

# Stories of Northside

## INTERVIEWEES: NORTHSIDE BIBLE CLASS MEMBERS



One of the best things about walking into a historic library isn't the shelves brimming with novels and tomes, vestiges of authorial wisdom immune to the passage of time. It certainly isn't the grandeur, the smell of paper, or the silence you cannot wait to drink in. It's the feeling you get when you first cross the threshold. You cannot help but sense it: although the room contains thousands of stories, somewhere between the streams of sunlight pouring in through the high windows and the small crevice between each book lies in wait the story of the library itself, a story waiting patiently to be told, shared, and passed on.

You get the same feeling walking into the Northside Bible Sunday school class. Although each member can boast a story of his or her own, the story of the class itself is an amalgamation of tiny moments spanning more than 70 years, moments of love, encouragement, support, loss, and fellowship of kindred minds, hearts, and spirits. This is the story of the Northside Bible class.

Northside Bible was formed in the early 1950's, branching off from the Fellowship Class, Northside's original Sunday school class. The Fellowship Class became too large, and the decision was made to divide the class by age, with the younger members founding Northside Bible, a class that has become a pillar among our congregation. There are still young folks who attend; although, they

may disagree with that. Today, Northside Bible has 37 active and 20 homebound members that are young at heart, and their doors and arms are always open.

Each class begins with a welcome, announcements, and a song or two played on the in-class piano. Northside Bible is currently the only class that still sings. They study from the Uniform Series of International Lessons, and messages are delivered primarily by guest speakers. The best part, however, is the fellowship, according to Nona Young: "The fellowship is just wonderful. Everybody is so warm and so accepting. I cannot sing their praises too high. They are some of the most wonderful people I have ever known in my entire life. Coming to church to worship is very important, but where you get to know people is in the Sunday school class. We just want to create a warm friendly place, a welcoming place.

"Northside Bible members are also incredibly active in the life of the church, and most of their service goes unnoticed. One classmate delivers meals for the church, another delivers altar flowers one Sunday out of the month. One volunteers at the Good Samaritan Clinic every Friday. We even have people who call or visit other members of the class who aren't able to come anymore. Everybody is just as willing as they can to do whatever they can."

The story of this class is too vibrant and rich to contain in a few pages, but each defining moment, self-

sacrificing virtue, and welcoming smile is connected by a single, unifying thread: its closing hymn. Each class closes with voices and hearts raised to the first verse of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds": "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above." Northside Bible's story exists as a bind that ties the hearts of 70 years worth of members together, together in Christian love, together in fellowship, together in Christ.

### Northside Bible members share their memories and blessings:

"My favorite part is the singing and the songs we do. Everyone is real friendly, and they make it a point to always say hi and talk to me. This class is my home."

**Jimmy Moore**

"My wife Mady and I have been members of Northside Church since 1961. Our class is unique because we do it all: teaching, singing, loving, and caring for each other. We are old too!"

**Bob Cook**

"I love Northside Bible. The people are very down to earth and friendly, and as we all grow older it's so good to be together and love one another!"

**Mady Cook**

"My classmates are loving, accepting, and caring. They are supportive of each other and have helped me through some difficult times. They have become my family, now that I'm a widow and live alone. We love, respect, and look out for each other just as Jesus taught us to do."

**Nona Young**





"We were members of Northside for a number of years, teaching Sunday school to young children and doing various other things before we joined the Northside Bible class. What we found is a small group where we belong! We have made wonderful friends and found loving and caring people. These friends have made an impact on our lives."

**Willa Jones**

"Sometimes I feel lousy, but when I go to Northside Bible and see all the lovely friends, I'm overwhelmed with happiness."

**Bud Jones**

"We have always enjoyed the Northside Bible class because of all the wonderful, caring members. They love the Lord, the church, and the Sunday school class. There is much love and caring from all our members."

**Dannie & Toby Propst**

"We have been members of the Northside Bible class for 63 years. We were the 'young class' then and Fellowship was the 'old class.' We worship together, pray for each other, laugh together, and cry together. The many friends we have made in this class are a blessing to us."

**Jean & Buddy Aldredge**

"The Northside Bible Class has a wonderful tradition of rotating teachers, highly educated and faithful saints who include daughters and sons, lay ministers, Northside staff, class members, and teachers from neighboring churches. We look forward to those who will join us for a Sunday or for a lifetime to take advantage of our interesting and informative lessons which these dedicated teachers present, and to enjoy the warmth and fellowship of Northside's 'senior' class."

**Carolyn & Charles Cobb**

"My husband and I are native Atlantans who have moved around Atlanta several times, and we always moved to a different church. The first time we walked into the Northside Bible class, we immediately felt the love and caring from each person in the room. Everyone came over to greet and welcome us. We have decided never to move again so we can be close to Northside Church and this class."

**Jane Hailey**

"A little over 3 years ago, my wife and I were looking for a church home. When we visited Northside Church, we were invited by friends to visit the Northside Bible class, and we have been so happy to be a part of this wonderful, caring group of friends ever since."

**Larry Hailey**

"Many thanks to Nona Young for introducing us to the Northside Bible Class when my husband and I first joined Northside Church. When my husband died several years ago, the support from the class meant so much to me. We have good Sunday school lessons and a great Sunday school family, and it has truly been a big blessing in my Sunday worship experience."

**Ann Sullivan**

"The Northside Bible class family is made up of wonderful people that have blessed our life. They are caring, cute, fun, sweet, and such a joy in our life. The world is a better place because of our Northside Bible class family. They light up the room when they walk in the door and put a smile on our faces. God has surely blessed us to be a part of this precious group, and we are grateful for each and every person."

**Bebe & Joe Burnett**

