



OCTOBER 21, 2018

WE'VE A STORY TO TELL
75th Anniversary Memories of Mountain Brook Baptist Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN A LITTLE HOUSE

My parents, Frances and John Holcomb, my sisters, Babs and Susan, and I began attending Mountain Brook Baptist Church in 1949 or 1950. It was quite a change from Southside Baptist Church but it found a place in my heart from the beginning.

My first teacher, Mrs. Rachael Merrill, met with our class of girls in one of the outbuildings on the grounds of the house on Jackson Avenue where the church was meeting. We loved having our very own little house in which to meet. (Editor's note: the children's classes met in outbuildings which were originally a coal bin, a chicken house, and garages which were refurbished by the men of the church.) Mrs. Merrill invited each of us individually to have tea at her apartment in Crestline Village for an hour one afternoon during the week. Mrs. Theodosia Strickland was also one of my first teachers.

Of course it was very exciting when we moved into the first church on Montevallo Road, but I remember fondly the gatherings after the church service in the church yard on Jackson and how friendly everyone was.

After the church moved to Montevallo Road, Mrs. Anne Lee was our GA (Girls Auxiliary) leader, and we met at the Lees' home at 66 Overbrook Road, which I believe is now owned by the church. At the end of the year she had a dinner in her home for us, and we dressed in our Sunday best for the occasion. These are my earliest memories of the church where I was baptized and married.

Elisabeth (Beth) Holcomb Frey



108 Jackson Avenue, before it became the first meeting place of Mountain Brook Baptist Church.



(Above) A Sunday School class had to meet in a car, 1944.

(Left) 66 Overbrook Road, once the home of church members Al and Anne Lee where Elisabeth Holcomb Frey's GA class met, is now owned by Mountain Brook Baptist Church and is affectionately known as the "White Missionary House."

HONORING SACRED MEMORIES: THE CHILDHOOD WINDOW

Herbert A. Harris and his wife Marian Harris were charter members of Mountain Brook Baptist Church along with daughter Margaret and son Graham. A native of England who became a prominent physician, Dr. Harris was one of the original Deacons of the church. The wedding of daughter Margaret to Leonard Pitts was the first one under auspices of the church, though the ceremony was held at Southside Baptist Church. Mountain Brook Baptist Church at the time did not have a suitable auditorium, but Dr. Harris made the first contribution ever made to the Mountain Brook Baptist Church building fund in honor of the wedding. The Harrises were heartbroken when their son died in 1946, age 17, from the effects of polio. Dr. Harris chaired the Deacons in 1956.



(Above) Ground breaking for the Sanctuary in 1965. Pictured are charter members Dr. and Mrs. H. A. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Cole, Mrs. Bruce Cary, Sr., Mrs. S. C. Armstrong, and Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Moorman.

(Right) The Childhood Window, in loving memory of Graham Alfred Harris by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert A. Harris.

