Center. Mrs. Earl Eads, President of W.M.S., conducted regular sewing classes at the Center, which were of great value. (Financial gifts are listed in the accompanying financial report).

In addition to the regular scheduled works, in 1962 a number of Bibles were given to the boys in the detention quarters at the Virginia jail. In 1963 household supplies were sent to the home on Spencer Street which cares for under privileged boys (17 at that time). This is being operated on a Faith basis by Rev. and Mrs. Loren Pyles (Rev. Pyles was later made Juvenile Judge for Bristol, Virginia but continued to operate the home).

A gift of \$25.00 was sent to Fort Worth, Texas for Christian education of the blind.

Action was officially taken by the W.M.S. endorsing the movement in our town to try to remove the indecent literature on the news stand and letters were sent by the W.M.S. and individuals to those working on this matter, offering support and asking that proper measures be taken to eliminate this threat to our youth.

In 1962, when it was impossible to fill our reservations at Ridgecrest, it was voted to send two women from Valley Hills Church - allowing them the amount of \$25.00 each for expenses according to our policy. At this time assistance was given the Salvation Army and Rescue Mission.

Work of the following committees is reported on the Statistical report:

- (1) Mission Study : Chairman 1961-1962...Mrs. Joe Barrow  
1962-1963 ..Mrs. R.D. Poindexter
- (2) Prayer: Chairman 1961-1962 ..Mrs. Herbert Miller  
1962-1963 ..Mrs. Robert Medearis  
(Conducted a devotional period at beginning of each meeting -  
always following Royal Service Calendar of Prayer)
- (3) Publications: Chairman- ...Mrs. Harold Brown
- (4) Social: Chairman 1961-1963...Mrs. P.E. Caldwell  
Mrs. W. B. Nunn

(This committee, along with Mrs. J. B. Patton, church Hostess were untiring in their service in furnishing bountiful meals at the quarterly supper meetings and arranging for all other occasions when food or drinks were desired. Lovely table decorations during this period were under the direction of Mrs. Vincent Tiller, Flower Chairman)

(5) Publicity and Reports:

Chairman-1961-1962..Mrs. W.S. Erwin  
1962-1963..Mrs. Walter Crockett

(6) Finance Representative Chairman:

1961-1963..Mrs. Carlton Lowder

A gift of \$100.00 each year was continued for Inter-racial work at the Lee Street Baptist Church and was mostly used for sending girls and their sponsors to Camp Carey. Despite racial tension in other parts of the country, most cordial relations and respect continued to exist between the races in Bristol.

Assistance to and co-operation with our own church was given gladly and whatever manner or need known.

Affiliated groups and workers in 1961-1963 were:

Bristol Group of Baptist Churches (meeting quarterly)  
Mrs. Claude Crockett  
Mrs. J. C. Crowell  
Mrs. Wayne Fuller  
Mrs. J. B. Metheney  
Mrs. W. A. Tanner  
Mrs. W. H. Treadwell

(If there are omissions of names they were not supplied)

Business Women's Federation.

Lebanon Association.

State W.M.U. (Mrs. H. C. Epperson served on the  
State Board from 1961-1963)

Annual Appalachian Preaching Mission -- Mrs. W. S. Erwin and Mrs. R. D. Poindexter served as general Chairmen of hospitality in this work and our W.M.S. helped furnish refreshments for the hospitality meetings following the night services in order for individuals to meet the speakers)

RANDOM NOTES -

January 1963: Announcement was made that an Aunt and Uncle of Mrs. Carl Bennison had recently been appointed by the Mission Board to work in New Mexico.

April 1963: A letter from our Missionary, Cornelia Leavell, stated that she would go to Hong Kong in the spring of 1964.

September 1963-The three newly elected presidents to our day and night W.M.S. and W.M.U. Board made acceptance speeches and asked for the support of all.

October 4, 1963: The "Kick-off" dinner for the church development fund was held - Goal \$250,000.00

NECROLOGY

Memorial services at the quarterly supper meeting in 1962 were led by Mrs. P. E. Caldwell for:

Mrs. R. M. Sawyer  
Mrs. A. H. Hawthorne  
Mrs. R. A. Whittaker  
Mrs. J. W. Foster  
Mrs. Chas. T. Kilgore  
Mrs. H. G. Bramm  
Miss Ella Roller  
Mrs. Robert Taylor  
Mrs. H. S. Lester  
Mrs. Holly Porter  
and  
Mr. William Steppe (Shut<sup>e</sup>in)

In 1963 memorial services led by Mrs. Robert Musick for:

Mrs. Avery Walker (Feb. 5, 1963)  
Mrs. Glen Barlow  
Mrs. William Steppe            May 22, 1963  
Mrs. W. L. Cash

Compiled and submitted by--- Lillian Boggs,  
W.M.S. Historian

Church Bulletin 9-26-63

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Woman's Missionary Union*

MRS. RANDOLPH BELTON, Pres.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Recognizing her ability, the Woman's Missionary Union elected Mrs. Earl Eads to serve as president for the past two years. Her marked ability to labor with members of W. M. U. has been greatly appreciated by each of its members.

Her labors of love have exacted many committee and executive board meetings. Many of her days and nights have been spent in planning for all phases of W. M. U.

Mrs. Eads has promoted a new plan which the WMS adopted. This is to have a day and night WMS. Certainly, this is a challenge for growth.

We, therefore, express our love and sincere appreciation to Chloe for her Christian devotion through these two years of leadership. Her loyalty expresses a work of faith and labor of love.

Will you pray that we as branches of the vine will be led by the Holy Spirit and thereby let Him work through us to reach those who are without Christ through missions.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HISTORY \*\* WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

and  
DAY WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

BRISTOL, VIRGINIA

October 1, 1963 to September 30, 1965

The W.M.U started October 1, 1963 its program of two separate Societies, known as the Day W.M.S., composed of the eight (8) circles and the Night W.M.S., also composed of the eight (8) night circles - and both joining for a quarterly supper, business and program meeting on the first Tuesday night in each quarter.

Each Society had a full slate of officers, the combined meeting was presided over by the President of the W.M.U., which also had a full slate of officers. All are listed in the accompanying Year Book. The regular outline of business was followed. Working plans and schedules for the new program groups were studied at the September and October executive meetings. Mrs. Randolph Belton served for this period as President of the W.M.U., Mrs. Raymond O'Dell of the Day W.M.S., and Miss Nancy Kyle, Night W.M.S. The attendance, of course, was smaller for each of the W.M.S. Societies, and there was a period of adjustment to be made.

CHANGES AND REVISIONS:

The Policy of the W.M.U. was revised in 1965 and the following changes and additions were made:

(1) Any new member joining a circle shall be given a subscription to Royal Service for one year, by the W.M.U., unless she is already a subscriber.

(2) The revised statement of the Educational Fund shall "be made a permanent part of the W.M.U. Policy". (Note: Changes made were not listed in the minutes). A copy of the Policy is attached.

On March 24, 1964, Mrs. W. S. Erwin reported \$978.70 in the Educational Fund, and it was voted to publicly make the availability of this fund through the church Bulletin and to the Associational groups, through their Superintendents.

WMU EDUCATIONAL  
LOAN FUND

Several years ago WMS leaders realized there are always families in our church who might need financial aid in sending children to college. Also, today many adults feel the need for continuing their education but find it hard to shoulder this expense.

This fund is available to any member of our church for educational purposes. The recipient is asked to sign a non-interest bearing note agreeing to repay the loan as he is able. In this manner the fund can continue to benefit members as it is used and repaid.

(3) On March 1, 1964 the W.M.U. voted affirmatively on the recommendation that six (6) years should be the limit that State officers should serve.

The presidents of both Societies were reminded to interpret the Policy to their Executive Boards at the beginning of their term of office.

The visitation program for new-comers was changed from the Community Missions Committee to the Enlistment Committee.

The W.M.U. Executive Board recommended on September 2, 1965 that both the day and night minutes should be read at the general meetings, (Note) - Not recorded whether approved or not).

NEW WORK ----

The outstanding New work for this period, 1963-1965 was organizing a Literacy Class with Miss Hazel Bramm taking the lead and Mrs. Carlton Lowder developing the program.

A Literacy workshop was held October 19 through October 23, 1964, with volunteer students from our church and interested persons from other churches invited to attend. Mrs. Lester from Bluefield taught the class of thirty-six - twenty from First Baptist and qualified to teach the twenty-seven pupils to read, at the time the report was made.

## Literacy work - continued

Acknowledgement was made of a \$12.00 donation received from the Bluefield Baptist church for use in this program; balance of the total cost of the workshop, covering text books, supplies and freight charges for the materials amounted to \$103.83 which was born by the W.M.U.

Letters of appreciation were sent to the radio and T.V. stations and the newspapers for their help in publicizing the program and invitation to other churches to participate.

## W.M.U. MEETING

The first W.M.U. quarterly meeting under the new plan was held on Tuesday evening, December 4, 1963 in Fellowship Hall with Mrs. Randolph Belton, President, presiding. The two presidents, Mrs. Raymond O'Dell, (Day) and Miss Nancy Kyle (night), were presented, followed by the prayer period and brief business session.

A special feature of the evening was the presentation by Mrs. P. E. Caldwell of a W.M.U. pin and gavel to Mrs. Earl Eads, the retiring president, and a W.M.U. Anniversary pin to Mrs. H. C. Epperson. Mrs. Epperson was honored in recognition and appreciation for her dedicated service in the Lebanon Association and her own church. The following tribute and review was read by Mrs. Caldwell:

"Mrs. Epperson has served as Lebanon W.M.U. Associational Superintendent for seventeen (17) years, from 1946 through 1963, having been installed on June 7, 1946, at the Abingdon Baptist Church, along with Mrs. Jamie Maiden of Meadow View, Virginia as Assistant Superintendent.

During these years she has attended every meeting of the Group, the Federation, the annual Association, The State W.M.U. and the State Executive Board, as well as nine (9) Southern Baptist convention meetings. In addition to these she has answered calls from churches in the Association when her help was needed. It has been estimated that she has travelled approximately 75,000 miles during her seventeen years of service.

Countless hours have been spent in compiling quarterly reports from the societies in the Association - now numbering thirty-nine. In addition letters went out regularly to the presidents of these Societies. A special tribute should be paid to Mr. Epperson who drove her many, many miles to take her to meetings, when she was unable to drive because of injuries. He also spent much time in helping her compile reports. While serving the Association she was very active in her own church and W.M.U., having served as President from 1941 to 1943.

Mrs. Epperson has entertained in her home all the missionaries that have come to speak to the groups meetings and this, in her words "has been one of the great joys of her service". Many accomplishments could be noted, but she has related three that have been memorable - namely, the raising of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the Virginia Historical Society; the purchase of pews for the chapel at Camp Cedars; and touring the mission fields in Cuba and New Orleans. Serving as Associational Superintendent has demanded much time and effort, but to Mrs. Epperson it has been a labor of love."

#### COMMUNITY MISSIONS:

Other Community mission projects besides the Literacy work were: Assistance to the Silent Class, composed of deaf friends of this area. Work started by Mr. Herschel Minor and sponsored by our church. A camp (Camp Carson) for the deaf was held at New Port, Tennessee from June 25 through July 2, 1965 where Mrs. O'Dell, our Day president attended and served as a counselor. \$75.00 was given by the W.M.U. for help to defray expenses for workers or members of our "Silent" class.

Continued financial help and fellowship were given to the Lee Street Baptist Church in our Inter-racial program. A generous donation was given to the Pastor of that church to help with expenses while working on his M.A. degree in Theology in Chicago.

#### CHRISTINE GARNETT --

A high light of 1965 was the visit of several days of Miss Christine Garnett to our church. Miss Garnett had served as a missionary in Cuba for 47 years, was officially retired in 1952 but remained on the Island to continue her Christian work.

YOUTH \*\*

Work with the youth organizations, as always, was sponsored by the W.M.U. and helped in every way possible. Focus weeks were observed and leadership provided. Little was recorded in the minutes of the work for this period.

RANDOM NOTES

December 1963 -

The Brotherhood, now sponsors of the R.A.'s, joined in promoting the Lottie Moon Christmas programs and offering.

1964-1965

"Jubilee Year" (150th) was observed by the Southern Baptist W.M.U., members were requested to read the New Testament during this year.

November 1964 -

Presentation was made of a beautiful framed peti-point tapestry, depicting the Lord's Supper, made and given by Mrs. Paul Rouse, in honor of Mrs. J. L. Rosser, to the Sunday School class taught by her for many years.

January 13-17, 1965

Dedication services of new Education building and other renovated facilities. (Program attached)  
(Note: This program was not found when records copied)

June 25 to June 30, 1965 --

Baptist World Alliance met at Miami Beach, Florida. Attending from First Baptist Church, Bristol, Virginia were: Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Epperson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mederías, Suzanne and John Daniel and Rev. and Mrs. J. Neal Tolson.

August 28, 1965 -

A W. M. U. "Prayer Retreat" was held at V. I. College. (Program attached)  
(This program was not found when record copied)

August 1965 -

A number of printed and bound copies of the secretary's minutes and annual reports of the Lebanon W.M.U. were presented by Mrs. S. F. Golehon and placed in the church library.

NECROLOGY

Memorial services were held for the following:

Mrs. Nellie Stinnette	.....	November 25, 1963
Mrs. J. W. Ringley	.....	January 29, 1964
Mrs. J. S. Lipscomb	.....	February 2, 1964
Miss Ella May Powell	.....	June 14, 1964
Mrs. Effie Smythe	.....	August 4, 1964
Mrs. Trula Hicks Rouse	.....	November 8, 1964
Miss Mayme Watson	.....	March 6, 1965
Mrs. Mary Lucie Minor Crockett	.....	March 8, 1965
Mrs. Walter D. Wolford	.....	April 29, 1965
Mrs. W. S. Sams	.....	August 6, 1965
Mrs. G. A. Hopkins	.....	September 23, 1965
Mrs. R. L. Combs	.....	September 28, 1965

Compiled by .....

Lillian G. Boggs,  
Historian - W.M.U.

A Concise History of the Womans Missionary Union of First Baptist Church,  
Which was sent to the W.M.U. of Southern Baptist Convention,  
To be included in the history being written  
For the Centennial Celebration in 1988.

**"THINGS REMEMBERED"**  
1987

WOMANS MISSIONARY UNION  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BRISTOL, VA

A small group of women of the Goodson Baptist Church met on December 3, 1882 and organized the first Missionary Society, with a membership of 17, which grew within a month to 84. The 84 members included 24 men, 1 Jewess and 1 Catholic woman. The present membership in the W.M.U. is 190.

A constitution was written and adopted stating that "the Society shall be purely missionary". This continued to the present time.

In 1885 the younger women organized into a group named "The Young Ladies Missionary Society" whose main objective was learning of and doing missionary work. The older group was known as "The Ladies Aid Society", attending primarily to the physical and financial needs of the church--meeting weekly. These two societies functioned separately.

In 1921 they merged into "The Womans Missionary Society" (W.M.S.).

In 1910, at the suggestion of Dr. J.M. Shelbourne, pastor, the society was divided into neighborhood circles.

In October 1963 the W.M.S. was divided into two societies--the Day and Night Societies, each with a full slate of officers. Each quarter they met for a joint supper meeting. This continued for four years.

The W.M.U. is now one, composed of 14 circles plus an extension circle. The general meetings are held six in the daytime and six at night. The extension circle was, in 1973, cited in the Religious Herald as an example for W.M.U.'s to follow in working with their shut-ins.

Youth work was begun in February, 1902, with a Sunbeam Band started. Y.W.A.'s were organized in 1908 and GAs in 1919. RAs were organized (no date) with Mrs. Arthur Byrd leading this group for a number of years. In 1925, Mrs. Byrd became the first full time Young Peoples Leader and served until 1932. Following her were Miss Myrtle Smith, Miss Frances Hughston, Miss Doris Rippey, Miss Billie Childress and Mrs. Frances Hughston Hawthorne. In 1948, the church, with the W.M.U. assisting in paying the salary, employed an Educational Director to be in charge of all phases of youth work. The third vice-president of the W.M.S. was automatically responsible for the Junior organizations.

The W.M.U. was fully graded in 1942 and is affiliated with the Bristol Group of Baptist Women, Lebanon Association, and Virginia State W.M.U., working along with each. Tribute was paid to Mrs. H.C. Epperson who served as Superintendent of the Lebanon Association for 17 years and Mrs. Arthur Byrd served as Young Peoples Director for 12 years. Our W.M.U. has through the years furnished, and continues to furnish, leadership in the Lebanon Association.

Mrs. O.L. Jones was instrumental in procuring property and establishing Camp Cedars, at Marion, VA, literally giving her life for this cause. Her death was a direct result of an accident on the camp grounds.

Missionary work has been the motive through the years, fostered by study, week of prayer for Home and Foreign Missions, Missionary speakers, attendance at Camp, Conferences and State Meetings. To carry on this work financial means were secured by sacrificial giving and work. In 1953 Tithing was adopted. Two local missions were organized in the early years. Chalmers Street (now Woodlawn Baptist Church) and Second Baptist (now Calvary Baptist Church) both of which are now large churches.

A Goodwill Center was organized in 1945 by the Bristol Group and on January 1, 1948 turned over to the First Baptist Church. It was continued as a Goodwill Center until January 1961, operating for 19 years as a Mission Center with weekday programs and full Sunday services. On June 10, 1979 it was constituted a growing and viable church, Norfolk Avenue Baptist.

The W.M.U. assisted in organizing societies in North Bristol in 1919 and in East Bristol in 1926; assisted our own church in erecting and furnishing two church buildings, including a pipe organ; helped Virginia Intermont College in 1897 with a substantial cash donation and furnished five bedrooms for the college.

Present work in the W.M.U. in part consists of the following: White Cross work, with \$100.00 per year plus bandages rolled and other supplies for foreign mission hospitals; Interracial work--cooperation with the women of Lee Street Baptist Church has been a continuing project since 1935; Presidents and officers sent to training courses at Cedars, Eagle Eyrie and Ridgecrest; Educational Loan fund for youth of the church; Literacy program, Juvenile rehabilitation; Pink Ladies at the hospital; volunteer work in the nursing homes; assistance for the Health Department; aid to Silent Class; Tutoring program; Luncheons for shut-ins; tape recording of sermons taken to shut-ins; meals on wheels program; contributions to Emergency Food Pantry; work with Haven of Rest Rescue Mission; and help for Victims of Domestic Violence.

"Laborers Together With God"  
1 Cor 3:9

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WOMANS MISSIONARY UNION - 1981-82:

President - Mrs. Randolph Belton

Baptist Women  
Baptist Young Women  
Young Peoples Mission Organizations

MEMBERSHIP:

Total Number 205

Number of Groups - 13 (formerly called Circles)  
Baptist Young Women 1  
Extension Group 1

TYPES OF GROUPS: Current Missions  
Prayer  
Bible Study  
Mission Action  
Round Table

OUR W.M.U. IS AFFILIATED WITH: BRISTOL GROUP OF BAPTIST WOMEN  
LEBANON ASSOCIATION W.M.U.  
VIRGINIA BAPTIST W.M.U.

OUR MEMBERS PARTICIPATING AS OFFICERS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE:

Bristol Group - Mary Gose - Leader  
Reba Keith - Program Chairman  
Dot Fleenor - Secretary-Treasurer  
Margaret Novak - Mission Support  
Bernice Gillenwater - Pianist

Lebanon Association - Asst. Acteans Director - Carla Leach  
Mission Support - Dot Fleenor  
Mission Action - Nina Wallace

Virginia Baptist W.M.U. - Faye Jones, Director

ALL OF OUR GROUPS PARTICIPATE IN MINISTERING TO THOSE INCLUDED  
IN THE VARIOUS MISSION ACTION PROJECTS, AS SHOWN ON THE PLACARDS, AND  
ALL GROUPS PARTICIPATE IN THE SPECIAL MINISTRY TO SHUTIN PRAYER PARTNERS  
INCLUDED IN THE JAMIE MAIDEN EXTENSION GROUP.

AT THE PRESENT TIME WE HAVE SIX STUDENTS PARTICIPATING  
IN OUR SCHOLARSHIP LOAN PROGRAM.

OVER AND ABOVE OUR BUDGETED ITEMS, BAPTIST WOMEN LEAD THE  
CHURCH IN THE PROMOTION OF THREE WEEKS OF PRAYER AND SPECIAL MISSION  
OFFERINGS - FOREIGN MISSIONS, HOME MISSIONS, STATE MISSIONS - And  
cooperate with the observance of Associational Missions Emphasis.

**NORFOLK AVENUE  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**"THINGS REMEMBERED, 1987"**

On August 1, 1961, Rev. and Mrs. Sam Faulkenberry came to serve as Directors of Norfolk Avenue Mission Center. Under their leadership the work went forward and they became a great part of the work of the center, the church and the community. They worked under the Home Mission Board and through their work we became more involved in missions outside our own immediate area. They worked with us until moved by the Home Mission Board to Lynchburg. In 1983, they returned to the area to serve at the Clinchco Baptist Mission in Clinchco, VA --until they moved to South Carolina in 1986, under the Home Mission Board. During their tenure at Clinchco we were able to work closely with them, and they continue to be a part of us.

The history of the work on Norfolk Avenue, as printed for their constitution as Norfolk Avenue Baptist Church, is reproduced here, for those who were not able to keep their copies.

## NORFOLK AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

498 Norfolk Avenue  
Bristol, Virginia



CONSTITUTION DAY  
June 10, 1979

### A HISTORY OF NORFOLK AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

#### BEGINNINGS

The first recorded mention of Goodwill Center work in this area was over 50 years ago when, in 1928, a committee from First Baptist Woman's Missionary Society was appointed to investigate the possibility of establishing one. There is no record that any further action was taken at that time.

Ten years passed and in 1938 the WMS again talked, this time of establishing a "community house." Miss Myrtle Smith, later Mrs. J. Emerson Hicks (deceased), First Baptist Young People's Director, told of such a work being carried on on Williams Street in one room of a tumbled-down store building and operated by a joint welfare group. After investigation into this work, volunteers from First Baptist WMS began helping with this work every week.

~~About this same time~~ Mr. C. A. Worley and Mr. Lionel Pruner began holding services in a building owned by the Salvation Army, located at the corner of East Mary Street and Norfolk Avenue (where the Campbell home is now). Every Sunday evening and Wednesday evening these two laymen from First Baptist Church helped gather the congregation. Larry Roe (deceased), invalid son of Mrs. Pearl Roe, probably the oldest member of the present congregation, was lifted and transported to the services — and how he loved to attend!

So it was that Norfolk Avenue Baptist Church had its beginning, in a weekly Bible Class and bi-weekly preaching services — all faithfully carried on by volunteer

Christian laypersons. The ladies continued to meet during the week at "Friendship House," as the one room on Williams Street came to be called. The Bible teacher was Mrs. George Leavell (deceased), former missionary to China and the mother of Miss Cornelia Leavell, presently serving as a missionary in Hong Kong.

In addition to Mrs. Leavell's Bible class, sewing classes began with Mrs. Arthur Byrd (deceased) helping many to learn to sew for their families. Cooking and nutrition classes were added.

#### GOODWILL CENTER ESTABLISHED

Mrs. P. E. Caldwell, Community Missions chairman of First Baptist WMS in 1943, reported that "establishment of a Goodwill Center had been discussed at the WMS Executive Board meeting in January but that Miss Blanche White, Virginia WMU Executive Secretary, had said that it would be too big a proposition for one society and suggested that the Bristol Group of Baptist women take it under advisement."

The Bristol Group decided to establish a Goodwill Center. At the Bristol Group meeting at North Bristol Baptist Church in October, 1943, a committee was formed with one WMS member from each church and Mrs. Caldwell as chairman. This committee was to begin searching for land to build upon. Mr. Worley, Mr. Pruner and Mr. Ernest Dickey (deceased) aided the committee in this search.

The Bristol Group appealed to the Virginia State Mission Board for help in establishing this work. So it was that Miss Louise Fletcher, a State Missionary, was "loaned" to the Bristol Group to begin a Goodwill Center in Bristol. She arrived here August 15, 1944, but no building had been secured and no land bought. She began visiting in homes of the community and the search for a central headquarters continued.

In January, 1945, a lot on Norfolk Avenue was bought for \$800, the very site of this present building, and a small 2-story building was begun. This first building was completed about June, 1945, at a cost of \$6,060.00 and equipped at the expense of \$600.00.

Those mothers attending Mrs. Leavell's Bible class were invited to bring their babies for a children's story hour and come to the new Goodwill Center - and come they did! What an exciting accomplishment had finally come about with God's help and united Christian efforts.

A weekly prayer meeting was held, led by a Baptist layman or minister from one of the churches. Playground activities were supervised two days a week. At the close of 1945 the Goodwill Center was ministering to 161 individuals. Evangelistic services were held by Rev. J. F. Hodgson (deceased) and Rev. E. W. Ely. There were thirteen professions of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Miss Fletcher served a year and was recalled by the State Mission Board to help elsewhere in the State. Miss Pat O'Brian, a young Texas Baptist, was secured as Director. She was succeeded on September 10, 1949, by Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Lanier.

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ASSUMES SOLE RESPONSIBILITY

In October, 1947, the Executive Board of First Baptist WMS passed the following resolution: "Whereas, the churches of the Bristol Group of Baptist churches have indicated a possibility of withdrawing from participation in the Baptist Good-

will Center, be it resolved that should these churches so withdraw, and should they offer the operation of Goodwill Center to the First Baptist Church, that we, the WMS of the First Baptist Church, do hereby state an attitude of favorable consideration and will support the First Baptist Church in any decision to assume full responsibility for the Goodwill Center." Subsequently the offer was presented, and a deed of transfer of property was made to the First Baptist Church. Full responsibility for the operation of the Center was assumed in January, 1948, by First Baptist Church, with the WMS fulfilling its promise of support. In March, 1948, it was reported that 31 First Baptist members were helping with the work of the Center.

By 1949 the GWC enrollment reached about 200 members, with an average attendance of 170. "Progress was seen everywhere, not only in conversions and additions to the church, but also in the personal lives and home lives of the people attending."

In October, 1952, Mary and George Gose from First Baptist organized the Training Union. The children and young people came in great numbers. The adult group had *one* member; for a period Mildred Bridgeman was the only adult, then came one more — Frances Tolbert. Finally the number in Training Union reached 147!

A full program of activities was carried on under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Lanier. For some years Sunday School was held on Sunday afternoon, using volunteers from First Baptist as teachers. Later, Sunday School was moved to 9:30 a.m. with preaching services following at 11 a.m., using "whomsoever we could get to preach — without pay!" Attendance was very good.

#### EAST BRISTOL BAPTIST CHAPEL

The need for a regular pastor was becoming more evident as the work progressed. In August, 1958, Rev. Glynn Harwood (deceased) was called as pastor of East Bristol Baptist Chapel. He was on the field to begin his ministry October 1, 1958. During the next eighteen months the Goodwill Center week-day program was directed by the Laniers and Rev. Harwood performed pastoral duties and held Wednesday evening and Sunday worship services.

In 1952 "happiness" was having a wonderful new gymnasium to meet in and to play in! During the week the gym was used for clubs and play; on Sunday it was transformed into a Sunday School department, Training Union department and a place of worship.

Another happy event was the first wedding at the Center in this gymnasium. On June 6, 1959, Rev. Harwood united Betty Bridgeman and Marvin Campbell in marriage, the first of many such happy occasions through the years.

Life is not all sunshine as we know. Through these same years deaths of members brought sadness and the gym became a sanctuary for funeral services.

#### GOODWILL CENTER BECOMES MISSION CENTER

In the minds of many concerned and forward-looking church members it seemed it was time for another step to be taken in the life of the Goodwill Center. After consulting with the Goodwill Center Committee, Rev. David Mefford, pastor of First Baptist Church, wrote Dr. Clovis A. Brantley (deceased), Superintendent of Missions of SBC Home Mission Board in Atlanta about the Goodwill Center work.

Dr. Brantley was in our area at a later date and the Goodwill Center Committee met with him and the Pastor. Dr. Brantley explained the difference between a Goodwill Center and a Mission Center. A Mission Center is a work that is organized in a community where there is a possibility of its becoming a church. A Goodwill Center is located in a downtown area where there is no chance of it growing into a church. This directed thinking that this work could best be directed towards a church sometime in the future. Thus it was that on February 10, 1960, First Baptist Church voted to establish a Mission Center program by January 1, 1961, to replace the Goodwill Center program.

Rev. Harwood resigned as pastor June 1, 1960. Dr. Louis Taylor, at that time professor of Bible at Virginia Intermont College and now deceased, served as interim pastor from June 1, 1960, until August 1, 1961.

On December 31, 1960, a great void was left with the resignation of the Laniers as Goodwill Center Directors. The great emphasis on Bible study and scripture memorization with Sword Drills was an outstanding part of their ministry.

From January 1, 1961, until the Faulkenberrys arrived August 1, 1961, Mrs. George Gose carried on in an able fashion a kindergarten program at the Mission Center.

Rev. and Mrs. (Grace) Sam L. Faulkenberry and daughter Jan had a ministry at the Mission Center that spanned thirteen years. With their arrival the Sunday School, preaching services, Training Union and WMU organizations were strengthened. In addition to having this full-time pastor and family on the field, they brought to the Mission Center friends and acquaintances of theirs from other mission fields that gave new insight and inspiration for deeper spiritual commitment among the members.

In May, 1974, the Faulkenberrys left Bristol to enter a new field of service in Lynchburg, Virginia. Dr. Louis Taylor again stepped in and served as interim pastor until December 1, 1974, when Rev. and Mrs. William Novak were called to East Bristol Baptist Chapel as pastor and family. The Novaks were dedicated to the task of leading the congregation until September 1, 1976.

#### NORFOLK AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

In September, 1976, Rev. Bill Arnold was called as Pastor. This brought full-cycle the fruits of Christian labors at the Center. Bill and Janette, his wife, and family are themselves, with God's help, products of the ministry carried on for more than thirty years on this very site.

Today another great step forward is being made — Norfolk Avenue Baptist Church is officially born! With God's people continuing to seek God's leadership, ~~surely this Church will be an even greater blessing in the future than it has been in the past.~~

#### LEST WE FORGET!

It seems appropriate to list the names of a few others who dedicated their time and talents to this work, all now deceased: Mr. Ople Boling, Mrs. W. A. Tanner, Mr. J. Z. Leonard, Mrs. C. A. Worley, and Mr. P. E. Caldwell, who served as Goodwill Center Committee Chairman for many years.

Some particulars in which we thought you might be interested:

- Dec. 31, 1882-- First Organization Meeting of the First Baptist Missionary Society.
- 1908-- First Mission Study class and organization of a city-wide missionary union--forerunner of our present "Church Women United".
- 1916-20-- First Young Peoples organizations--particularly Y.W.A.'s.
- 1921-- First neighborhood circles organized.
- 1925-- Mrs. Arthur Byrd was elected to be the first Young Peoples Director of W.M.U.
- 1927-- First yearbooks used--discontinued in 1935-- picked up again in 1945.
- 1931-- First methods study "Why and How of W.M.U."-- forerunner of our present Leadership Training.
- 1932-- First Young Peoples Director was hired, at the request of the W.M.U.--forerunner of our present Educational Director.
- 1939-- First "Church Daughters" at colleges program was organized by Ethel Cofer, under the sponsorship of the W.M.U.
- 1952-- W.M.U. requested the appointment of the first librarian, and library committee, the forerunner of our excellent Media Center.
- 1955-- Student Loan Fund started.
- 1958-- Round Table organized.
- 1962-- Officers were chosen for 2 year terms.
- 1963-- Day and Night Societies instituted.
- 1964-- First Literacy program organized by Hazel Bramm and Annette Lowder.

PRESIDENTS, W.M.S. OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
1921 - 1987

1921-1922	Mrs. J.W. Foster
1923	Mrs. Frank Goodpasture
1924-1925	Mrs. James Wyman
1926-1929	Mrs. O.L. Jones
1930-1931	Mrs. E.L. Seay
1932-1933	Mrs. J.F. McEver
1934-1935	Mrs. W.A. Walker
1936-1938	Mrs. Arthur Byrd
1939	Mrs. Robert Boggs
1940	Miss Lillian Flenniken
1941-1943	Mrs. H.C. Epperson
1944-1946	Mrs. W.S. Erwin
1947 (March)	Mrs. Charles Coffey
1947-1949	Mrs. Earl Francisco
1950-1952	Mrs. J.L. Rosser
1953-1954	Mrs. R.L. Brantley
1955-1956	Mrs. Ray Williams
1957-1959	Mrs. C.D. Pulliam
1960-1961	Mrs. P.E. Caldwell
1962-1963	Mrs. Earl Eads
1963-1965	Mrs. Randolph Belton, W.M.U. President
	Mrs. Raymond O'Dell, W.M.S. Day President
	Miss Nancy Kyle, W.M.S. Night President
1965-1967	Mrs. Wayne Fuller, W.M.U. President
	Mrs. Jack Keith, W.M.S. Day President
	Mrs. Charles Coffey, W.M.S. Night President
1968-1969	Mrs. Walter Crockett
1969-1970	Mrs. Jim Pruner
1971-1972	Mrs. Herbert Miller
1973-1974	Mrs. Claude Crockett
1975-1976	Mrs. Carlton Lowder
1977-1980	Mrs. Ed Cartwright
1981-1982	Mrs. Randolph Belton
1983-1984	Miss Muriel Butler
1985-1987	Miss Muriel Butler

## "Our Very Own Missionaries"

Of special interest might be names and some facts covering missionaries from Bristol and the area:

Cornelia Leavell, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George Leavell, former Bristolians and former missionaries to China, was first appointed as a missionary in 1942. She was a language student in Berkley, California 1942 - 44; worked in Kindergarten in Honolulu for two terms--1944 - 46 and 1950 - 63. She served in Shanghai, China 1947 - 49 and in Hong Kong from 1964 until retirement. She presently resides in Starkville, Miss.

Barbara Lawson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.K. Lawson, members of First Baptist, was a missionary nurse in Indonesia; and is presently serving as nurse at the Orientation Center in Rockville, VA.

Eugene Ruble, M.D., also a Bristolian, and his wife Peggy, a North Carolinian, are serving in the new Baptist hospital in Sumatra. The son of Mrs. Olivia Ruble of Bristol, he was first appointed in 1971 as a physician to Indonesia.

Dr. Eugene Eller, a native of Bristol, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver E. Eller. He was appointed in 1974 as a school administrator in Amman, Jordan, and his wife, Jane Eller was appointed in 1974 to church and home evangelism in Amman, Jordan. They are presently serving in Nazareth, Israel.

Judy Hutton Brice, was born and raised in Bristol, and in Euclid Avenue Baptist Church. She and her husband, George Brice were appointed in 1965 to language school in Campinas, Brazil, and Judy was a music teacher in Feira de Santana. Retiring after 20 years of service on the mission field, they are presently in High Point, NC where George is a Pastor and Judy is a counselor.

Joanna Maiden Owens, born and raised in Washington County, VA, was appointed a medical missionary to Nigeria in 1958 where she served until 1966. Her mother, Jamie Maiden, a long term teacher in the Washington County, VA schools was appointed Missionary Associate to Nigeria in May 1963, to teach children of missionaries in Oshogbo. She was 500 miles from Joanna, who was in the Baptist hospital in Joinkrama. Joanna and her husband, Russell Owens, presently live in Richmond, VA, both working for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Elaine Walls Jump, was raised in First Baptist, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Walls. She and her husband, Ed Jump, were commissioned in July 1985, and are serving in Venezuela, South America.

Dr. and Mrs. Phillip R. Martin, Southwest Virginians, are missionaries to Venezuela--where he is a seminary teacher and music consultant in Las Teques. Linda is a church and home missionary. They have spent their 1986 - 87 furlough in Bristol at Euclid Avenue's Missionary Home, and have endeared themselves to us, almost as our very own.

Muriel Butler, our current president, has served three volunteer mission terms: To Venezuela in 1980; to Upper Volta in 1982; and to Chile in 1983.

Dr. Earl Calvert, our current Pastor and his wife, Margaret, served in February 1987 a two week term in Tanzania, under the Virginia-Tanzania Mission now in progress--assisting our missionaries in teaching pastors and church leaders.

### Acknowledgements

First, I must acknowledge that God has given me the strength to carry on this project, which has really been a pleasure; and has given me the people necessary to help me:

The previous historians who left us with such a rich heritage of material which we have been able to use--

And again to Susie Pulliam for preserving the records and being so much help--

To Gail Fleenor for so graciously and efficiently typing the material; and to her mother, Mrs. Rouse Fleenor for helping with editing--

And to Richard and Kay Smith of Roanoke, for their loving encouragement and their help in the production.

I sincerely hope and pray that you will enjoy these THINGS REMEMBERED that I have tried to bring to you; and that we might carry forward our "memories" into future realities, as our "founding mothers" would wish - and carry on our WMU purpose and work for the Glory of God; and the fruitful culmination of the "Bold Mission Thrust".

Nancye Kilgore Bunn  
WMU Historian, 1985-87

**FOR REFERENCE**

**Do Not Take From This Room**

Gen.  
286.132  
FIR

127155<sub>95</sub>

First Baptist Church (Bristol, Va.-  
Tenn.). Woman's Missionary Union  
Things remembered

Gen.  
286.132  
FIR

127155<sub>95</sub>

First Baptist Church (Bristol,  
Va.-Tenn.). Woman's Mis-  
sionary Union  
Things remembered

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## HISTORY OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION OF THE LEBANON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA

In 1896 the women met in Mendota, VA and organized into what is known as the Woman's Missionary Union Auxiliary to the Lebanon Baptist Association, that a more effective work might be accomplished. Mrs. N. L. Look, our first superintendent, was appointed by headquarters in Richmond, VA.

In the year 1896 there were eight societies including the Sunbeams. Contributions to all purposes was \$130, which was astounding at that time. There were twenty-one churches in the association.

The first recorded annual report was read by J. M. Dunaway to the Association at South Fork Church August 1899. (Women at that time did not appear on the programs).

In 1900 the request was sent to the Association that the W.M.U. minutes be included in the records each year. Our minutes have been reported since that time.

Because of the vast amount of territory that the Lebanon Association covers, it had been brought up before but was voted on in 1916 to divide the churches into groups. The first group leaders were Mrs. S. T. Copenhaver, Bristol; Mrs. Roberts, Saltville; Mrs. Morris, Glade Spring; Miss Ruby King, Riverside.

In 1921 it was divided into seven groups. Mrs. Mason, Abingdon; Mrs. Snodgrass, Glade Spring; Mrs. J. R. Dickey, Bristol; Mrs. Kaylor, Mendota; Mrs. W. H. Echols, Chilhowie; Mrs. Anderson, Marion. Wytheville did not list their leader.

In 1957 it went back to four groups: Abingdon, Bristol, Glade Spring and Marion.

In 1966 we went to the present three groups: Bristol, Abingdon and Marion.

We have had some wonderful group leaders. I cannot name them all, it would take too much space.

In 1958 Wytheville left our Association.

Some of the superintendents were: Mrs. N. L. Look, Mrs. Henry Chapman, Mrs. S. W. Dickenson, Mrs. S. F. Gollehone, Mrs. J. L. Williamson, Mrs. L. N. Wheeler, Mrs. C. W. McElroy, Mrs. J. R. Dickey, Mrs. J. R. Edwards, Mrs. W. N. Britton, Mrs. H. K. Williams, Mrs. O. L. Jones, Mrs. W. A. Walker, Mrs. H. C. Epperson, Mrs. James Beverly. Mrs. Harry Denton served faithfully for 20 years and our present day director is Mrs. W. A. Novak.

Our youth organizations have been led by some wonderful outstanding leaders. Some I can remember are Mrs. L. N. Wheeler, Mrs. Hobert Maiden, Mrs. Arthur Byrd, Mrs. Guy McNeil. Will anyone ever forget Mrs. J. R. Laws and her work with the Y.W.A's? There are a lot of others but I can't recall them all. Our present G.A. Director is Mrs. Sybil Davis and Acteens Director, Mrs. Ray Luck. Mrs. Zollie Fowler has worked with the Mission Friends for a number of years. Our present Mission Friends Director is Mrs. Joe (Debbie) Buckles.

At present we have forty-four churches in the Association with 129 mission organizations and a total enrollment of 1,816, but I think of the jewels we are missing, in not training the young people in mission work.

**FOR REFERENCE**

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When did our organization really begin? I don't know. I do know there were years of praying, planning and working by those faces we see no more. These faithful women who gathered together and prayed, really prayed for the salvation of a lost world. We would like to give honor to those women, Women of Vision, who laid the foundation for the work we carry on today.

We know woman was the last at the cross and first at the sepulcher and to her our Master gave His first message, "Go and Tell", and God has blessed Women's work ever since.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Edmondson, Historian  
(June, 1987)

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