

NEVER DID I EVER...

BY BETSY MCGUIRE

My husband and I joined First Church about five years ago. Having no clue about our history, I dove headlong into the celebration of our 150th Anniversary hoping to learn something about the 145 years before we came on board.

And never did I ever know that....

- The Loft space was formerly a roller skating rink; the lounge area was a snack bar with counters, stools and concessions.
- The church had a baseball team.
- We were the venue for the PACKED City Stages Gospel Fest.
- The earliest air conditioning involved sliding 100 lb blocks of ice down a ramp into the basement.

And never did I ever remember that.....

- I was at the church in 1989 for Vacation Bible School....something I was reminded of by my sister-in-law, Marie Blair (on my left). There are interesting things to uncover in the church archives!

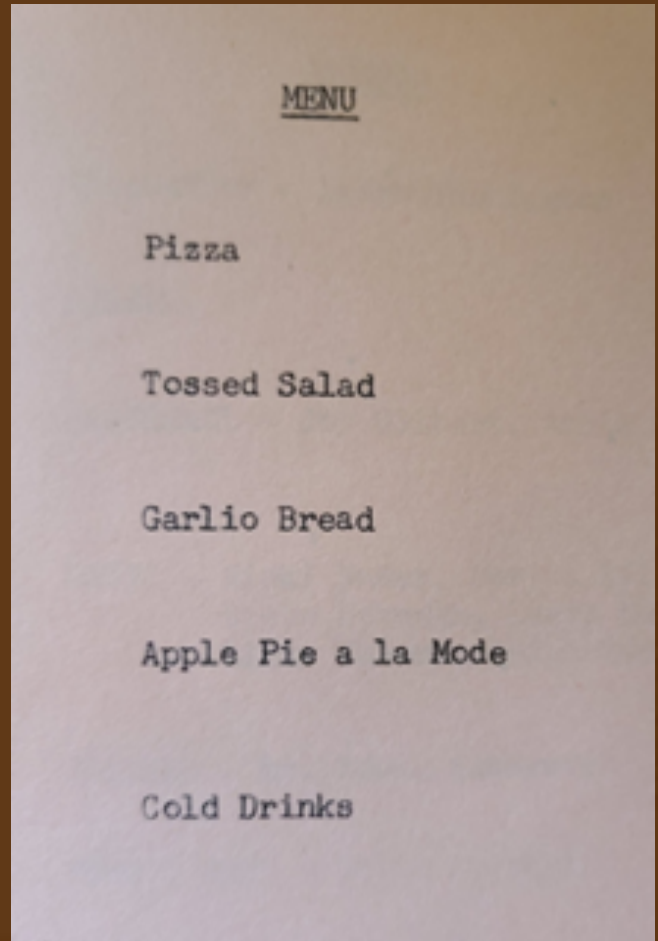
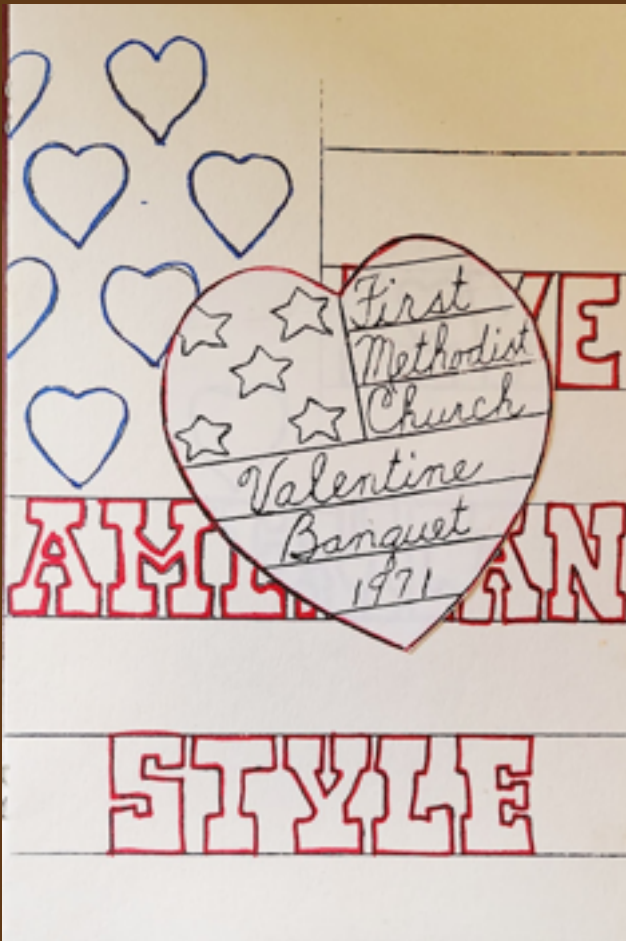


And here are more **Fun Facts** that I've uncovered about our wonderful and often hilarious congregation.....

1. There was a rooftop playground on the 'new' education building with swings, a slide, monkey bars and a merry-go-round.



2. Valentines Day was a big deal, with a banquet, dancing until midnight and.... the crowning of the court! Take note of the hand crafted programs and the menu, complete with pizza and 'garlio' bread.



3. Sunday school attendance was a competitive sport!! An Honor Roll was kept for attendance and was published, IN PRINT, for all the congregation to see. The George R. Stuart Bible Class was particularly brutal for slackers so PLEASE get out your magnifying glass to see the 22 poor souls that missed every Sunday in April 1928.

Dr. Moore, Ms Price and Mr. Comer took their jobs very seriously!


OUR RECORD

First Methodist Sunday School

"And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it; because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."—Genesis 2:3.

May 6, 1928
(Record for April 29th)

DR. ARTHUR J. MOORE, Pastor NANNIE MYRTLE PRICE, Director of Religious Education DONALD COMER, S. S. Sup.



FIREMAN'S BIBLE CLASS

The above picture was made last Mother's Day. The class will have a special Mother's Day Program next Sunday to which the mothers, wives and friends of the class are invited.

OUR RECORD
SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY
SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY PROGRAM
Song—"Onward Christian Soldiers"
Scripture—"Third Psalm"—Junior/High Department.
Lord's Prayer—Chanted by Junior Department.
Selections—Senior Department Orchestra.
"The Wonder Song"—Beginners' Department.
"What the Sunday School Means to Me"—Irving Fullington, Bethany-Blackwell Department.
Selections—Senior Department Orchestra.
"What We Mean to the Sunday School"—Helen Berworth, College Department.
Song—"God's Work"—Primary Department.
Talk—Dr. Arthur J. Moore.
Cradle Roll—Mrs. E. L. Gandy.
Song—"Lead On, O King Eternal".
Superintendent—Donald Comer.
Benediction—Dr. J. C. Morris.

Those taking part on the program will succeed each other without any announcement. Sing "Onward, Christian Soldiers" as you gather and then sing altogether before being seated, after which program will continue.

ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before!
Christ, the royal Master,
Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle
See his banners go

Chorus:

Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before!

Like a mighty army
Moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading
Where the saints have trod;
We are not divided,
All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine,
One in charity.

Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus
Constant will remain;
Gates of hell can never
Gainst that church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail.

Onward, then, ye people,
Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song,
'Glory, lead, and honor
Unto Christ the King!
This thro' countless ages
Men and angels sing.

WANTED—Several Assistant Secretaries. Call 3-2186.

Thoughtful Members Leave End Seals for Late Comers.

J. G. Irwin
David Hall
J. F. McClelland
Charlie Mills
Quinton Dalbe
Lee Moore
Howard Lamar
Harold Naff
Foster Raine
Alex McClelland
W. A. Johnson
Perry McKeen
A. Keith Hinde
Carlton Cadden
Allen McClosky
C. G. Hammond
Paul Campbell
Leland Spangler
Bill Moore
J. R. Adolph

Absent Every Sunday in April

Walton Hines
M. K. Mitchell
W. M. Vaughan
F. H. Payne
Robert Fleming
Willie McElroy
Cecyle Duke
J. B. Rayson
C. M. Teal
R. A. Smith
Wendler Griffin
Lewis Harper
A. H. Schuler
E. L. Hayswood
C. C. Korte
F. G. Davis
W. J. Kirberg
Marvin Hall
H. W. Patterson
J. C. Jones
Harry Carr
E. W. Jones
F. F. Kirby

Present Every Sunday in This Quarter

Lee Brown
James Watson
A. J. Ivy
Smith Schneider
Harold Naff
Eustace Raine
Quinton Dalbe
Charlie Mills
J. F. McClelland
Lee Moore
Alex McClelland
W. A. Johnson
Carlton Cadden
C. G. Hammond
Paul Campbell
Bill Moore
J. R. Adolph

MAYBELLE TAYLOR CLASS

Honor Roll
Christine McKeen
Mrs. Lottie Barr
Mrs. Pauline Cain
Carrie Lee Wimer
Sadie Price
Mrs. Gladys Tate
Maggie Terry
Daphne Holland
Virginia Jones
Mary Egan
Grace Harrell
Flora Selman
Mrs. E. F. Blackwell
Mrs. E. H. Blackwell
Absent Every Sunday in April
Mrs. Lona H. Wells
Mrs. A. G. Wickersham

Mrs. Hattie Wright
Ruth Yates
Mrs. W. H. Beard
Mrs. A. C. Bronaugh
Mrs. B. B. Bundy
Clara Brown
Cynthia Davis
Mrs. R. D. Durham
Mrs. H. B. Etheridge
Ida Farrington
Mrs. T. H. Fleming
Mrs. Gladys Greave
Mrs. H. F. Martin
Miss Lucile Nemes
Mrs. Cecil Copeland
Margaret Chowning
Mrs. W. E. Evans
Margaret John
Mrs. Jessica S. Johnson
Ruth Lowry
Kathleen McArroll
Elsie Archer
Mrs. A. F. Deal
Flora Boyce
Mrs. W. L. Burkett
Gertrude Johnson
Annie Laura Watson
Mildred Bishop
Willie Bishop
Annie L. Dowling
Mrs. F. R. Dittie
Mary Dwyer
Mrs. John L. Ford
Mrs. J. N. Bailey
Mrs. S. A. Rutherford
Clara Mae Smith
Mrs. R. J. Swack
Oella Watts
Mrs. Bessie Westmoreland

WOMAN'S BIBLE CLASS

Honor Roll
Mrs. W. C. Bailey
Mrs. E. L. Baldwin
Mrs. Della Buchanan
Mrs. Fred Clark
Mrs. J. C. Collins
Mrs. A. L. Corvix
Mrs. T. K. Dyer
Mrs. Earle Dunlap
Mrs. W. S. Edwards
Mrs. W. O. Ewell
Mrs. J. W. Fleming
Mrs. J. J. Fry
Mrs. E. D. Fry
Mrs. E. M. Ford
Mrs. Dora Grothe
Mrs. J. N. Hamrick
Mrs. E. M. Harris
Mrs. W. L. Harless
Miss Alida Hershock
Mrs. Lela Hine
Mrs. L. Hennegan
Miss Ethel Hensley
Mrs. E. E. Hill
Mrs. Howell
Mrs. W. Hopkins
Mrs. Paul Jackson
Mrs. F. J. Jones
Mrs. J. D. Johnston
Mrs. F. B. Jolly
Mrs. Kerr
Mrs. E. B. Kilgore
Mrs. W. D. Larkin
Mrs. O. F. Lee
Mrs. Elizabeth Marsh
Mrs. I. H. Miller
Mrs. L. M. Milliam
Mrs. Edgar Morris
Mrs. Edie Morris
Mrs. A. B. McKinney
Mrs. E. T. Naff
Mrs. W. T. Parker
Mrs. J. O. Pechler
Miss Daisy Perry
Mrs. S. A. Potts
Mrs. T. E. Robert
Mrs. E. F. Robertson

Miss Soobie
Mrs. J. B. Shaffer
Mrs. L. R. Shirk
Mrs. T. H. Strump
Mrs. C. A. Tipton
Mrs. Turantia
Mrs. Velina
Mrs. E. C. Whelan
Mrs. A. J. Wilkerson
Mrs. J. P. Widdingham
Mrs. M. E. Wright
Mrs. T. H. Wright
Mrs. W. M. Dine

Absent Every Sunday in April

Mrs. Carrie Adams
Mrs. J. L. Adcox
Mrs. E. E. Allen
Mrs. B. P. Board
Mrs. Sinclair Bessie
Mrs. F. A. Bowling
Mrs. W. W. Bruce
Mrs. Mary Ben
Mrs. Oliver Brock
Mrs. W. O. Bruple
Mrs. Will Brumbaugh
Mrs. L. M. Butch
Mrs. Mary Culler
Mrs. Charles Calvert
Mrs. V. E. Cain
Mrs. C. B. Cheshire
Mrs. H. Moss Cowart
Mrs. H. D. Cox
Mrs. W. T. Daniel
Mrs. Mary Davidson
Mrs. E. F. Davis
Mrs. Ode Dolge
Mrs. W. S. Dudley
Mrs. F. L. Estman
Mrs. A. M. Ford
Mrs. L. C. Gavel
Mrs. Dwight Glenn
Mrs. T. P. Graham
Mrs. T. W. Gulon
Mrs. J. N. Harbin
Mrs. J. A. Harper
Mrs. J. H. Harrington
Mrs. W. E. Hensley
Mrs. Lewis W. Hill
Mrs. W. J. Holcombe
Mrs. W. V. Holmes
Mrs. Kay Ingle
Mrs. J. A. James
Mrs. KESIAN
Mrs. W. C. Lanster
Mrs. Mary Price Lewis
Mrs. U. E. Little
Mrs. W. R. Little
Mrs. W. L. Lott
Mrs. W. M. Maddox
Mrs. J. J. Masie
Mrs. Mervin Mather
Mrs. B. D. Mills
Mrs. W. D. Miller
Mrs. Chas. McDaniel
Mrs. C. E. McDonald
Mrs. J. L. McNeal
Mrs. V. M. Neely
Mrs. M. E. Park
Mrs. J. M. Pearce
Mrs. Julia Pearce
Mrs. Foythrose
Mrs. E. M. Robinson
Mrs. Ellen Rogers
Mrs. M. B. Scott
Mrs. J. L. Seward
Mrs. E. S. Simpson
Mrs. S. B. Smith
Mrs. S. E. Smith
Mrs. H. F. Stary
Mrs. Nora Stokes
Mrs. J. A. Taylor
Mrs. Charles Trevor
Mrs. Fannie Turner
Mrs. Alice W. Ward
Mrs. J. W. Warren
Mrs. John A. Webb
Mrs. Karl Wyler
Mrs. Whaley
Mrs. E. A. Wilson
Mrs. G. A. Woodhouse
Mrs. Coko Wright

GLAD HAND CLASS

Honor Roll
F. F. Adair
J. W. Beland
Roy A. Buggs
E. O. Hansen
Fred Jones
Forrest Kimball
Robert Lock
W. E. Raney
Sen. F. Ray, Teacher
John Simons
T. F. Vandaman

Absent Every Sunday in April

E. O. Allen
Lamar Brascomb
Miss Belle Busbee
Ralph Cain
E. K. Hawkins
John Kerbert
Thompson Yant

The Honor Roll and List of Absentees for each month will be published in "Our Record" the first Sunday of the following month.

MOTHER'S CLASS

Honor Roll
Mrs. Selma Brough
Mrs. F. B. Brannon
Mrs. Pete
Mrs. Floyd
Mrs. L. Lunsford

GEORGE R. STUART BIBLE CLASS

Honor Roll
J. C. Adolphus
W. A. Albritton
Harry Armstrong
E. L. Baldwin
John T. Ballen
J. J. Bannmore
Bessie Bessie
S. B. Blackman
G. W. Boatwright
T. L. Brown
W. L. Burkett
L. L. Calhoun
L. M. Campbell
Barnes Chapman
W. A. Chapman
Ruth Chappell
C. R. Clingman
D. T. Coffman
John Cole
M. L. Domicilek
F. B. Dunlap
Enoch Fly
J. T. Garrigan
W. E. Geult
J. A. Gilmore
M. R. Grace
D. H. Guarrant
O. G. Halliburton
G. N. Hamilton
Ray Hanna
E. V. Heer
L. F. Hill
E. B. Hilliard
W. J. Holcombe
Wm. Hopkins
J. M. Horne
F. M. Jackson, Jr.
Lawrence Jackson
R. H. James
J. D. Johnston
E. B. Kilgore
W. D. Lanier
W. H. Leigh
U. E. Little
Hank A. Lucks, Teacher
L. M. Long
W. M. McKenna
F. W. McKeen

O. K. McLean
C. M. McMahan
Kirby McMahan
A. B. McMillen
Adger Moore
G. J. Parker
W. T. Parker
T. O. Parsons
M. J. Pearce
J. O. Pechler
P. F. Pepper
Charles Pfeister
H. M. Phillips
J. L. Pounds
Sam Simpson
E. G. Sims
J. L. Sims
A. Devey Smith
Clara Smith
J. C. Smith
J. K. Smith
J. M. Stabler
Parker St. Clair
Joe Steiner
W. S. Stephens
L. L. Stephenson, Jr.
E. C. Stewart
Sellers Stuegh
Charles Stracks
Frank Stump
D. O. Thompson
J. K. Tidwell
L. W. Towns
J. E. Vest
W. F. Walke
Sam Wall
J. L. Weaver
J. G. Wilkinson
E. A. Wilson
W. J. Wise
L. H. Wright

Absent Every Sunday in April

Hugh Adams
H. L. Ballie
K. H. Deane
R. H. Glines
M. M. Heaton
M. V. Holmes
C. L. Jones
E. H. Kay
C. K. Luteson
J. P. May
W. W. May
E. J. Moore
Homer Nelson
R. J. Owens
Carl Phillips
E. D. Radloff
H. E. Riggins
L. V. Stabler
S. D. Thurman
J. E. Watts
Karl Weber
C. B. Wilson

Present Every Sunday in 1928

J. C. Adolphus
E. L. Baldwin
John Ballen
W. L. Burkett
L. L. Calhoun
W. A. Chapman
Ruth Chappell
D. T. Coffman
F. B. Dunlap
Enoch Fly
J. A. Gilmore
G. N. Hamilton
E. V. Heer
W. J. Holcombe
U. E. Little
Sam Simpson
E. G. Sims
Clara Smith
J. C. Smith
W. S. Stephens
Charles Stracks
Frank Stump
J. E. Vest
J. L. Weaver
E. A. Wilson

MOTHER'S CLASS

Honor Roll
Mrs. Selma Sough
Mrs. F. L. Shannon
Mrs. Peter [unclear]
Mrs. Floyd Chapman
Mrs. L. Luncelord

GEORGE R. STUART BIBLE CLASS

Honor Roll

J. C. Adolphus
W. A. Albritton
Harry Armstrong
E. L. Baldwin
John T. Batten
J. J. Bazemore
Bennie Sinclair
S. B. Blackman
G. W. Boatwright
T. L. Brown
W. L. Burkett
L. L. Calhoun
L. M. Campbell
Barnes Chapman
W. A. Chapman
Ruth Chappell
C. R. Clingman
D. T. Coffman
John Cole
M. L. Dominick
F. B. Dunlap
Enoch Fly
J. T. Garrison
W. E. Gault
J. A. Gilmore
M. B. Grace
D. H. Guerrant
O. G. Halliberton
G. N. Hamilton
Roy Hanna
E. V. Heer
L. P. Hill
E. B. Hilliard
W. J. Holcombe
Wm. Hopkins
J. M. Horne
F. M. Jackson, Jr.
Lawrence Jackson

D. O. Thompson
J. K. Tidwell
L. W. Towers
J. S. Vest
W. P. Walte
Sam Wall
J. L. Weaver
J. G. Wilkinson
E. A. Wilson
W. J. Wise
L. H. Wright

Absent Every Sunday in April

Hugh Adams
H. L. Battles
R. H. Douer
J. H. Gaines
H. M. Heaton
M. V. Holmes
C. L. Jones
E. H. Kay
G. K. Letson
J. P. May
W. W. May
E. J. Moore
Homer Nelson
R. J. Owens
Carl Phillips
E. D. Ratliff
H. E. Riggins
L. V. Stabler
S. D. Thurman
J. E. Watta
Karl Weber
C. R. Wilson

Present Every Sunday in 1922

J. C. Adolphus
E. L. Baldwin
John Batten
W. L. Burkett
L. L. Calhoun
W. A. Chapman
Ruth Chappell
D. T. Coffman
F. B. Dunlap
Enoch Fly
J. A. Gilmore
G. N. Hamilton
E. V. Heer
W. J. Holcombe
H. E. Little

And Sunday school competition became increasingly ferocious. By 1941 it was take no prisoners for the Maybelle Taylor Class...



“Above will be found the picture of the members of the Maybelle Taylor Class taken Sunday, December 22nd. On this day, under the excellent leadership of Miss Anne Beddow, President, the Class made its attendance goal for the fourth consecutive Sunday. This attainment of the Permanent Honor Roll designation was achieved in the face of bad weather and the conflicts of the Holiday Season and sets a real example for all of the other classes of our Sunday School. Mrs. J. F. Oates is the teacher of this great class which is to be congratulated on the record it is making. As each class of the Sunday School reaches the Permanent Honor Roll, the picture of that Class will be taken and displayed on the bulletin board in the Educational Building. The size of the picture will be determined by the length of time required to make the goal. Mrs. J. W. DeYampert's Class of girls was the first class to be so honored. January is Goal Month for every class.”

4. Members of the award winning George R. Stuart Bible Class also knew how to have fun....they had a class Glee Club and a Men's Quartet, both of whom performed at their 1934 dinner.



Some members of the George R. Stuart Bible Class Glee Club members in the 1920's



5. We needed a Fashion Honor Roll for the officers of the Bethany Sunday School Class at their 1956 annual party!



6. At some point we had steak night!



7. We had multiple singing and performance groups....a Children's Choir, Chancel Choir, Hundred Acre Wood performers, First Stage Players....



And our Youth Choir was clearly rockin'



8. In keeping with a competitive spirit, we had a Family of the Year Award and the Malone family won a trip to Chicago, Really!



9. Vacation Bible School was a hit in 1922, 1992 and as Arts Camp in 2022!!



10. And last but not least, while not technically a Fun Fact, we have sought to be an open place for all.



An early AIDS Walk, @1985



Pride Week 2022

STORIES FROM
15 
YEARS