

# "ENGRAVED WITH LOVE: CHURCH MEMORIALS TELL THEIR STORIES"

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The History & Archives focus for the 2011 ECW Annual Meeting is church memorials. Church memorials are more than beautiful works of art or generous gifts of money. Memorials point beyond themselves – to honorees and to donors, as well. In earlier centuries memorials were often the only places, besides gravestones, where a woman's full name appeared in public.

This leaflet surveys the past and present Durham Convocation churches and includes many photos of memorials to women. For those churches where a memorial could not be identified, a list of women's names or a story is included, using information from family, clergy, ECW and Diocesan Archives, and the Internet. Some names now have stories we can begin to tell. Some names are new entries on our "might do" list. Some names are still hidden in the past, awaiting discovery.

Look around inside and outside your own church for memorial plaques, inscriptions and other markers. Look through the Memorial Book or Book of Remembrance or list of gifts. If there happens to be no memorial book or list, what a great gift you could make to your church!

Ask what stories about women your church memorials might hold. The Diocesan ECW wants to help you share these stories. You and others in your church are invited to submit brief biographical sketches for inclusion in the ECW bicentennial "naming names" project entitled "By Word & Example: Women Who Graced the Episcopal Church in North Carolina, 1817-2017". If you, or some of your fellow church members, are interested, please refer to the Guidelines & Sample Sketches on the ECW website at the following address: <http://www.ecw-nc.org/by-word-and-example/>

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**Esser Memorial Tapestry**  
**"The Flame and the Seed" honoring**  
**MARY STROTHER PARKER ESSER**  
**December 25, 1926–October 22, 2005**

**Episcopal Church of the Advocate (2003–Present)**  
**Carrboro, Orange County**

MARY STROTHER PARKER ESSER and her husband, George, were launching members of the Church of the Advocate, a mission of their church of more than 50 years, the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill. Well into her 70s, she joined this new church because she wanted it to thrive. Reaching adulthood in a time when women were not encouraged to take on leadership in the church, Mary studied theology and scripture, prayer and Church history. She was passionate about God and about compassionate justice. She helped and inspired many. She led by her presence at vigils, fundraisers, book studies and protests – quiet, good-humored, indefatigable.

The Advocate's Vicar, the Rev. Lisa Galen Fischbeck, who kindly provided this background information, is pictured celebrating the Eucharist in front of the Esser Tapestry.

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**Eagle Lectern in the Old Chapel**  
**Given by the Episcopal Diocese of**  
**North Carolina in Memory of**  
**MARY RUFFIN SMITH**

**The Chapel of the Cross (1842–Present)**  
**Chapel Hill, Orange County**

At her death MARY RUFFIN SMITH left the larger part of her Orange County land holdings to the Diocese. She also provided many gifts to the parish, and figured prominently in the story of Pauli Murray – the first black woman ordained as an Episcopal priest, and the first woman to celebrate the Holy Eucharist at Chapel of the Cross. Pauli Murray was a descendant of one of the slaves who came to church with Mary Ruffin Smith every Sunday and sat in the balcony. Research into the lives of both these women is ongoing as part of the Pauli Murray Project at the Duke Human Rights Center in Durham.

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**Memorial Window  
MARGARET HERRINGTON**

**Church of the Holy Family (1952–Present)  
Chapel Hill, Orange County**

Among her many activities at Holy Family, MARGARET HERRINGTON became an early volunteer for The Augustine Project, founded in 1994 as a parish outreach ministry to provide free literacy services to low-income children and teens. When Margaret died in December 2000, her family asked that memorial donations be made to The Augustine Project and enough came in to hire the Director, who is still on board. Each year the Margaret Herrington award recognizes outstanding Augustine volunteers who epitomize the gracious, giving spirit of the first board chair.



**ANN MARIE NEBLE NASSIF  
December 23, 1960–September 12, 2000  
Church of the Holy Family (1952–Present)  
Chapel Hill, Orange County**

ANN MARIE NEBEL NASSIF died of a brain tumor at the age of 40. She was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. William Arthur Nebel, long-time members of the Church of the Holy Family. She was a graduate of Chapel Hill High School, attended Hollins College and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was survived by her husband and two sons, her parents, and a brother. The family set up a Memorial Fund in Ann's honor to support various church projects and ministries, including the columbarium wall and renovation of the Sunday School wing.

## **CUNNINGHAM'S CHAPEL (1888–?) Cunningham Plantation, Person County**

Somewhere above Hyco Lake in the extreme northwest corner of Person County stands the site of old Cunningham's Chapel. For a few years beginning in 1888, parochial reports to the Diocesan Convention were sent in for this Chapel. The participation of women is confirmed, even if their names are not always included. According to the first report in 1888, "There are fifteen Communicants in all. We have also an interesting Sunday school, conducted by Mr. John Cunningham and his zealous and devoted sisters." The 1894 report mentions "a large Sunday-school five miles from Cunningham Depot, at the house of Colonel Cunningham, under the auspices of himself and his wife." Two years later a woman's name finally appears: "The Sunday-school is carried on with care, and intelligent efforts are used to instruct the scholars by Miss Sue S. Cunningham and Prof. L. M. Thayer, who recently came to us from Wisconsin." Is there one among you who might help locate this Chapel's site and tell us more about the Cunningham women's work on behalf of the Church?



**Silver Ciborium  
Dedicated in 1945 to the Memory of  
ROBINA LENOIR TILLINGHAST (d. 1929)  
by the St. Philip's Woman's Auxiliary**

This memorial ciborium was recently discovered in the Diocesan House sacristy closet. It was presented to Ephphatha Church for the Deaf during the ordination of James R. Fortune, son of the Rev. Roma Fortune, who served as Rector from 1930 until his death in 1942.



**Ephphatha Church for the Deaf (1930)  
Durham, Durham County**



**Agape & Power Ministry (2011)  
Old Ephphatha Church Building  
Geer & North Streets in Durham**

St. Philip's, Durham, started a ministry to the deaf in 1906, and then expanded it in 1910 by joining with the Diocesan Woman's Auxiliary to employ ROBINA LENOIR TILLINGHAST, a hearing daughter of deaf parents. Robina organized Sunday Schools for the deaf in several parishes. She also visited the sick and assisted the deaf with many problems in daily life. She left Durham in 1917, only because her aging parents needed her. According to Roma Fortune, "Her leaving us created an irreparable loss," but also precipitated his move into the ordained ministry.

The Diocesan Woman's Auxiliary pledged the initial \$3,000 for the 1930 Ephphatha Church building, which has housed various ministries since it was sold by the Diocese in 1977.



**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (1900–1995)  
El Centro Hispano (1996–1997)  
Iglesia el Buen Pastor (1998–Present)  
Durham, Durham County**

On September 25, 1998, more than 100 people gathered for the blessing and celebration of Iglesia el Buen Pastor, North Carolina's first Hispanic Episcopal Church. The church is housed in the former St. Andrew's building.



**St. John's House (1983–1993)  
702 West Cobb Street  
Durham, Durham County**

On April 7, 1985, "Peace Is Its Offering" by the late ELIZABETH (LIB) UZZELL GRIFFIN appeared in the *Durham Morning Herald*. Lib extolled the many "good things" available at St. John's House, the decade-long ministry of hospitality conducted by four members of the Society of St. John the Evangelist. Here at the invitation of Bishop Robert Estill, this regional outpost offered a place apart for prayer, corporate worship, reflection and spiritual direction to individuals in and outside the Episcopal Church. There was an open reading room, a public garden, and a gazebo for reading and reflection.

LIB GRIFFIN was an active member of St. Stephen's Church in Durham, and served as ECW publicity chairman, which included writing articles for the Diocesan newspaper. "In Praise of ECW Knee-Buddies" appeared in the April 1986 issue of *The Communicant*. After describing how she came to a new appreciation for the ECW, she lists both her "ECW Prouds" and her "ECW Sorries." Her final thought is that the ECW is a good place to grow spiritually and a good place to find your own unique ministry.



**Altar Candlesticks in Memory of  
ELIZA JANE BURCHAM (1839–1917)**

These candlesticks remain on the altar currently used by Iglesia el Buen Pastor in Durham. Another memorial that may still be in use is the Communion Paten given by Eliza Burcham in memory of her husband. It was made using some of her own melted-down silver.

When ELIZA JANE BURCHAM (Mrs. William E.) and her family moved to East Durham in the 1880s they were the only Episcopalians in that area. Not until the summer of 1900 did the rector and several members of St. Philip's Church go to East Durham to hold the first service – in a hall above the Drug Store on South Driver Avenue. The first chapel was built in 1901. Eliza Burcham played the organ from the beginning until her death in 1917.





**Good Shepherd Window  
Memorial to Joseph J. & ELVIRA H. ERWIN  
St. Joseph's Church (1908–Present)  
Durham, Durham County**

William Allen Erwin built St. Joseph's Church in 1908 as a memorial to his parents, Colonel Joseph J. and ELVIRA JANE HOLT ERWIN, of Bellevue Plantation in Burke County. Elvira was born on November 23, 1824, a daughter of Dr. William Rainey Holt of Lexington, president of North Carolina's first State Fair. She married Joseph in 1846 and had ten children. William Erwin ascribed to his mother his chief obligation for lofty ideas, aspirations and ambitions. She is described variously as a woman of fine intellect, attractive manner, great strength of character, and enriched with all the Christian graces. She died at Bellevue Plantation on August 24, 1903, after a long illness.



**Altar Cross in Memory of  
SHARON JAN WHITFIELD 1952–1975  
Given by her Family**

**Free-Standing Altar in Memory of  
BARBARA FISH SCHIEBEL 1916–1972  
Given by her husband H. Max Schiebel  
St. Luke's Church (1956–Present)  
Durham, Durham County**

The large wooden cross hanging above the altar at St. Luke's Church honors SHARON JAN WHITFIELD, who died unexpectedly and whose memory is treasured.

BARBARA FISH SCHIEBEL was one of the founding members of St. Luke's Church. According to the parish history, in 1955 Barbara joined fifteen others in signing "a declaration of intent to support a new mission for a period of one year for an as yet unnamed Episcopal congregation." Four months later she also signed the petition to Bishop Edwin A. Penick and the Standing Committee when the congregation – now named St. Luke's – applied for organized status. The central free-standing altar given in her memory keeps Barbara at the heart of parish life.



**Baptismal Font in Memory of  
CAROLINE FAITH YOUNG  
August 1996–October 1996  
Given by Frank DePasquale**

Construction on St. Luke's Church in Durham started in March 1970 and was completed in April 1971. Frank DePasquale was the architect for this building. When Frank's granddaughter, CAROLINE FAITH YOUNG, was born with a heart defect in August 1996, a faithful vigil was kept until her brief life ended. Though she never left the hospital, CAROLINE FAITH was always surrounded by the love of her family and St. Luke's.



Frank DePasquale designed this baptismal font as a memorial to CAROLINE FAITH. Three golden fish-motif pieces flare at the top to support the hand-thrown glass basin, shown above from both side and top view.

## MEMORIAL TRIBUTE IN PRINT

(From *The Carolina Churchman*, February 1918)

On Dec. 7, 1917, God in His infinite wisdom removed from our midst MRS. IDA HAUGHTON COWAN.

Resolved, That the Woman's Auxiliary by her death has lost a loyal member, always ready to do her part in the advancement of God's Kingdom. Her cheerfulness and willingness in discharging her Christian duties was an inspiration to her co-workers. She was a faithful communicant of St. Philip's Church, and was rarely absent from a church service. In her home all the virtues of Christian motherhood were exemplified. Under all circumstances an undaunted courage never failed her – striving always to instill in her children a steadfast purpose in life, and who by her strength of character endeavored to make that home an embodiment of Christian service.

### **St. Philip's Church (1880–Present) Durham, Durham County**

The Pentecost Window at St. Philip's Church was given in memory of three of IDA HAUGHTON COWAN'S children: Robert Henry Cowan (and Mabel C.), Martha Cowan Kuker and Ida Cowan. Census reports for Chatham County (1880) and Durham County (1910) list the names of all the Cowan children: Lilly, Martha, Ida, Sarah, Hortense, Robert and Lawrence. All five daughters are named in the digitized archival photo below.

[http://www.durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc/photo\\_archives/d/d196.php](http://www.durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc/photo_archives/d/d196.php)



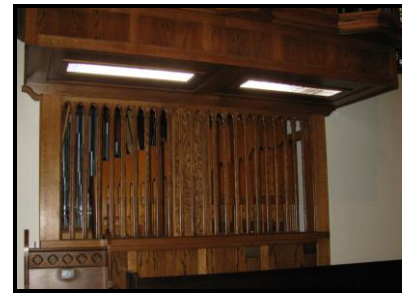
A Women's Association? ca. 1908.

Bottom row: Lily Cowan Mitchell (3<sup>rd</sup> from left)

Second row: Sara Cowan (middle)

Back row: Hortense Cowan (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Ida Cowan (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Martha Cowan Kuker (2<sup>nd</sup> from right)

IDA COWAN's gravestone in Maplewood Cemetery (see [cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem058c.htm](http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem058c.htm)) includes the following information: Daughter of Lawrence and Martha Harris Haughton; Born November 22, 1852, in Gulf; Died December 7, 1917, in Durham. The entry below for St. Mark's Church in Gulf offers some Lawrence family and Episcopal Church connections.



**Zymbelstern**

**To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
JANE COWAN ALEXANDER  
(February 3, 1923–December 23, 1988)  
by the Members of her Bridge Club**

**St. Philip's Church (1880–Present)  
Durham, Durham County**

JANE COWAN ALEXANDER was an active member of the Woman's Auxiliary and Episcopal Church Women at St. Philip's Church. The members of her bridge club may have considered Jane a lively addition to their group, just like the Zymbelstern, which adds those special bell sounds to the organ music. Another memorial that honors Jane's memory is the gold and silver chalice given by her husband, Stewart Parks Alexander, Jr.



**Miniature Flentrop Organ**



**Mayflower Cushion**

**This Chapel is Given to the Glory of God  
and in Loving Memory of  
DOROTHY FOSTER TEER  
October 31, 1909 – May 29, 1976**

**St. Stephen's Church (1959–Present)  
Durham, Durham County**

In the June 2009 issue of "St. Stephen's Window," M. Page Teer wrote about her mother and the Teer Chapel. "Mom and Dad were both early promoters of a "mission" in Hope Valley. Upon Mother's passing Dad provided



the Dorothy Teer Chapel in 1977 in her memory – for its much needed serenity and early morning light.

The “kneeling cushions” of Mother’s chapel are by her loving family in needlepoint – note the small initials of each on their sides. Bee Hive, it’s likeness to the “home” of a very busy family set on her kitchen counter top...Little Girl with frog, her much loved fountain statue...Pascal Lamb, forever worrying about her family flock...Mayflower Ship, she was Governor of the North Carolina society...The other two pillows represent the crests of St. Stephen’s and the Episcopal Church. When all was complete someone asked Dad "Where’s the organ?" After a little scrambling a miniature Flentrop appeared."

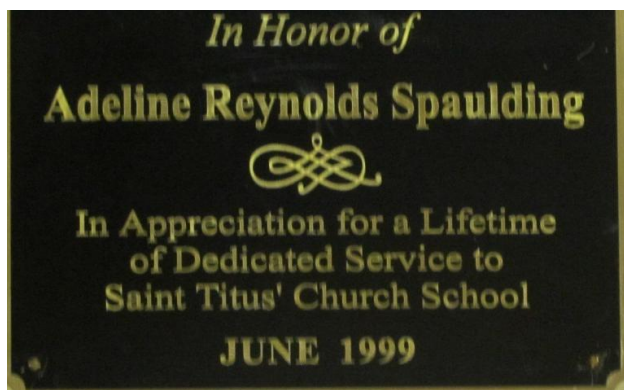


#### **STILL HONORING SCOTT EVANS HUGHES**

**St. Stephen's Church (1959–Present)  
Durham, Durham County**

On November 10, 1996 the Environmental Stewardship Ministry of St. Stephen’s, Durham, presented Scott Evans with a certificate recognizing her enduring commitment to caring for God’s creation. Three dogwood trees were planted in her honor alongside the Parish Hall. Pictured with Scott (holding plaque) are the Rev. Samuel Mason, Rector, Richard Clark and Martha Brimm, co-chairs of the Environmental Stewardship Ministry. Scott recently reported that two of the dogwoods are still alive!

Judy White, Altar Guild Chair at St. Stephen's, provided a "List of Memorials in Women's Names" with 25 entries, including the three Dogwood Trees and the Teer Chapel.



**St. Titus' Church (1885–Present)  
Durham, Durham County**

Mary Hawkins provided a wealth of information about women who have been honored at St. Titus' Church. Among these women are three honored with plaques outside different Sunday School rooms in the Bishop Henry Beard Delany Educational Building. Pictured here is the plaque for ADELINE REYNOLDS SPAULDING. The other two are memorial plaques: VIOLA G. TURNER, 1900-1988 and PAULINE F. NEWTON, 1900-1991.



The Altar Frontal was designed and donated by an active St. Titus' parishioner, Marjorie Freeman, who also contributed to the Official North Carolina University Centennial Quilt in 2010 and the Obama Quilt Collection in 2008.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE IN 1904 PAROCHIAL REPORT  
The Rev. Francis W. Hilliard, Principal of the Hilliard School,  
Oxford, and Minister-in-Charge, St. Paul's, Goshen

*"The death reported was that of MISS LUCY THORP, aged 80 years. The honor, reverence and love of the congregation of Goshen, and that of Stovall also, may be said to have centered at the ancestral home, where she presided, living alone for some years. Her delight was in receiving those who had worshipped in the church, and especially the bishop and his clergy, with gracious welcome and hospitable entertainment. Her greatest delight was herself to join in the service of the church, and to be doing and giving to promote its welfare. It was her chief care in life and in death."*

**LUCY JANE THORP  
July 16, 1823–November 27, 1903  
St. Paul's Church (1893–1925)  
Goshen, Granville County**

At the time of MISS LUCY'S death, membership at St. Paul's was only 11. During the next two decades the numbers continued to decline. In a letter of November 20, 1935, Bishop Edwin A. Penick explained that "services have not been held in this church for ten years and practically all of the Episcopalians formerly connected with it have either died or moved away. Archdeacon Bethea attempted to maintain services there but the new highway was routed without reference to old roads and the church building was left stranded out in the woods."



### **Gifts of the Magi Window**

**Originally in Salem Chapel (1827)**

**Fairntosh Plantation, Durham County**

**Now at St. Matthew's Church, Hillsborough**

In 1975 Elizabeth Labouisse Wright, the great-great-granddaughter of Judge Duncan Cameron, gave this central panel of a triptych window to St. Matthew's Church in Hillsborough, and the side panels to Lebanon Chapel in Wilmington. The windows were from Salem Chapel at Fairntosh Plantation in northern Durham County (eastern Orange County until 1881).



### **Salem Chapel, Fairntosh Plantation**

(This framed photo at the Stagville Visitors Center shows part of the Triptych Window at far right)

Bishop John Stark Ravenscroft consecrated Salem Chapel on October 7, 1827. It was built by Judge Duncan Cameron for his family and that of his father-in-law, Richard Benahan, and for the large enslaved population on their plantations. Known as Stagville, the Benahan plantation is now owned by the state and operated as an educational center. The Cameron home was Fairntosh, which is now owned by Terry Sanford, Jr., and is not open to the public.

From manuscript copy of "St. Mark's Church in The Gulf"  
by Sadie Root Robards, 1942

*The little building, square, white upon a hillock, is an inspiration to the passerby or to any who troubles himself to wander out of his way to visit the tiny sacred edifice. The shingled roof of the building, bearing aloft a miniature spire surmounted by a cross, points to a mundane world, the glories beyond.*

*It is St. Mark's Episcopal Church at "The Gulf" as the ancient little village is known and it comprises all that was considered necessary to churches of its day. It is set in God's Acre and many marble shafts are mute signs to the faithful who worshipped there, many of whom were those who owned plantations up and down Deep River.*

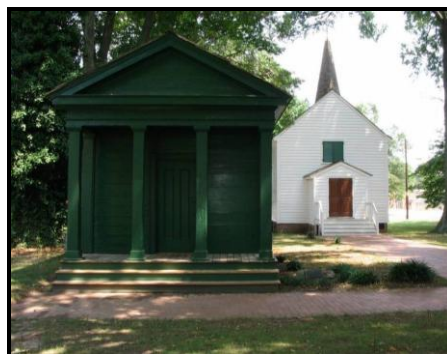
*Much history of the people is written into these stones. Of special interest is the granite shaft to John Haughton, builder of the church . . . By his side, to the right, the stone to the memory of his wife Mary R. who died in '65 . . .*

*The most elaborate monument of the church cemetery is to the memory of Parmelia, wife of John M. McIver, age 27, and to her three unnamed babes. The generosity of the village people is read on the headstone of Lemuel Colbourn who though a stranger, was nursed by them in the fearful, contagious typhoid and finally at his death they not only gave him a "decent burial" but erected a marker at his grave although there was little they knew but his name.*

### **St. Mark's Church (1847–1980)**

#### **Gulf & Siler City, Chatham County**

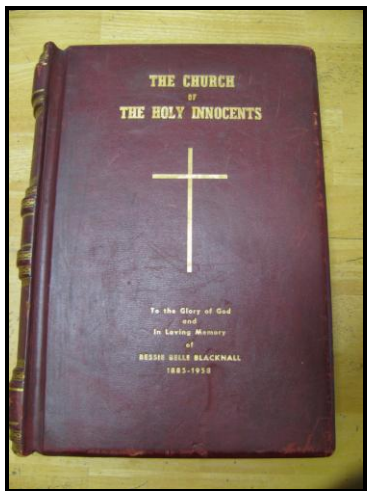
Built by John Haughton in 1847, St. Mark's began as a private church. It remained in the Haughton family until 1878, when Lawrence Haughton deeded the property to the Diocese of North Carolina. In the twentieth century people moved away. The last service in Gulf was a funeral in 1934. Bishop Edwin A. Penick de-consecrated the little building in 1953. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mason headed a small group that reconstructed the building for use in Siler City, and Bishop Baker re-consecrated it in 1957. Another period of dwindling membership left the unused building in a state of disrepair.



### **Photo from Mordecai Historic Park Website**

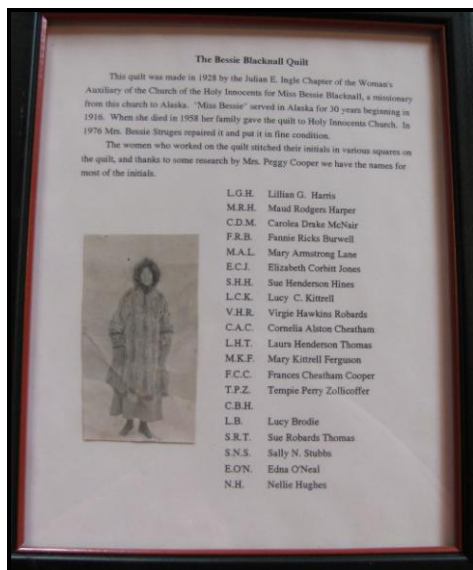
In 1979 the Diocese of North Carolina deeded the St. Mark's Church building to the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission. After a miraculous move from Siler City it was restored on the grounds of Mordecai Historic Park near downtown Raleigh where it is open to the public.





**To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
BESSIE BELLE BLACKNALL  
1885-1958  
Church of the Holy Innocents (1842-Present)  
Henderson, Vance County**

This embossed leather Book of Remembrance honors BESSIE BELLE BLACKNALL of Holy Innocents, Henderson. When the Diocesan Women's Auxiliary sponsored a Missionary Institute at Holy Innocents in 1914, Bessie attended and was inspired to volunteer for an assignment in Alaska, where she spent the next three decades in dedicated service.



Bessie's dedication inspired twenty members of the Julian E. Ingle Branch of the parish Woman's Auxiliary to honor her with a crazy quilt, stitched with their initials and sent with love to St. Mark's Mission in Nenana, Alaska. When Bessie finally returned home she donated the quilt to the church, where today it awaits preservation and display. A framed document in the Parish Hall pictures Bessie in native Alaskan dress, alongside a list of most of the names that coincide with the initials embroidered on the quilt.



**ELLEN D. COOPER  
St. John's Parish House  
A Memorial to Her Husband  
St. John's Church (1908-Present)  
Henderson, Vance County**



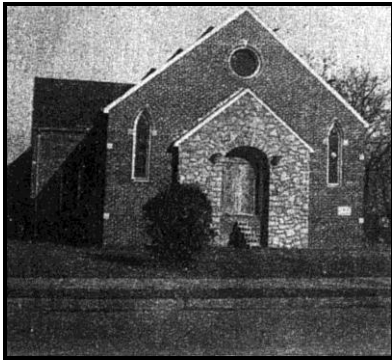
**MISS ELLEN and the Rev. Karl Garrison**

On a wall inside the Parish House, below the memorial plaque, is this photograph, accompanied by the following tribute: "In 1922 MISS ELLEN built the Parish House in memory of her husband who had died that year. It has since served as a center for community activities as well as church functions. In 1969 the Parish House was newly bricked and modernized from trust funds left by MISS ELLEN for the continued operation and maintenance of the Parish House. In 2003 it was again re-furbished with the proceeds from this trust fund."

"In 1969, Mrs. Mae Renn described MISS ELLEN as 'a noble Christian lady [who] based her life on the precept 'let your light so shine.' That the church carries on the Christian work it was dedicated for will ever attest to the fact that 'MISS ELLEN'S light continues to shine' after death."

In her history of St John's, Helen B. Pegram wrote, "Probably the most beloved teacher and individual who came to us from The Church of the Holy Innocents was MRS. ELLEN D. COOPER.





**Church of the Resurrection (1910-1964)  
Henderson, Vance County**

In the summer of 1910 a lay missionary found one black communicant in Henderson. By 1912 the people were able to have two services a month. Holy Innocents offered their old building in 1921, and it was dismantled and moved to the Mission of the Resurrection. By 1947 this building had deteriorated and the congregation was discouraged. Some hope revived with a new building program in the early 1950s. However, the mission joined others in closing during the Civil Rights era.

The Annual Reports of the Woman's Auxiliary and Episcopal Church Women indicate a large and active branch at the Church of the Resurrection until the 1960s. A 1927 report noted the organization of young people into working groups. "The girls meet for sewing and the study of missions. This branch has sent \$7 for the Corporate Gift and \$2 for other Auxiliary work." The last list of ECW officers before the church closed was in 1963: Mrs. Delia Davis, Mrs. Mary Henderson, Mrs. H. T. Barnes, Mrs. James Scott, and Mrs. Jennie Taylor. Jennie Taylor appears on every list of officers since regular publication began for the Negro District in 1935. Her last address as "Christian Education" was General Delivery.

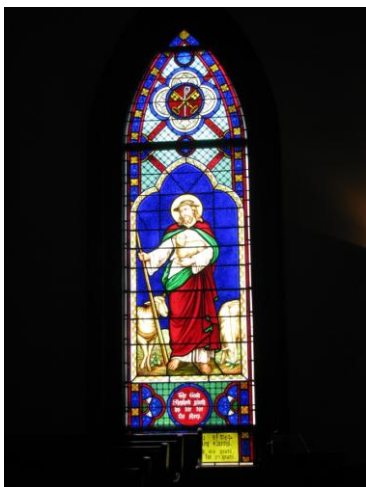
Ever faithful to the latest church fashions, the LADIES' SEWING SOCIETY recorded a decision to have Miss Patty Ruffin and Miss Rebecca Hill talk with Mr. Cheshire of Tarboro about painted windows. The Ladies wondered how colored windows would look, and if they would like them. They conceived a plan to paint the windows blue and white. Obviously, they must have liked the effect because they proceeded to raise the money for the addition of colored glass windows.

In April 1872 their beloved rector, Dr. Curtis, died suddenly. Their Minutes reflected their sorrow, and their decision that they must work for, or obtain by self-denial, the amount of \$5.00 each to erect a monument for him. Miss Lizzie Jones, President of the Society, communicated with the Curtis family about the window. By August 1872 arrangements were underway for the purchase of a set of windows made by Henry Sharp of New York. The Good Shepherd – or "Christ in a Hat" – Window pictured above was their memorial, dedicated in 1872, to the memory of Moses Ashley Curtis.

In 2007 the Good Shepherd window was removed for restoration, making it fit the original opening. It was re-leaded and reinstalled in March 2008.



**Who was MARGARET PEACE?  
St. James' Church (c. 1850–Present)  
Kittrell, Vance County**



**Good Shepherd Window  
Given by the Ladies Sewing Society  
as a Memorial to Moses Ashley Curtis  
St. Matthew's Church (1825–Present)  
Hillsborough, Orange County**

Female benefactors were vital to the building and beautification of most of our churches. Sometimes they were named in official reports, but usually they remained anonymous, as in this 1893 parochial report for St. James' Church in Kittrell: "Since the last report we have had some additions to our church furniture, a richly carved Eagle-lectern has been given by one of our most zealous church women, and a hymn-board by a lady of Newton, Massachusetts, also a Prayer-book by a Boston lady." No doubt the "ladies" from the North were in the area to enjoy the popular Kittrell Springs resort.

Another interesting bit from the 1896 Parochial Report for St. James' actually mentions a woman's name: "One of the most hopeful features of the Church's work in this Parish is the Mission for white and colored people in the vicinity of Fairport, where, through the indefatigable energy of a small band of Church people, we have gathered a good congregation and have established two growing Sunday-schools, and are going on slowly to gather the material of money and lumber to build a chapel on two acres of land donated by MISS MARGARET PEACE. This point is nearly central in an equilateral quadrangle with Oxford, Henderson, Franklinton and Kittrell, about equally removed from Fairport. It is proposed to build a church not far away from the spot where, long years ago, the old St. James' Church stood."

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**VIVIAN MANN EDWARDS**  
**March 4, 1935–December 27, 2010**

**The Church of the Heavenly Rest (1884–1946)**  
**Middleburg, Vance County**

We call on VIVIAN EDWARDS to represent The Church of the Heavenly Rest in Middleburg. This church closed years ago, and later the building burned down. Vivian was curious about the church that was part of the history where she had served as Mayor. Several times when she came to Diocesan House for altar duty, Vivian asked about Heavenly Rest. We looked through old parochial reports and discovered the Rev. William S. Pettigrew first holding a service on May 21, 1882, "at the request of the Episcopalians and other persons in and near Middleburg." Vivian knew how she had heard it told, "A woman living in Middleburg wanted a church there and she got it!"

Leigh Edwards, one of Vivian's daughters, provided the photo and this information. VIVIAN MANN EDWARDS was the daughter of the late John Edward Mann, Sr., and Helen Clopton Melton. Helen's family helped found St. John's Church in Henderson, where Vivian's family is still active. Vivian was retired from Harriet & Henderson Yarns Inc. While still working, and for many years after, she also served as Mayor of the Town of Middleburg. In addition to her community involvement, she was a choir member, Vestry member and Treasurer of St. John's Church, and served as Altar Guild Chair and Executive Board Member for the Diocesan ECW.

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**St. Mary's Chapel (1759–1939)**  
**Eastern Orange County**  
**MARY (POLLY) CAIN SUTHERLAND WHITE**  
**February 1793–May 1871**

According to our Diocesan Historiographer, the Rev. Brooks Graebner, POLLY CAIN WHITE is responsible for the purchase of the eight acres of land, which expanded the original chapel holdings and allowed for building a new chapel on top of the hill. She was also the chief contributor to the fund for building the new chapel, which was erected in 1858/59 and dedicated by Bishop Atkinson in November 1859. Her plantation was located just up St. Mary's Road toward Stagville. Known as Hardscrabble, it is now an upscale housing development.

Polly recently popped up in a local online news story: "POLLY CAIN WHITE has built the chapel twice," Larry Roberts, chair of the St. Mary's Restoration Committee, said. "She's built the chapel twice. First with the money to build it, then second with the brick to save it. . . . It's a fairly significant project on a very historical chapel here in North Carolina. The heart of the project was restoring the brick because it was deteriorating. We were afraid the chapel was going to fall apart." . . . Just when the search for a company willing to replicate the bricks seemed futile, a member of the community mentioned a history recollection about the White estate being built with bricks fired from the same kiln in 1859 as St. Mary's. "Wayne (Walker) went up into the woods, where he thought the house used to be, and found the remains of an old foundation with the brick, picked it apart, cleaned it up and they were replaced in this building because they were made at the same time." (Erin Wiltgen, Alamance-Caswell-Orange News, Sept. 8, 2001, aconews.com)

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**Christ Church (1893–1974)  
Milton, Caswell County**

At the corner of Broad and Academy Streets in Milton stands an obvious church building with a small sign in front identifying it as the "Woman's Club of Milton". To date we have not identified any memorials, but a survey of the Annual Reports of the Diocesan Woman's Auxiliary documents a stable and faithful group of women who maintained a local branch from 1925 to 1940: Mrs. B. S. Graves, Mrs. Belle Taylor, Miss Belle Cunningham, Mrs. E. D. Winstead, Mrs. H. C. Chalmers, Mrs. J. W. Moore, Mrs. G. L. Cunningham and Miss May Hairston.

No other names were found until the late 1960s. These turned up in the Christ Church box of the Diocesan Closed Church files. Women involved in various parish meetings included: Willie Henser Kilby (Mrs. Virginius Claiborne), Louise Connolly Cunningham (Mrs. William Murray), Mrs. Taylor McSherr, Mrs. W. H. R. Jackson (wife of the Rector), and Dee Moore (Mrs. Lindsey L.) In 1969, church treasurer Louise Cunningham received an acknowledgement from the Episcopal Churchwomen for a recent contribution for missionary support. A few additional names can be found in the Parish Register covering the years 1950 to 1974, when the last service was held on Palm Sunday: Margaret P. Moore (Mrs. John W.), Mrs. Lyndon L. Whitlock, Jr. and Mrs. J. Warner Moore.

We sent an e-mail request for information to the Woman's Club, but have not yet heard back. It's nice to imagine that the last members of Christ Church had something to do with the preservation of their church by entrusting it to the local Woman's Club.

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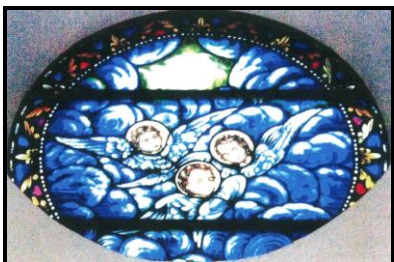
**Memorial Candelabra & Plaque  
MRS. ELISABETH RIDLEY CHAVIS  
September 10, 1905–August 14, 1995  
St. Cyprian's Church (1903–Present)  
Oxford, Granville County**

Dr. Helen Chavis Othow of Oxford has graciously contributed biographical information about her mother. ELISABETH RIDLEY CHAVIS was a native of Oxford, the next to the youngest of ten children. Her marriage to Benjamin F. Chavis, Sr. was blessed with three daughters and a son. She attended the public schools of Granville County and was a graduate of Mary Potter High School. She earned both Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees from North Carolina College in Durham, and attended the New York School of Social Science and Columbia University. While serving for thirty-five years as a teacher in Oxford and Granville County, she also was a devoted member of St. Cyprian's Church, a Sunday School teacher, President of the Women's Auxiliary and later a member of the Episcopal Church Women. She also was a reporter from the Oxford Chapter of the Women's Auxiliary to the *North Carolina Churchman*.

During the struggle for the freedom of the Wilmington Ten of North Carolina, Elisabeth Chavis spoke on behalf of freedom and justice for her son, the Rev. Ben Chavis, Jr., and the other nine members. They were all acquitted in 1980 because their civil rights had been violated.

Elisabeth and her husband reared their children in a Christian home, teaching them to be God-fearing and to love their neighbors as themselves. She was very supportive of her husband as they worked together in many child-caring institutions: Morrison Training School in Hoffman, North Carolina; Memorial Industrial School in Winston-Salem; and Jenkins Orphanage in Charleston, South Carolina.

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**The Round Window Above the Altar**



**Plaque for The Round Window  
St. Stephen's Church (1823–Present)  
Oxford, Granville County**

This is the largest plaque seen on our tour of Durham Convocation churches. It also has the most number of women's names on it – 24! The inscription reads: "Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of" followed by the full name and dates for each woman. In the recently published book, *The Stained Glass Windows in St. Stephen's Church*, all the names and dates are included, along with an extended version of the dedication and the words of the inscription across the bottom: "O Lamb of God, Redeemer Blest, Grant them Eternal Light and Rest." This list offers an excellent starting point for many stories.



**Alms Basin Given by  
THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY**

This Alms Basin at St. Stephen's Church is the only gift from a JUNIOR AUXILIARY that we have found on display. During the heyday of the Junior Auxiliary, between 1892 and 1920, many parishes sponsored branches for their younger girls. Like the Woman's Auxiliary, the girls studied foreign missions and supported foreign, domestic, diocesan and parish projects. Periodically, they also raised money on their own in order to give special items to their churches.



**Ave Maria Grati Memorial Window  
ELIZA COMERFORD LUTTERLOH  
April 1794–February 1875**

**St. Bartholomew's Church (1833–Present)  
Pittsboro, Chatham County**

As a young woman Eliza Comerford of Wilmington visited the home of Col. Edward Jones at Rock Rest near Pittsboro. In 1913 she married Charles Lutterloh, whose place adjoined Rock Rest. Bishop Ives confirmed Eliza in 1831 in the Methodist Church, while St. Bartholomew's was being built. Hers was the first confirmation recorded in the Parish Register.

A faded document now part of the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill recounts some of Eliza's early experiences. Unsigned and undated, the papers seem to be a memoir written for her son, Washington Lutterloh.

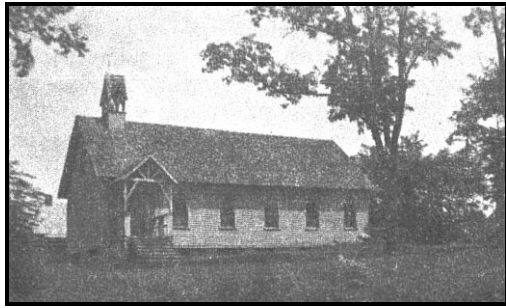
Jane Pyle, a member of the Chatham County Historical Association, transcribed the memoir and edited an article for *The Chatham Historical Journal* (2006). According to Jane, "It reads like a soap opera with no ending."

The following excerpts from Part I of the article include the original spellings, usage and markings, along with the editor's additions in brackets.

*I will remember the day I arrived at Mr. Jones's[.] I had in a few days to undergo a kind of examination, wheather I could read or sew or do any other useful work I answered in a way that astonished them all so that I was formally installed in the Office of house-keeper and seamstress and you may safely believe that I worked as Steadily and as faithfully as many grown persons, there were some young Ladies, nieces of the Jones's staying at that house at [that] time and indeed others at different times[.] The Misses deBernier very delightful young Ladies very kind and even affectionate to me. I loved them very much[.] they were highly educated and of the most delicate and refined manners and deportment.*

*I soon found that I was not a favorite with the heads of the family[.] they always treated me us as if we were inferior[.] seldom speaking to me but with most decided authority quite regardless of feeling or compassion.*





**St. James' Church (1879–1967)**  
**Pittsboro, Chatham County**

The Vestry of St. Bartholomew's, Pittsboro, established a mission and school for blacks in 1879. After almost nine decades of struggle to keep priests and parishioners, St. James closed its doors and was de-consecrated in 1968. The building was later demolished. Among the women's names associated with St. James is Mrs. Carrie W. Green, a teacher who came to the parochial school in 1901. How long she stayed is not known.

A small, but faithful, group of women served as ECW branch officers for St. James between 1935 and 1953. Their names provide a starting place for further research: Mrs. Rebecca Glover, Louisa Harris, Mrs. Ruth Horton, Mrs. Emma Jeffreys, Carolyn Quince, Martha Quince, Mrs. Mildred Sanders, Mrs. Feriba Waddell, Moleta Waddell, Mildred Wadell, and Minnie Wadell.



**Burruss House**  
**Honoring Tucker & NANCY BURRUSS**  
**St. Mark's Church (1920–Present)**  
**Roxboro, Person County**

In 1999 St. Mark's purchased a house on the north side of the parking lot so that more space would be available for outreach. The Vestry voted in 2002 to name the "new" house in honor of faithful members NANCY BURRUSS her husband, the late Tucker Burruss. A long process of renovation, with help from a 2004 Diocesan grant, equipped the house as meeting space for community groups, including many 12-step groups. Beginning in 2008, it has been headquarters for the local Habitat for Humanity office.

Nancy's daughter, Jane Clayton of Raleigh, was delighted to share some of her mother's story. NANCY BRADSHAW BURRUSS, a Roxboro native, grew up in the Roxboro Baptist Church. Tucker Burruss, who grew up in The

Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh, met Nancy on a blind date while she was a student at Meredith College. The couple made Roxboro their home and became active at St. Mark's Church in the early 1940s. Their numerous responsibilities in the congregation are indicative of a small mission where everyone must step up. Over the years Nancy led the Altar Guild, ECW, served on the Vestry, chaired various outreach committees, organized receptions and participated in bazaars and fund raising activities of all types. Her warmth and friendliness made her a natural greeter for church visitors. Nancy's professional career included both teaching and working as a geriatric social worker. Tucker died in January 2011. Nancy continues to attend church faithfully and joyfully, grateful for the role St. Mark's has played in her life.



**St. Simeon's Mission (1898–1968)**  
**Satterwhite, Granville County**

(1903 photo from the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Book of St. Cyprian's, Oxford)

In his 1897 address to Diocesan Convention Bishop Joseph B. Cheshire reported meeting with "a number of colored people with reference to the establishment of a mission for them near Goshen, Granville County." In the parochial reports for 1898 a Mission (colored) is listed in Satterwhite with this description: "This church had its beginning about one year ago. We have not named it. We have the Archdeacon or a Minister every month. It is one of the best fields to work up in the State." For several years a lay missionary and his wife led the congregation. By 1903 the mission became known as St. Simeon's. Benjamin Thorp gave the site on which a chapel was built in 1906, and he also donated land for a cemetery. The church building burned to the ground during the racial unrest in Oxford in the early 1970s. The cemetery is still being used today. Perhaps it could be located to see if any gravestones have legible names.



### **Honoring the Last Four Members**

**IDA JACKSON THROP**

**LUCY T. MORTON**

**IRMA S. BIGGER**

**NANCY GREGORY SHANK**

**St. Peter's Church (1880–1970)**

**Stovall, Granville County**

St. Peter's, Stovall, is first mentioned in the Diocesan Journal in 1891, although land for a church had been deeded to the Trustees back in 1879. St. Peter's shared the same priests who served St. Paul's, Goshen. The members in Stovall sent Bishop Joseph B. Cheshire a Petition of Organization dated May 31, 1902, signed by the following: Mrs. Bettie T. Gregory, Miss Mary Eliza Gregory, Ella A. Gregory & Herbert Gregory, Lucy G. Lewis, Samuel Jefferson Currin, Richard Thorpe Gregory, and Mark Alexander Gregory. Bishop Joseph B. Cheshire consecrated the church on November 30, 1902.

Never very large, St. Peter's declined in membership until it was closed and de-consecrated in 1970. Possibly related to the founding members, the last four members before it closed were: IDA JACKSON THORP (Mrs. Benjamin Person), LUCY T. MORTON (Mrs. John Gregory), IRMA S. BIGGER (Mrs. D. J.), and NANCY GREGORY SHANK (Mrs. Paul. W.). Nancy Shank bought the St. Peter's church building from the Diocese on April 15, 1971. In 2006 Lucy Bode of Raleigh, who grew up in Oxford, bought the building from Nancy Shank and uses it occasionally for special events.



**Historic Holy Trinity Church (1913–1998)**  
**Townsville, Vance County**

A good example of a family member being a font of information about Episcopal church women is Olivia Taylor Feduccia. Olivia has deep roots in Vance County and chairs the Diocesan Historic Church Committee for Holy Trinity Church, Townsville, and serves on the Committee for Historic St. John's Church, Williamsboro. She contributed the following stories and photographs of her grandmother, ALLENE TAYLOR HARGROVE (Holy Trinity, Townsville), and her great aunt, ELIZABETH (BETTIE) THOMAS WILSON (St. John's, Williamsboro).



**ALLENE HARGROVE TAYLOR &**

**Edward Osborne Taylor (1896 photo)**

**Baby Thomas died shortly after photo, Robert Bellamy (lower center), Olivia, Charlie & Louis**

A memorial window at Holy Trinity, Townsville, honors the life and legacy of ALLENE HARGROVE TAYLOR. A dream came true for her when the church was built in 1915. She was born in 1858, the daughter of Col. John and Mary Grist Hargrove, of Hibernia Plantation in what is now northern Vance County. The family attended St. Luke's in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, and St. John's in Williamsboro, North Carolina.

In 1878 Allene married Edward Osborne Taylor and moved to Machpelah Plantation in Townsville. Eight children were born to them and Christian values were the focal point of the home. But it was no easy feat to bundle the children into a buggy and get them to St. John's, five miles away, or to St. Luke's, several miles in the other direction.

Townsville was waxing and Williamsboro was waning. Allene began to dream of Holy Trinity. There were several Episcopal families in Townsville and they joined together to build the church. Allene's brother Charles and sisters Mollie and Olivia donated the land. Edward Taylor was brought up in the Methodist Church but he embraced his wife's dream. He supervised the construction of Holy Trinity, riding down every day on "Dan", his horse. For his efforts, the new congregation presented him with an ebony cane.





**Tombstone in Holy Trinity Churchyard**

**ALLENE HARGROVE**

**Wife of E. O. Taylor**

**Sept. 17, 1858 – Nov. 19, 1925**

**“Her life was a light that  
ever pointed to the lamb of God.”**

Holy Trinity was thriving when Allene died in 1925. She left a letter to her children instructing her daughters to “...keep the Auxiliary going & keep the same basket of scraps going the best you can.” Her message to all her children was “...love each other...be true & just in all your dealings – be noble Christians...be true to your Church & work for it – let it ever be a shining star in your life & lead you to the beautiful home over there.”



**Memorial Pulpit**

**To the Glory of God and in Memory of  
BETTIE THOMAS WILSON 1854-1940**

**Wife of Dr. William Wilson**

**Historic St. John's Church (1772–c. 1900)  
Williamsboro, Vance County**

ELIZABETH AMANDA "BETTIE" THOMAS was born in 1854, one of fourteen children of Annie Bannerman Bullock Thomas and John Taylor Thomas of Bloomsbury Plantation, near Williamsboro. The family attended nearby St. John's Episcopal Church. In the 1870s Bettie married Dr. William Reed Wilson and moved to Dallas, Texas.

For the rest of her life, through frequent correspondence and periodic visits, BETTIE kept close ties with her North Carolina family. She instilled in her children a sense of their North Carolina heritage. Several years after her death in 1940, Bettie's daughter, Annie Wilson Skillern, came from Dallas to visit her cousins near Williamsboro. It was October 1954, just after Hurricane Hazel had devastated the area, and her hosts were without electricity or running water. Nevertheless, “Cousin Annie” enjoyed re-connecting with her kinfolds and seeing her mother's childhood home, which had remained in the family. At that time old St. John's Church was undergoing a complete restoration. A donation was needed to replace the original wine-glass-shaped pulpit. Annie Wilson Skillern saw the perfect opportunity to honor her mother. The beautiful reproduction pulpit stands today in St. John's in her memory.



**Memorial Box Pew**

**To the Glory of God and in Memory of  
ISABELLA BURNS BULLOCK 1846-1926  
ANNIE LAWRENCE BULLOCK 1885-1953  
LILIAN BURNS BULLOCK 1901-1932**

**Historic St. John's Church (1772–c. 1900)  
Williamsboro, Vance County**

For many years Mary Ann B. Evans has served on the Diocesan Historic Church Committee for St. John's in Williamsboro. She lives nearby and grew up with many stories about "Mama's church." This box pew honors three of Mary Ann's relatives: her grandmother, ISABELLA BURNS BULLOCK (remembered as "Mama"), her aunt, ANNIE LAWRENCE BULLOCK (called Laurie), and her

mother, LILIAN BURNS BULLOCK. Laurie and Lilian were two of twelve children, and when Lilian was born Isabella was in her 50s. These two daughters were chosen to be honored with their mother because they died before the restoration of St. Johns was completed in 1956.

ISABELLA BURNS BULLOCK was a daughter of Mary Hope Burns and John Henry Bullock of Warren County. In 1867 she married her third cousin, Richard Austin Bullock, of Cedar Walk in Williamsboro, and they moved into Montpelier, the former home of Colonial Judge John Williams. Except for a ten-year residence in Henderson in the late 1800's, they lived at Montpelier with their large family. Like two of her sisters, Annie Bannerman Bullock Thomas and Mary Euphemia Bullock, Isabella was a devoted life-long member of St. Johns Church.

Historic St. John's is the only colonial Anglican church building in this Diocese and the oldest frame church still standing in the state. After a multi-year fundraising campaign the building was restored to its original appearance and re-consecrated in 1956. St. John's is open for visitors on Ascension Day, for Homecoming on the second Sunday in October, and for a candlelight service on the Sunday before Christmas – this year's date is December 18 at 5:00 pm.

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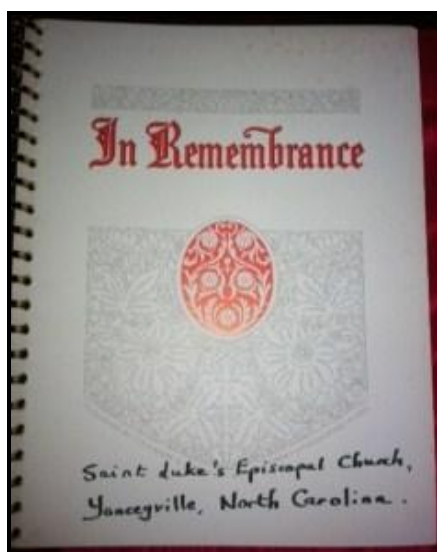
**Quartz Clock  
Given to the Glory of God and  
in Loving Memory of  
DOROTHY RUTH WOOD  
By Her Brother**



**Baptismal Font in Memory of  
LOUISE M. HOMEWOOD**

One reference found on the Internet indicates that LOUISE M. HOMEWOOD may have been a Caswell County Home Demonstration Agent. A research request for information about her has been made to the Caswell County Historical Association.

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**Book of Remembrance  
St. Luke's Church (1949–Present)  
Yanceyville, Caswell County**

The Rev. Wheigar Bright, Vicar of St. Luke's, found this book in a partitioned-off front section of the church. Among the memorials listed are several to women, including a gift of money in 1991 from the Woman's Club of Milton as a memorial for HAZEL MOORE. Other memorials include the quartz wall clock and ornate wooden baptismal font pictured here.