

BRIEF SUMMARY OF 100 YEARS OF WMU

Someone has said, "The history of any great movement is the story of those who have promoted it." This is the case with North Carolina Woman's Missionary Union. It has, to this day, followed the patterns laid down by Fannie Heck and Sallie Bailey Jones.

The first attempt to start a mission organization in North Carolina in 1877 failed. In January, 1886, the vice-president of the Foreign Mission Board came to Raleigh to once again attempt organization. Fannie Heck, age 24, and Sallie Bailey, age 16, accepted the responsibilities of president and corresponding secretary. These two women wasted no time, and on January 8, 1886, fourteen women joined them in the office of the editor of the Biblical Recorder, located in downtown Raleigh, and the first meeting of the Woman's Central Committee for State, Home, and Foreign Missions was held. Miss Heck served as president of North Carolina WMU for 29 years. Miss Bailey, who later became Mrs. W. N. Jones, was the second president of North Carolina WMU; and she served for 20 years.

During the first year of the Woman's Central Committee, the number of societies grew from 14 to 75. The Woman's Central Committee of Missions of North Carolina was later officially named Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina. Sallie Bailey chose a motto in 1886 which was taken from Paul's letter to the Colossians. It was, "For Ye Serve The Lord Christ." The theme for the Centennial Celebration is "Whatsoever...In His Name" also taken from Colossians.

As early as 1903 the Societies in North Carolina were using a Missionary Calendar, a plan that developed into the Calendar of Prayer. It was published in 1908 by the Southern Woman's Missionary Union and four years later became a part of Royal Service.

In 1886, Dr. George Braxton Taylor, pastor of Fairmont Baptist Church in Virginia, started a missionary society for children, later called Sunbeam Band. Missionary interest spread. Because of the demand, organizations for other age levels came into being: Girl's Auxiliary in 1915, Young Woman's Auxiliary in 1907, Royal Ambassadors in 1908. Woman's Missionary Union fostered Royal Ambassadors until 1957 when the transfer to the Brotherhood was completed.

Women have always been concerned about the needs of people around them. A plan to meet such needs was first called Neighborhood Missions. Later it was called Personal Service and then Community Missions. Today we know it as Mission Action and Personal Witnessing. The purpose of Woman's Missionary Union to give opportunities for learning about missions, for supporting missions, and for doing missions has never changed. The methods and terminology, however, have changed through the years. 1970 brought major changes in organization and grading, in terminology, and in literature. Preschoolers became Mission Friends; girls in grades 1-6, Girls in Action; girls in grades 7 through high school graduation, Acteens; young women ages 18-29, Baptist Young Women; and women 30-up, Baptist Women. The purpose of WMU remains the same and is expressed in the tasks of Woman's Missionary Union: Teach missions, support missions, engage in mission action and personal witnessing.

Enlistment and leadership training have through the years held high priority in the plans of Woman's Missionary Union. The plan of training associational leaders in the summer workshops and church leaders in early fall continues as the most effective method of leadership training. "Come Grow With Us," 1984-1988, is the current enlistment program for North Carolina WMU with a goal of doubling the membership by 1988, the hundredth anniversary of WMU, SBC.

Baptist Women

The Baptist Women of Simmons Grove Baptist Church first met in 1944. At that time, the organization was known as the Woman's Missionary Society. The purpose of the Woman's Missionary Society was and is to:

- (1) Teach Missions
- (2) Engage in mission action and personal witnessing
- (3) Support missions
- (4) Interpret and undergird the work of the church and the denomination

The women of Simmons Grove saw this need and wanted to assemble to carry Jesus's message in Matthew 28:19-20... "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." At the first meeting, Mrs. Jackson of Bannertown Baptist Church met with Eva Armstrong, Rilla Redman, Tracie Inman, Letha Stephens and Magalene Cook to explain the Woman's Missionary Society and to help elect officers. Nonnie Stone and Flossie Simmons from Holly Springs Baptist Church came to help them with their first program.

Below is a list of presidents for the Woman's Missionary Society at Simmons Grove Baptist Church for the years 1944 - 1967:

1944-45...Eva Armstrong	1955-56...Letha Stephens
1945-46...Geneva Key	1956-57...Rilla Redman
1946-47...Rilla Redman	1957-58...Rilla Redman
1947-48...Rilla Redman	1958-59...Rilla Redman
1948-49...Rilla Redman	1959-60...Rilla Redman
1949-50...Rilla Redman	1960-61...Rilla Redman
1950-51...Letha Stephens	1961-62...Rilla Redman
1951-52...Rilla Redman	1962-63...Letha Stephens
1952-53...Rilla Redman	1963-64...Letha Stephens
1953-54...Letha Stephens	1964-65...Irene Chilton
1954-55...Letha Stephens	1965-66...Irene Chilton
	1966-67...Rilla Redman

When Simmons Grove started their youth organizations in 1955, the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention asked for a Director of the youth groups. Nellie Boles was the first Director of the youth organizations at Simmons Grove when the groups were organized in 1955. Sybil Inman was Director of the youth organizations during the years of 1965-69. There is not a record of the Directors of the youth organizations at Simmons Grove during the late 1950's and the early 1960's.

In the late 1960's, the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC decided to have a Director for all the organizations in the Woman's Missionary Union. Name and age level changes were made for all the organizations in Woman's Missionary Union in 1970. The Woman's Missionary Society was changed to Baptist Women for ages 30 - up.

Next is a list of the Directors for the Woman's Missionary Union of Simmons Grove from 1967 to the present and also a list of the presidents of the Baptist Women:

Baptist Women (Continued)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>President</u>
1967-68	Rilla Redman	Mozelle Key
1968-69	Rilla Redman	Mozelle Key
1969-70	Rilla Redman	Mozelle Key
1970-71	Evelyn Taylor	Irene Chilton
1971-72	Letha Stephens	Irene Chilton
1972-73	Letha Stephens	Irene Chilton
1973-74	Letha Stephens	Irene Chilton
1974-75	Letha Stephens	Irene Chilton
1975-76	Letha Stephens	Irene Chilton
1976-77	Letha Stephens	Irene Chilton
1977-78	Letha Stephens	Irene Chilton
1978-79	Letha Stephens	Irene Chilton
1979-80	Letha Stephens	Irene Chilton
1980-81	Marie Cain	Irene Chilton
1981-82	Marie Cain and Rilla Redman	Irene Chilton
1982-83	Ruby Cook	Irene Chilton
1983-84	Ruby Cook	Irene Chilton
1984-85	Rita Martin	Irene Chilton
1985-86	Rita Martin	Rilla Redman

The Bible Study Group of the Baptist Women first met 1971 - 1973 and was inactive until 1977 when they formed again. Geneva Key has been President of this group every since they formed and is the present president.

The North Carolina WMU saw the need of a group for young women ages 30 - 45 in the late 1970's. This group was named Young Baptist Women. In April 1980 the Young Baptist Women of Simmons Grove Baptist Church was organized under the leadership of Vickie Isaacs.

The following is a list of the presidents for the Young Baptist Women:

1980-81...Vickie Isaacs
1981-82...Judy Stephens
1982-83...Faye Terrell
1983-84...Betty Chilton
1984-85...Betty Chilton
1985-86...Judy Stephens

Girls in Action

The Girls in Action or G.A. organization is for girls in grades 1 - 6. The G.A. organization was first known as Girls' Auxiliary for girls ages 9 - 13. The Girls' Auxiliary was first organized at Simmons Grove Baptist Church in the year 1955-56 under the direction of Mrs. Etta Mae Campbell. In 1970 the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention changed the name of Girls' Auxiliary to the present name of Girls in Action.

Below is information of the years that G.A.'s have been active at Simmons Grove and the leaders for the groups:

1955-56...Mozelle Key was the leader.

1956-57...There was a Junior G.A. and an Intermediate G.A. under the leadership of Mozelle Key and Etta Mae Campbell.

1957-58...There was a Junior G.A. and an Intermediate G.A.

1958-59...There was one G.A. group.

1959-60...There was a Junior G.A. and an Intermediate G.A.

1960-61...There was a Junior G.A. and an Intermediate G.A.

1961-62...There was a Junior G.A. under the leadership of Lilly Marion and an Intermediate G.A. under the leadership of Stella Simmons.

1962-63...There was a Junior G.A. under the leadership of Joyce Simmons and an Intermediate G.A. under the leadership of Stella Simmons.

1963-64...There was a Junior G.A. with Lilly Marion as leader and Lois Stone as assistant. There was an Intermediate G.A. with Eva Armstrong as leader and Stella Simmons as assistant.

1964-65...There was one G.A. group with Nellie Boles as leader.

1965-66...There was one G.A. group with Sybil Inman as Director and Opal Wilson as Counselor.

1966-67...There was one G.A. group with Sybil Inman as Director and Opal Wilson as Counselor.

1967-68...There was one G.A. group with Sybil Inman as Director and Faye Terrell as Counselor.

1968-69...There was one G.A. group with Sybil Inman as Director and Faye Terrell as Counselor.

1969-70...There was one G.A. group with Faye Terrell as leader.

1970-71...There was one G.A. group with Judy Stephens as leader.

1971-72...There was one G.A. group with Judy Stephens as leader and Christine Bryant as assistant leader.

Girls in Action (Continued)

1972-73...There was one G.A. group with Faye Terrell as leader and Christine Bryant as assistant.

G.A.'s at Simmons Grove was inactive from 1973 until 1981 when Betty Chilton reorganized them.

1981-82...There was one G.A. group with Betty Chilton as leader and Deborah W. Chilton as assistant.

1982-83...The G.A.'s were divided into two groups with Deborah W. Chilton as leader and Rhonda Fagg as assistant for girls in grades 1 - 3; and Betty Chilton as leader and Judy Stephens as assistant for girls in grades 4 - 6.

1983-84...Same leaders as for year 1982-83.

1984-85...Same leaders as for year 1982-83.

1985-86...Deborah W. Chilton, leader and Rhonda Fagg, assistant for G.A. girls in grades 1 - 3. Vickie Isaacs as leader for G.A. girls in grades 4 - 6.

Sometime during the years of 1956 - 1961, Dora Bales, Sallie Shelton, Janice Inman and Irene Bales were leaders of the Sunbeams. There is not a record of the exact years.

1961-62...There was a Beginner Sunbeam under the leadership of Sybil Inman. There was a Primary Sunbeam under the leadership of Doretta Kay.

1962-63...There was a Beginner Sunbeam under the leadership of Judy Stone.

1963-64...There was a Primary Sunbeam with Irene Chilton as leader and Dora Bales as assistant leader.

1964-65...There was one Sunbeam organization, ages 4 - 8 years under the leadership of Brenda Taylor.

There was not a preschool organization at Simmons Grove from 1965 until 1981. In 1970 the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention changed the name of the Sunbeam Band to Mission Friends. The Mission Friends was organized at Simmons Grove for ages 2 - 5 years in 1981 under the leadership of Sandra Bales.

Below is the Mission Friends information from 1981 to the present:

1981-82...Sandra Bales, leader and Vickie Isaacs, assistant leader

1982-83...Sandra Bales, leader and Vickie Isaacs, assistant leader

1983-84...Vickie Isaacs as leader

1984-85...Judy Chilton as leader

1985-86...Judy Chilton as leader and Judy White as assistant leader

Mission Friends

The Mission Friends organization of today with members of boys and girls, ages of birth through 5 years of age, was first known as the Sunbeam Band. The Sunbeam Band was made up of the Nursery Sunbeams, ages birth through 2 years; the Beginner Band, ages 3 - 5 years; and the Primary Band, ages 6 - 8 years. The Sunbeams was first organized at Simmons Grove Baptist Church by Eva Armstrong in 1947. They met for two years with Mrs. Armstrong as their leader. The Sunbeams were organized again the year of 1956-57 under the leadership of Mrs. Etta Mae Campbell.

Below is the Sunbeam Band information from 1956 - 1965:

1956-57...There was a Beginner Sunbeam and a Primary Sunbeam.

1957-58...There was one Sunbeam Organization.

1958-59...There was a Beginner Sunbeam and a Primary Sunbeam.

1959-60...There was a Beginner Sunbeam and a Primary Sunbeam.

1960-61...There was one Sunbeam Organization.

Sometime during the years of 1956 - 1961, Dora Boles, Sudie Shelton, Janice Inman and Irene Potts were leaders of the Sunbeams. There is not a record of the exact years.

1961-62...There was a Beginner Sunbeam under the leadership of Sybil Inman.
There was a Primary Sunbeam under the leadership of Donette Key.

1962-63...There was a Beginner Sunbeam under the leadership of Judy Stone.

1963-64...There was a Primary Sunbeam with Irene Chilton as leader and Dora Boles as assistant leader.

1964-65...There was one Sunbeam organization, ages 4 - 8 years under the leadership of Brenda Taylor.

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1981-82...Sandra Boles, leader and Vickie Isaacs, assistant leader

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1983-84...Vickie Isaacs as leader

1984-85...Judy Chilton as leader

1985-86...Judy Chilton as leader and Judy White as assistant leader

Acteens

The Acteens organization of today is for girls, grades 7 - 12. This organization was first known as the Young Woman's Auxiliary or YWA's. The YWA's of Simmons Grove Baptist Church was first organized in the year 1955-56 under the direction of Mrs. Etta Mae Campbell. It also met in 1956-57, but was inactive in 1957-58. It was reorganized the year of 1958-59 and also met 1959-60. Mrs. Campbell led the group during the above years. Mrs. Evelyn Taylor was the leader of the YWA's during the years of 1960-64. Inez Sawyers was assistant leader the year of 1963-64. Rilla Redman was the YWA leader from October 1964-67. The organization did not meet again until 1970 under the leadership of Betty Chilton.

It was the year of 1970 that the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention changed the Young Woman's Auxiliary to the Acteens. In 1971-72 Mary Ellen Armstrong was the leader with Betty Chilton as assistant. In 1972-73 Geneva Key was leader with Irene Chilton as assistant. Donette Brown was leader for the year 1973-74. The Acteens didn't meet again until the year 1985-86 when they were organized again under the leadership of Faye Terrell and Anne Chilton as assistant.

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