



Crossroads

Historical Society Welcomes Julia Foster at August Meeting

By Pam Crosby

Dr. Julia Foster was a special guest at the August 9th Trinity Historical Society. Her father, the late Rev. Dr. George A. Foster, served as Senior Pastor at Trinity from 1965 to 1972.

To distinguish the two Drs. George and Julia Foster, I will refer to them as “Julia” and “George.” During the course of our meeting, Julia shared stories about her life growing up in the many places she lived while her father served as pastor at various congregations in Florida. She also related stories of how her parents first met and their budding friendship and engagement.

Her father met her mother **Aultie** at a Blue Ridge Y gathering in North Carolina. When Aultie was later a missionary in Brazil, she and George corresponded regularly with George sharing his sadness over breaking up with a girl he had been dating. While in Brazil, Aultie became ill and returned to her home in Tennessee. She and George met up again at another Methodist activity in North Carolina.

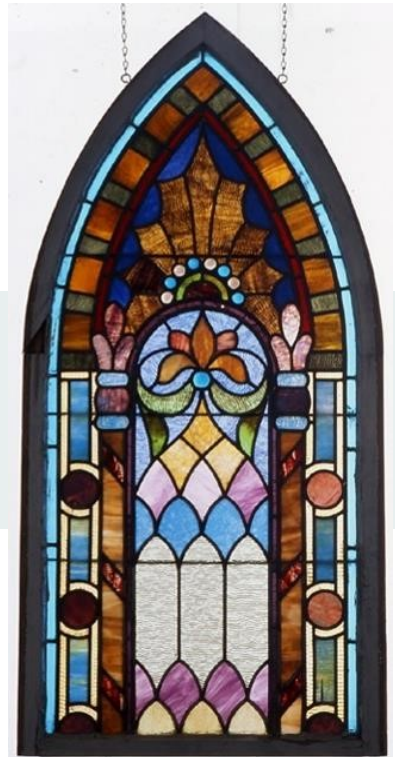


Julia Foster stands beside a photo of her father, which is part of the Heritage Room timeline display.

Feeling that a young pastor needed to have a wife, George drew up a list of names of possible candidates for suitable spouses. He proposed to Aultie, whose name was at the top of his list, and she accepted. Aultie was a scholar in her own right, earning degrees from George Peabody College and Scarritt College for Christian Workers.

After becoming an ordained elder of the Methodist Church in 1936, George served congregations in Jacksonville, Pompano, Sarasota, Ocala, and Fort Lauderdale, and was District Superintendent of the Miami district before coming to Tallahassee.

(continued on page 2)



Upcoming Events:

Special Issue on
Lay Academy Series
Jan. 2018

Lay Academy Series on
Trinity's History
Continues on Weds. at
6:30 p.m. Through
Oct. 18 in Rm. 305

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Special Thanks to Linda Yates
& Princess Palmer for their
editorial assistance.

(continued from page 1) George's long-time career as a Methodist minister included involvement as a prominent leader in the Florida and General Conferences. For his outstanding leadership, both statewide and nationally, he was recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award from Duke Divinity School in 1987. In 1954, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Florida Southern College.

Among his many executive roles on various boards, he served on the General Board of Christian Concerns, which was a national agency of the Methodist Church, that met in Tampa in 1964. With executive headquarters in Washington D.C., it was responsible for education, research, and social action in three areas—human relations and economic affairs, peace and world order, and temperance and general welfare. George was also a delegate to a special session of the General Conference in St. Louis in 1970 that met to resolve problems arising out of the 1968 merger that was to form the United Methodist Church.

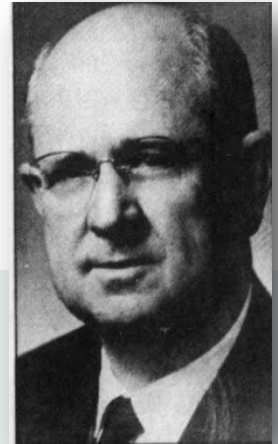
George was known for his stimulating sermons, extensive vocabulary, and vast knowledge. His sermons were often punctuated by sweeping gestures of his arms (while standing behind the pulpit on a coke box—he was only 5' 3" tall).

During Julia's visit, **Lynn McLarty** showed a taping of her father teaching a series of lessons in the Koinonia Sunday School class at Trinity in June 1986 after his retirement, and he presented her a copy of the DVD. Our church library and Heritage Room also have copies.

You can also see examples of George's woodcarvings in the Trinity Heritage Room. Woodcarving was one of

his many hobbies; he carved the altar in the Pompano Beach Methodist Church while he was minister there!

While her dad was busy becoming a well-known national and state religious leader in the 1960s, Julia was pursuing a distinguished career of her own, eventually earning a PhD at Boston University in Biblical studies. She would go on to become a college librarian at the Methodist Theological School in Delaware, OH, where she continues to live. She remains an active member in the American Academy of Religion's Dietrich Bonhoeffer Society.



Information Sources

Alley, R., Ware, H.M., & Bozeman, W.S. (1988). "George Adair Foster" in "Memoirs" in W. S. Echols (Ed.), *Journal of the 156th Session of the Florida Annual Conference*. Lakeland, FL: Florida Conference UMC Printing and Services, 429-430.

"Methodist Church Board to Open Meeting Monday." (1964, Feb. 14.). *Lakeland Ledger*, vol. 40, no. 150, p. 3. Retrieved from UF Digital Collections. George A. Smathers Libraries: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00079940/00065>

Official Publication of the Conference Council Coordinating the Work of Florida Conference Boards and Agencies (1969, July). vol. 28. Lakeland, FL: United Methodist Church, 16. Retrieved from Internet Archive: https://archive.org/stream/floridamethodist2829flor/floridamethodist2829flor_djvu.txt



Attending the August 2017 Historical Society meeting were (back row) Rhonda Work, Bob Jones, Cinda Hortin, and Julia Foster; (front row) Dot Binger, Pam Crosby, Don Crosby, Lynn McLarty, Linda Yates, and Bob Yates.

Oral History Spotlights

By Princess Palmer

The Oral History Spotlights project is just one of the ways Trinity's Historical Society is recording the evolution of our church. We do this so that future generations may know and understand the growth and development of their church. To achieve this goal, we continue to record the experiences of our members who have done so much to shape our church as we know it today.

The most recent spotlights shine on the United Methodist Women's ministry as portrayed by **Kitty Ball** and memories from **Dr. Julia Foster**, daughter of a former minister at Trinity, **the Rev. Dr. George Foster**.

Kitty Ball, a member of Trinity for 55 years, discussed United Methodist Women, a faith-based membership organization of laywomen with the United Methodist Church. UMW has been a mission for more than 140 years, providing opportunities for women to grow spiritually and develop leadership skills. The UMW's purpose, according to the organization's [website](#), is to "be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

Kitty relayed how this purpose made a difference in her life. A variety of local, national, and international missions are supported by the UMW. The development of the circles at Trinity and the monthly luncheon meet-



ings developed over several years as times changed from young women staying home to care for children to becoming working moms. Presently, a luncheon for all members is held during the lunch hour so everyone can enjoy training and information presentations.



Julia Foster visited Trinity in August to see her family and to attend a meeting of the Historical Society. She shared her memories of her father, the **Rev. Dr. George Foster**, who arrived at Trinity in 1965 to a brand new sanctuary, civil unrest, and racial integration within the church. He loved his responsibilities as a pastor at Trinity and often visited the homes of the members. He had an honorary doctorate from Florida Southern College, but he preferred to be called "pastor" or "reverend." Several of Trinity members had requested an advanced studies Sunday school class, so Rev. Foster organized the Betty Phifer class, which covered Biblical and/or social issues as well as specific books on a variety of topics. The class still meets today using many of the guidelines set forth during this period.

The ultimate goal of Trinity's Historical Society is to record personal experiences from as far back as possible and into the present. The spotlights are filmed at Trinity at the convenience of the speaker. They are then produced into a movie by **Brett Ingram** and published on the Historical Society's webpage when they have been edited and are ready for uploading.

You are invited to be a part of this exciting project. Please contact **Princess Palmer** at princesssannpalmer@yahoo.com or any member of the Historical Society.

Trinity's Historical Society officers meet monthly, most often on the first Wednesday. We welcome Historical Society members and all others interested in church history to join our rowdy group. While we try to stay focused on the meeting agenda, we often lapse into telling stories and tales of history we have learned from our research. Contact us to learn about our next meeting. Not a member yet? Or just want more information? Please visit our [Historical Society](#) web page or contact [Linda Yates](#).

Faith, Hope, and Funds

By Dot Binger

There seems to be no record back in 1946 of the first person to proclaim: "Trinity needs an education building!" But fired-up members rallied to the need, and a letter from the **Reverend Claud M. Haynes** calling for an official board meeting read, "This is the most significant Board meeting in the life of Trinity Church."

An extraordinary organization of 200 members spearheaded a \$150,000 campaign to construct the building, which eventually became known as Trinity Hall. The Campaign Executive Committee, chaired by **Frank Moor**, directed the efforts of five division majors, each of whom led eight captains. There were only five women in this lineup, indicating that Trinity greatly underused an important asset—the women of the church. No potential giver, however, was overlooked. Early on a letter went to all 2,160 church members, another letter to "friends" of Trinity, and still another to the parents of 700 Methodist students at FSCW.

The program for evening worship on October 13, 1946, stated,

The Building Fund Campaign is to have priority in all church activity during the next three weeks. It is requested that all organizations and groups subordinate their programs to this primary purpose . . . the framework of the organization is excellent, and the plan of attack is sound. We can win the victory. We must win the victory. We cannot afford to lose. . . .

The Heritage Room scrapbook that tells the story was recently redone in an effort to preserve the most critical documents, pictures, and newspaper articles. No one who read *The Daily Democrat* in 1946 could fail to know about the significant project underway on Duval Street as well as progress in the Trinity fundraising campaign. The November 3, 1946, edition printed

an article headlined, "Methodist Drive is Over the Top—Still Going." \$177,447 had been pledged. Rev. Haynes was quoted as saying, "The success of Trinity's campaign is indicative of an awakening interest in church life in this community."

The 1947 section of the scrapbook displays copies of letters written to members urging them to pay their



Trinity men rally together at a fundraising dinner for the building of Trinity Hall, the education building of 1949. *Trinity Heritage Photo.*

pledges, and the early 1949 section highlights a new pledge drive for \$125,000 to cover unpaid earlier pledges, additional construction costs and cost of furnishings. The new campaign called "Finish the Job" obviously did finish the job even though the scrapbook does not include any celebration pictures or documents.

During this time church leaders also developed a long-range building program which anticipated a new larger sanctuary for Trinity and gave encouragement and financial aid to the building of one or more new Methodist Churches in the city.

Trinity Hall as we know it today resulted from a major renovation project which began while the **Reverend Walter Kalaf** was senior pastor. In December 1981 the Trustees appointed a committee to develop a master plan for modernization of Trinity Hall (1999). This time a woman chaired the committee.

Reference

Yates, L. (1999). "Renovation, Revitalization—1981-1988" in *Trinity United Methodist Church: Tallahassee's First Church 1824-1999* (pp. 83-94), Tallahassee, FL: Trinity United Methodist Church, 83-84.

Trinity and Community Opposed Site Selection for 1937 Post Office

By Lynn McLarty



This is a similar view of what Trinity members could be finding today when we exit our front door of the Church. We could be seeing the loading ramps of a post office, dedicated in Tallahassee in 1937. (Slade, Harvey E. [Harvey Eugene], 1909-1975. *View of the Post office - Tallahassee, Florida*. 1957. Black & white photoprint, 5 x 7 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Image Number SL5765A)

In the early 1930s the city, state, and congressional officials worked very hard to get a new post office and federal courthouse (*The Daily Democrat*, June 26, 1934, p. 4) to replace the outmoded post office facility built in 1893. The country was in the middle of the Great Depression.

Officials of our United States Government agreed to come to Tallahassee and present their proposal for a building—a federal courthouse and new post office. After making their initial assessment of the property they would like to use as the site for the new post office, the City Commission made the following proclamation (*see below*):

p. 97

RESOLUTION

Tallahassee City Commission Minutes April 25, 1934

WHEREAS, Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce and other local interest are making an effort to induce the United States Government to build a new, larger and more modern Federal Building in the City of Tallahassee to take the place of the obsolete Federal Building now in use which was constructed in 1893, and the City of Tallahassee and the State of Florida at its Capital City are in real need of a new, larger and more modern Federal Building in said City; and the City Commission of the City of Tallahassee deem it to the best interest of said City to do all in its power to promote the success of such effort; and in order to induce the United States Government to apply all funds which are available to be allotted for both a new site and new Federal Building in to the construction of a new building of the kind, type and size which ought to be constructed in the Capital City of the State of Florida;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TALLAHASSEE :

That, subject to the City's legal right to do so, the City of Tallahassee, through its City Commission, hereby agrees to deed and convey to the United States Government the park space in Park Avenue between Adams and Duval Streets extending 113 feet North and South and 260 feet East and West to be used by the United States Government for Post Office, Court and other, Federal use, the Government to provide sidewalks around the building as required by the City, in exchange for a deed of conveyance to the City of Tallahassee from the United States Government of its present building and building site located at the Southeast Corner of the intersection of Park Avenue and Adams Street in said City.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5) Four days later (Sunday, April 29, 1934), on the front page of *The Daily Democrat* was the following announcement to the Tallahassee community:

**CITY PROFFERS
PARKWAY SPACE
TO GOVERNMENT**

Offers to Exchange Land
For Federal Building
As Equal Swap

REASONS EXPLAINED

Ground on Park Avenue
Between Adams And
Duval Selected

City commissioners have offered the use of one of the city's parks as the site for a new federal building.

Appropriate resolutions have been drawn by the city and forwarded to Washington officials, advising the treasury department to this effect.

(continued to the right)

The Tallahassee Garden Club went on record in their 1934 Minutes, in *The Daily Democrat* (Thursday, May 3, 1934, p.2), and at the City Commission Meetings of their being strongly opposed to Tallahassee losing a park for the new Post Office.

The announcement of the possibility that our treasured downtown park system might be permanently disrupted brought a widespread reaction from the community. The Park Avenue Square in front of Trinity was the focus for a new post office. An extended editorial in *The Daily Democrat* (Sunday, May 6, 1934, p.6) by **George B. Perkins** presented the sentiment and the opposition by local groups to the City Commission's relinquishing this valuable city property.

(continued to the right)

The next day's edition of *The Daily Democrat* (Monday, April 30, 1934, p. 8) told of the immediate action from our Trinity congregation:

**Methodists Determined
To Fight City Proposal**

Trinity Methodist church went on record yesterday as being strongly opposed to the plan of the city to exchange the park between Duval and Adams streets to the federal government for a post office site in exchange for the present federal building.

The morning congregation voted unanimous opposition to the proposal. The board of stewards and the board of trustees met in special session and voted to appoint a committee to ask the city commission to give the matter further consideration and to give the people of the city a chance to be heard in the matter.

The two boards were a unit in being opposed to the proposition. The Men's Bible class also passed resolutions condemning the proposal.

Frank D. Moor, the chairman of the board of stewards, William Child, chairman of the board of trustees, said their church would put up a determined fight to keep the proposition from going through.

(continued at bottom left)

Mr. Perkins said:

Not only would locating the post office on this park injure Tallahassee's park system, but would detract from the property owned by Leon county—the Leon high school building; and would depreciate beyond calculation two of the oldest churches, the Methodist and the Presbyterian churches—land marks of Tallahassee for the past century; one of them having already celebrated the centennial of its existence spent in the upbuilding of Tallahassee and for its welfare, and making of it what it is today.

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6) Mr. Perkins went on to say—

If this park is taken for a post office, it will prove very objectionable to the Presbyterian church; and every one knows, that it will just about ruin the Methodist church, Tallahassee's largest and most influential congregation. It will put the Methodist church and its parsonage on a side street, almost a narrow alley, with the back door of the post office, at the front door of the church. Every building has its unattractive side. Even Jacksonville's new two million dollar post office has its ugly side, its back door used for the rural and city trucks loading and unloading mails, at all hours of the day and night, under a large unsightly shed built for shelter to prevent the mails from getting wet in rains; and this back door of the Tallahassee post office will be at the front door of the Methodist church. In my opinion, it would be but a short time when the Methodist church, to escape such unpleasant conditions, would be forced to buy a new location and bear the expense of building a new church for their home and place of worship.

The City of Tallahassee was on the brink of trading this beautiful park space in front of our church to the federal government for a new post office. We find in the City Commission Minutes of May 8, 1934, only two weeks after committing the city to exchange the Park Avenue Square, a retraction of the previous resolution, which includes the following:

The commission met in regular session with the following present: Commissioners Fain, Marshall and Simmons, City Manager Galt and City Auditor and Clerk Bridges. City Attorney Guyte P. McCord was also present.

There was a large delegation present representing the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches and Garden clubs to protest the location of a Federal Building between the North and South drive on Park Avenue, and between Adams and Duval Streets. At the request of the Mayor the City attorney stated that he had made investigation of the power of the City to deed the site on Park Avenue for a Federal Building or any other purpose other than street and parking and that he had reached the opinion that the City had no authority. (p. 98)

After it was determined at this May 8th City Commission meeting that the Park Avenue Square was not an option for building a new federal building, postal officials came to Tallahassee to evaluate other suitable sites for the edifice. In *The Daily Democrat* (July 23, 1934, p. 1), 44 sites were listed for government representatives to appraise as suitable for building the new federal building. Two months later the site agreed upon was at the northeast corner of Adams Street and Park Avenue. This site was directly across Park Avenue from the current location of the 1893 post office—which is the site of today's DoubleTree by Hilton Hotels. The selected site of the new federal building was announced in *The Daily Democrat* (September 24, 1934, p. 1), the same location of the Leon County Court House until 1893 and afterwards the popular Leon Hotel, which burned in 1925. The property was purchased from the **W. B. Harbeson family**, the owners of the Leon Hotel at the time of the fire. The building today is home to the United States Bankruptcy Court.

Of Services and Sermons

By Rhonda Work

How many times have you left Trinity on a Sunday at noon and thought, "My, that was a wonderful service. I could listen to it again." You can do that because Trinity has CDs of the Sunday 11:00 a.m. services as far back as 2000. Separate CDs of just the scripture reading and the sermon have been made for the same time period, and we have audio tape cassettes of sermons before 2000. Because we don't know how far back the audios go, we are still cataloging them. There are CDs of special services, such as, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve, Christmas day, Music

Ministry Sunday, Orchestra Sunday, and children's services. Memorial services for our deceased members are available on CDs. The CDs are recorded during the services with copies made available at anyone's request. Copies are usually made once a month and can be obtained by calling the church office at 850-222-1120 or sending a request to trinity@tumct.org. There is a charge of \$4.00 per copy, except for memorial services, which are complimentary to the family. We continue to search the Heritage Room archives to determine how many more tapes were made before 2000 and to find any CDs that may have been made on special occasions. Once our inventory is complete, we will publish it. Filling your request for copies would be our pleasure.



The 1893 building

2017 Historical Society Officers

Linda Yates, Chair

Dot Binger, Secretary

Bob Jones, Historian

Lynn McLarty, Membership Archivist

Rhonda Work, Vice Chair of Historic Preservation Committee

Pam Crosby, Technical Editor

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Congratulations and a Rose!

By Linda Yates

Some practices are too heart-warming to quit. That's when they become very special traditions.

Usually they are started and faithfully continued by special people. Trinity member **Helen Sellers** was such a person. She came to Tallahassee in 1932 when her husband, **Owen Sellers**, began teaching cello at Florida State College for Women. She was a musician herself, attended the Cincinnati Conservatory of



Helen Sellers with her second grade Sunday School class of 1955. She began teaching at Trinity soon after her arrival in 1932 and continued until 1987. (Heritage Room photo)

Music, and served as first cornetist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

In Tallahassee she taught youngsters piano and cornet and immediately signed on as a Sunday School teacher and home nursery worker at her new church—Trinity. Every time a young mother of Trinity had a new baby Helen was one of the first visitors to welcome, and many times to rock, the newborn.

Beginning in 1954, she placed a red rose on Trinity's altar in honor of the new baby and the bulletin proclaimed "Congratulations and a Rose" to the parents 387 times during her tenure. Trinity's Altar Guild continues the tradition today.

Helen died in May 1998 at age 95 and was buried at Roselawn Cemetery. I think of her every time I see a single red rose on Trinity's altar.



Trinity's home nursery visitor Helen Sellers holds 13-day-old Margaret Charlene McLarty in January, 1986. She placed a rose on the church altar to congratulate parents. (Lynn McLarty photo)

Information Source

"Helen Mullinix Sellers." (1998, May 5). *Tallahassee Democrat*, p. 32.