

Stories of Northside

Community Building during Northside's First Years

Compiled from the Fellowship Class Scrapbook 1950–56 and the W.S.C.S. Scrapbook 1951–52

“The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

Northside's early years are marked by a heart of discipleship and community. Having gone from 23 to 294 members in less than two years, the new church plant was thriving. And all this despite having no place of their own to call home! Northside's first worship service was held at Northside High School on November 12, 1950. Members continued to meet there until November 1952. But the lack of a central location did not stop these folks from forming small groups and dedicating themselves to both service and the study of Scripture. The church was simply the people gathered together in God's holy name.

Countless scrapbooks meticulously put together by church members over the years provide testimony to the leadership and administrative work done to foster community. Two notable groups formed within Northside's first year are the Adult Bible Class and the Women's Society of Christian Service, formed in November 1950 and January 1951, respectively.

Whether the faces and names you see listed here are familiar or foreign to you, know that they represent a legacy that has been laid. These dedicated folks are part of the prevenient grace that has paved the way for the discipleship that forms our church today.

Respass Chatfield (pictured to the right) was the first president of the Adult Bible Class, serving from 1951 to 1953. The group was organized in November of 1950, and

they met in the Music Room of Northside High School until Northside's educational building was completed. The name of the group was later changed to "Fellowship Bible Class" and quickly grew from a membership of one to 150.



Adult Bible Class Officers:

President: Respass M. Chatfield
Vice President: Paul M. McLarty
Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Paul Wilson
Leader Section A: Mrs. Oliver Allen
Leader Section B: Mrs. Robert Black
Pianist: Mrs. H. S. McCurry

Adult Bible Class Committees:

Worship

Henry Reid, Chm.
Mrs. James E. Dickey
Cecil Barr
H. S. McCurry

Membership

Lee Turman, Chm.
Mrs. Paul Wilson
Mrs. J. O. Conley
Mrs. F. W. Wyant
Mrs. Ellis Bryant
Mrs. L. A. Bratton

Entertainment

Mrs. Russell Bridges, Jr. Chm.
Mrs. Robert Ford
Mrs. Albert Quillian
Mrs. H.S. McCurry
Russell Bobbitt
L. A. Bratton

Music

Robert Black, Chm.
Mrs. H. S. McCurry
Mrs. Paul McLarty
Robert Chambers
Albert Quillian

Attendance

Mrs. Oliver Allen, Co-Chm.
Mrs. Robert Black, Co-Chm.
Mrs. Cecil Barr
Mrs. Fred Hodges
Mrs. Claud Wills
Mrs. J. C. Lowe
Mrs. J. L. Hopping
Mrs. Robert Chambers
Mrs. H. C. Thompson
Mrs. Leo Schwinler
Mrs. L. A. Bratton
Mrs. L. G. DeMotte
Mrs. C. C. Cook
Mrs. C. W. Downing

Sick

Mrs. O. L. Waller, Chm.
Mrs. Marion Pruitt
Mrs. Albert Quillian
Mrs. Cecil Barr
Mrs. Claud Wills

Rules

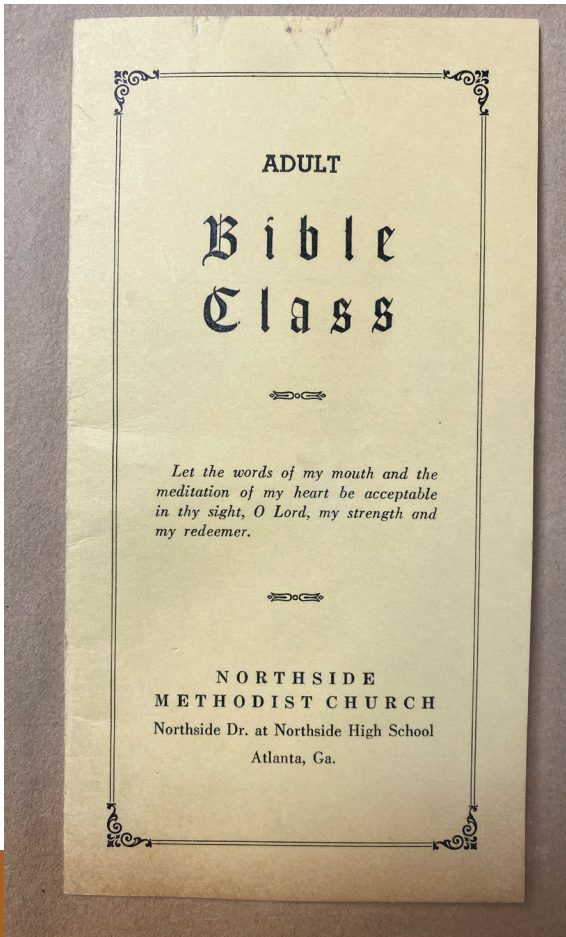
Claud Wills, Chm.
O. L. Waller
Henry Reid
Paul McLarty

Publicity

Mrs. E. G. Kilpatrick, Chm.
Mrs. Glen N. Keim
Mrs. Eugene Drinkard

Finance

Cecil Barr, Chm.
Henry Collar
H. S. McCurry



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Stories of Northside Continued...

A meeting to organize the Woman's Society of Christian Service was held on January 30, 1951 at the home of Mrs. R. Cherry Lewis. An announcement printed about the meeting states that “No group renders a more indispensable service to the church than the Woman's Society. We hope a large number of women will be present at this meeting.” Shortly after, in February, the first meetings of both the morning and afternoon circles met at the homes of Mrs. Hal S. McCurry and Mrs. Prince Webster, respectively.

What is the Woman’s Society of Christian Service?

The purpose of the Woman's Society of Christian Service shall be to unite all the women of the Church in Christian living and service; to help develop and support Christian work among women and children around the world; to develop the spiritual life; to study the needs of the world; to take part in such service activities as will strengthen the local church, improve civic, community and world conditions. To this end this organization shall seek to enlist women, young people and children in this Christian fellowship, and to secure funds for the activities in the local church and support of the work undertaken at home and abroad for the establishment of a World Christian Community.

Taken from the program of the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the W.S.C.S.

Pictured to the right, from top to bottom:
Mrs. Earl Strother,
Mrs. Marion Pruitt ,
Mrs. H. S. McCurry



W.S.C.S. Officers February 1951–May 1951

President:
Mrs. Earl Strother

Vice-President:
Mrs. Henry L. Reid

Treasurer:
Mrs. Albert Arnau

Secretary:
Mrs. Paul Abernethy

Promotion Secretary:
Mrs. R. M. Chambers

Secretary of C.S. R. and Local Church Activities:
Mrs. Fred O. Reese

Secretary of Missionary Education and Service:
Mrs. A. G. Bosanko

Secretary of Student and Youth Work:
Mrs. Robert Black

Secretary of Children's Work:
Mrs. William Davenport

Secretary of Spiritual Life:
Mrs. R. C. Lewis

Secretary of Status of Women:
Mrs. Jack B. Curry and Mrs. J.O. Conoly

Secretary of Supply Work:
Mrs. Ellis H. Bryant

Secretary of Literature and Publications:
Mrs. S.R. Styron

Chairman of Afternoon Circle:
Mrs. Marion Pruitt (*Pictured*)

Vice-Chairman:
Mrs. Prince Webster

Chairman of Morning Circle:
Mrs. H. S. McCurry (*Pictured*)

Vice-Chairman:
Mrs. S.R. Bridges



If you are interested in getting involved in a small group, we have many options for you! Sunday school groups of all ages meet weekly at 10:10AM; visit www.NorthsideUMC.org/events for a full listing. Our Women’s Ministry groups begin a new semester each September; see class descriptions and register at www.NorthsideUMC.org/womensclasses. Lastly, Disciple Bible Study groups are also being formed and will stay together for a year of Scripture and fellowship; learn more and register at www.NorthsideUMC.org/disciple.