



“Preserving—Sharing—Caring”

Crossroads

“How Far Does Love Reach?": The Epworth League, Part Two, 1900 – 1939

By Pamela C. Crosby

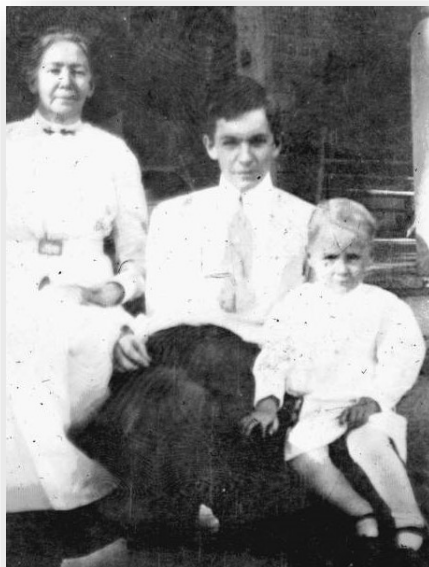
The story of the Epworth League in Methodist history began in 1890 and ended in 1939, when Methodist Episcopal Church, South merged with its Northern counterpart. This is the second part in a series that traces the history of the League, an early youth organization that had considerable influence on U.S. Methodism. Part One described its national beginning as well as its early years at Trinity from 1890 to 1899 and can be viewed at <https://www.tumct.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/October-2022-hs-crossroads.pdf>.

The Rise and Fall

1900 – 1919

As is the case with most church organizations, interest in the Epworth League at Trinity increased and declined throughout its years of activity (see Carpenter, 1900, Feb. 12; 1899, Dec. 7a).

For example, by 1907, the Junior League had been added to the youth program, and in 1909, the League was boasting a membership of 115. The following year, this younger League was lauded as the premier Epworth League of Florida Methodists, winning the state banner, which recognized the organization for leading in all categories in its report. During **Rev. Dr. Ira Patterson's** time as Trinity's



“Eliza Moor and Her Grandson, Frank D. Moor of Tallahassee.” 1915. Florida Memory. (Name of toddler unknown). <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/153584>. Moor (who would serve as a influential president of the Epworth League at Trinity 1915-16) was around 21 years of age at the time of this photograph.

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Robert C. Parker served as Epworth League president at Trinity in 1928. The photo on the left was taken from a 1922 group photo of Leon High School's baseball team; Parker was around 17 here. The second photo was published in the *Democrat*, announcing his selection as mayor in 1949. Baseball photo: "Leon High School baseball team - Tallahassee, Florida." 1922. Florida Memory. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/10660>. ("Methodists Plan...", 1945, p. 2; "Parker Qualifies..." 1946, p. 1; Martin, 1949, p. 1).

pastor (1907-1910), **Amanda Ellen Patterson**,¹ wife of the pastor, increased the membership of the Junior League (ages 9, 10, and 11) to 186 members (Patterson, 1907; "Quarterly...", 1909; "Tallahassee ...," 1910; "Mrs. Amanda...", 1940, p. 131).

In 1912, the Senior League (post-secondary age-early 30s) could claim only 26 members. By 1916, the once prosperous Junior League was ailing and would disband soon, while the membership of the Senior League had risen to a vigorous 78—with its young president being someone whose name most all subsequent Trinity members would come to know: **Frank D. Moor**. Moor Hall is named for Frank and his wife **Beth** (Lawler, 1912, December 9; Nixon, 1916; Moor, March 7, 1916).

Moor commented in his report, "The 'team' work of the League has been a big help in keeping the Leaguers interested and active," and in November of that year, when the numbers had risen to 87, he praised the church's revival meetings as a reason for the League's flourishing: "The whole chapter has been helped by the Revival Services and a stronger spiritual interest is being manifested than ever before" (Moor, 1916, Mar. 7; November 30).

Moor's dynamic and devoted leadership was likely a catalyst for increasing membership in those months. In one of his earliest reports as president, Moor—at the age of 21—had written in December 1915, "Most of the members of the League are active and interested and willing to do their part in winning more members," closing his report with the Epworth motto, "All for Christ" (Moor, 1915).

But the future would quickly take a dark turn for Trinity's youth: War had broken out in Europe in

1914, and the increasing German threats to the United States since that time resulted in the U.S. officially declaring war on Germany in April 1917. By November 15 of that year, **Flournoy Phillips**, Sunday school superintendent, reported that many of the young men were not attending Trinity, having enlisted in service for the war effort (Phillips, 1917; "US Entry...", n.d.,).

Compounding the effects of war on youth was the Spanish Flu epidemic that was taking a heavy toll on Tallahasseeans in 1918-1919, including the young. **Rev. S. W. Lawler**, in his pastor's report, lamented that the Sunday school had been very "much disorganized in attendance as has all of the church services by the recent epidemic of influenza" with the Junior League's enrollment affected by the epidemic. This bad news was in addition to the loss of "several of its [Senior Epworth League's] most active members" (May, 2020; Lawler, 1918).

1920 – 1929

Interest in the Epworth League in the decades following the crises of 1917-1919 continued to wax and wane as had been the case in the first half of its history. **Rev. Seymour Grady** reported in 1922, the League was simply "functioning with regularity but not growing as it should" with only "a faithful few keep[ing] up" (Grady, 1922).

Younger Leagues were periodically organized—then disbanded—in the 1920s, and by April 1928, there were three active leagues—Senior, High, and Junior²—though in December, **Rev. E. Watt Smith** admitted that getting persons to "take the lead in the work" demanded "sacrifice" and "effort." **Robert C. Parker**,³ in his Senior League president's report, showed that no one was cur-

rently enrolled in the departments (sub-groups of Epworth) of Bible, church history, missions, or social service. Frank Moor, as mentioned earlier, who had served at age 21 as president of the Senior League, was now, at age 34, Trinity's resolute Sunday school superintendent (Smith, 1928, April 3; December 5; Parker, 1928, December 5; Moor, 1928).

A perfect example of how swiftly the rise and fall of League organizations could be was the Junior League at Trinity. As earlier remarked, the League had won the state banner in 2010. In the following years, interest waned and the group deactivated, but by 1929, its leaders were reveling in its rebirth and 125 members ("Junior...", 1929, p. 4).

1920 – 1929

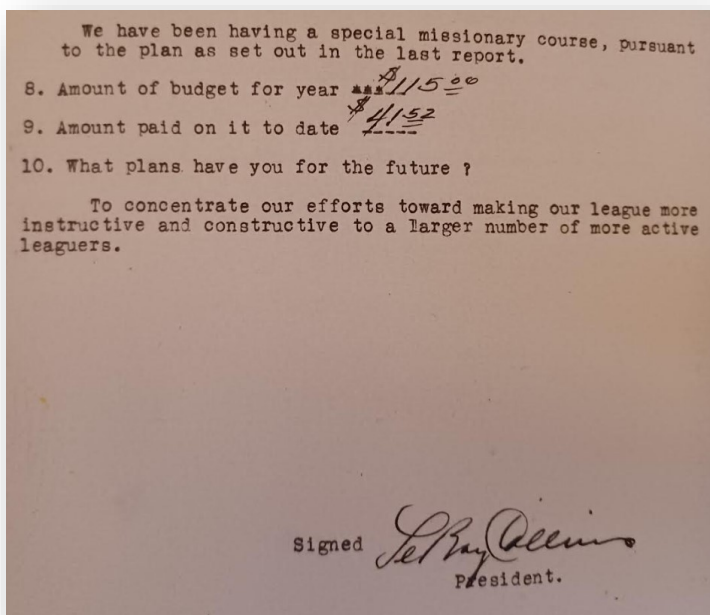
Two years later, in 1931, attendance numbers were low again. To attract new members, and increase active participation, but also to encourage and develop Christian leadership qualities, **Myra Anderson**, leader of the Junior Hi-League established an attendance and Bible-reading chart and a monthly honor roll (White, 1931; Steinmeyer, Jr., F.E., & Steinmeyer, Jr., W.M., 1931; Anderson,

1931).

Reports in the *Quarterly Conference Minutes* implied that seeds of conflict existed among church leaders regarding Epworth administration. **Rev. W. F. Dunkle** expressed frustration that a superintendent (leader) of one League was absent without making sure that arrangements had been made in the superintendent's absence. However, in contrast, Rev. Dunkle remarked how well another League was doing under the watchful care of Mrs. Warren (Myra) Anderson (Dunkle, 1931).

With twenty-two year old **LeRoy Collins** (future Florida governor) at the helm of the Senior League, the number of members grew from 50 (September 1931) to 71 (December 1931) with the goals of focusing efforts on making the League "more instructive and constructive to a larger number of more active leaguers" (Collins, 1931, September 23; 1931, December 1).

Later, under the leadership of President **Virgil Hancock, Jr.**, the League turned to a somewhat unorthodox financial policy in 1934 of not requiring membership fees but, instead, leaving financial support up to the conscience of the members



Left: Epworth President report in December 1931 completed and signed by twenty-two year old LeRoy Collins (future Florida governor) with the goals of focusing efforts on making the League "more instructive and constructive to a larger number of more active leaguers" (Collins, 1931, September 23; 1931, December 1). Right: "LeRoy Collins and His Son LeRoy Collins Jr." 1937. Florida Memory. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/254572>

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while emphasizing the principles of Christian responsibility:

We have operated without laying any stress on finances, stressing rather Christian fellowship and higher standards. We have made no assessment and fixed no dues, or membership fee. All financial obligations of the organization and all pledges have been met promptly. (Hancock, 1934)

Tom N. Humphress,⁴ vice president of the Senior League, reported in 1935 that the Florida State College for Women (FSCW) students added to the membership of the Senior League—and members experienced “an unusually rich atmosphere....” The following year, Humphress was president and was pleased to report that the number of members in the Senior League had doubled in a year to 123 members, mostly as a result of the “college girls” attending (from nearby FSCW) (Humphress, 1935, 1936).

As the Methodist Episcopal Church, South looked ahead to the new decade (1940s), it faced a major transition that would transform its structure and future. In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church merged, creating a new denomination and, in turn, a new youth organization: the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF). Ages designated as *youth* would be

changed to that of 12 to 24 years. What had been emphasized in Epworth would be expanded in MYF (Smith, 1981, p. 228).

What Did Epworth Accomplish? Programs, Practices, and Activities

Throughout its fifty-year history (1890 to 1939), Epworth encouraged Methodist young people to engage actively in programs—and, often, they established new initiatives that would impact the broader church community and Tallahassee.

Home and Foreign Missions

Across the Regions

Generally speaking, work in domestic and foreign missions was a fundamental responsibility of the Epworth League, two thirds of funds raised being designated for home and foreign missions and local emergencies whenever unexpected tragedy hit. Home mission work involved calling on persons (including taking baskets of food items) to those suffering from illness in their homes and in hospitals, and visiting those in prisons. Foreign mission work emphasized education and financial support of leagues established in countries such as Japan, Brazil, and Mexico (Smith, 1981, pp. 226-227; Hurst, 1903, p. 1344).



Tom N. Humphress was president of Trinity's Epworth League in 1935. In this 1942 photo of a musicians group, he is standing on the far right: "Group Portrait of Musicians – Tallahassee, Florida." 1942. Florida Memory. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/157341>. "Standing: Richard Weeks; Irving Grissett; Miss Whittle, director; Hugh Williams; Tom Humphress. Kneeling: Audie Smith; Felix Blalock; Ben Bridges, pianist; Herman Gunter; Tom Byrd Van Brunt."



Methodist Missionaries Daniel L. and Edith Mumpower spoke at Trinity in 1927. The Capital City Epworth League Union and MECS leaders had invited the Mumpowers (photos numbered 6 and 11 above), who were serving in the central region of the Congo. From *The Epworth Era*. (1923, October). "Our Representatives in Africa," 3(2), 91.

At Trinity

In 1899 money designated for missions came from different sources at Trinity; collections on the first Sunday for missionary societies was devoted to Epworth League and their missionary efforts while individual members pledged to give two cents (about 70 cents in today's value (<https://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/1899?amount=100>) regularly (Carpenter, 1899, Dec. 7b).

The Junior League benefited from a collection of books designated as a "juvenile missionary library," which an adult member, **B. M. Cates**,⁵ donated to them in 1907 while the Senior League raised money to support a pastor, **Rev. Ignacio**

Riera, who was a Tallahassee district missionary in Cuba (Patterson, 1907).

Amanda Ellen Patterson (wife of Rev. Ira S. Patterson) noted (in her 1907 *Quarterly Conference* report as leader of the Junior League) that the Leaguers had sponsored a service at the local jail; taken groceries to those in need; and made 10 visits to jails and the hospital, as well as 330 visits to the poor, with money donated for a "charitable purpose" (Patterson, A. E., 1907).

In 1908, Senior Leaguers rented a five-room cottage with two rooms for devotional service and one for a reading room for a mission church body in Magnolia Heights, an area in Tallahassee (bordered today by Goodbody Lane, (cont. on p. 6)

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College Street, Apalachee Parkway, and just east of Broward Street (Patterson, 1908; Search “Magnolia Heights, Tallahassee,” Google Maps).

Church members attended a devotional service each Sunday afternoon and a preaching service on Friday evenings with the intention of constructing a building in the near future. Epworth President **William P. Byrd**⁶ directed the efforts to provide services to those who had moved to the new residential area. In 1912, the League contributed funds to pay on the debt on the Magnolia Heights Church building. That same year, just four years after the church was built, a tornado completely destroyed it (Patterson, 1908; Van Brunt, 1944, p. 3; Lawler, 1912, May 1; McLarty, 2017, pp. 6-16).

The Junior Leaguers were especially active at this time during their overall erratic history at Trinity. Records show that in one quarter, 503 visits to the sick; 229 visits to “strangers”; 142 bouquets placed in the church; 136 bouquets sent to the sick, and 430 newspapers delivered to the jail and mailing rooms (Patterson, 1908).

The Junior League of 64 children listened to papers on the topic of “Where Are Our Boys and Girls?” by **Russell Mickler** and **Peyton Yon**, who addressed the topic of how to “save boys and girls from the streets, saloons, and bad company.”

The papers were presented at a 1909 meeting at the church (“Epworth League...,” 1909, p. 3).

Senior League members provided funds to support missionary work in Cuba in 1912. In 1915, members had started a study class on missions and raised funds to support mission work in Africa (Lawler, 1912, May 1; Nixon, 1915).

Later in 1917, the League sponsored a social, inviting persons to bring books and magazines that would be sent to Y.M.C.A programs. Patrons paid admission to view a “picture show” at Trinity, where proceeds were earmarked for Y.M.C.A. projects (like Trinity, civic clubs and other nonprofits presented films early in the century as an education and entertainment medium to the public). Y.M.C.A. donated thousands of books, magazines, and newspapers to World War I camps in the U.S. and to prisoners (including German, French, and Russian) in a special assistance program and also established Y.M.C.A. centers at U.S. training camps at home where soldiers stationed at the camps would take classes on base and make use of the Y’s services. One such camp was Camp Joseph E. Johnston in Jacksonville, likely where Trinity’s donations of media were sent (“League Benefit...,” 1917, p. 3; Johnson, 2017, p. 1; Steuer, chapt. 6; Kelly, n.d.).



“One of the YMCA Buildings—Camp Joseph E. Johnston [in Jacksonville, FL].” 1918. Florida Memory. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/144603>. General Note: “Camp was created in 1909 as a Florida National Guard base, then taken over and expanded by the Federal government in September 1917 for use as an army quartermaster training camp. Renamed Camp J. Clifford R. Foster after World War I.”



“Leon Academy Class Portrait.” 1910. Florida Memory. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/10643>. General Note: “1. Edwin Thomas, 2. Frank Damon, 3. Frank Moor, 4. Raleigh Van Brunt, 5. Peyton Yon, 6. Juanita Forbes, 7. Laurie Allen, 8. Fred Davis, 9. John Hall, 10. Harry Van Brunt, 11. Mary Davis, 12. Mrs. S. L. Barber, 13. Henrietta Chaires, 14. Alice Chaires, 15. Janet Byrd, 16. Lillie Vinson, 17. Thelma Farley, 18. Fenton Garnett Davis Avant, and 19. Azalee Moor.” Many of these in the photo were Epworth Leaguers at Trinity, including Frank Moor (Senior League president, 1915-1916), Raleigh Van Brunt, Peyton Yon (Junior League president, 1909), Juanita Forbes, Harry Van Brunt, Mary Davis, Alice Chaires, Janet Byrd (Senior League president, 1917), Fenton Garnett Davis Avant, Azalee Moor (Moor, 1915-1916; “Epworth League Notes,” 1909; “Beautiful...,” 1909, p. 6; Byrd, 1917).

In 1927, the *Daily Democrat* newspaper reported that Trinity’s Epworth League conducted church services at the county jail on a Sunday afternoon. **Sally Nicholson** was serving as president of the League at the time (“Social...,” May 16, 1927, p.5).

That same year, the Capital City Epworth League Union and leaders of the MECS invited all young people of the “church and city” to hear **Daniel L. Mumpower** and his wife **Edith**, who served as missionaries in the Otetela village of WemboNyama in the central region of the Congo. Daniel Mumpower served as a physician, administrator, teacher, and prayer director. Edith also taught in the mission school. Other projects of the couple included recording language speakers and devising a grammar of the Otetela language (“Social...,” 1927, October 11, p. 5; “Mumpower...,” n.d, p. 1).

LeRoy Collins, Epworth Senior League president, announced that there were plans underway in September 1931 to begin a series of missionary study courses on the fourth Sunday of each month to educate members on the customs of the people

and the activities relating to Trinity-sponsored missionaries throughout the world (Collins, 1931, September 23).

In 1937, the *Quarterly Conference Minutes* reported donating money to missions, sending baskets to three “deserving families,” whose names the welfare association provided (Humphress, 1937).

Such acts in the spirit of charity were also extended to the church, itself, by means of gifts such as \$100 donated toward a new Sunday school room in 1898, and in 1907, Leaguers raised money that went toward a construction of a sidewalk in front of the parsonage (“Appendix,” 1898; “Local...,” 1907, June 14, p. 7).

Church Services

With over 100 young people marching into church with banners and flags, the Junior Epworth League celebrated the 1909 Sunday Easter service in elaborate style. Recitations with different themes made up much of the ceremony. One

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young participant was **May Rogers**. Symbolizing the Universal Easter, she carried a flower basket and wore a white dress adorned with a green sash from her shoulder to waist, and upon her head was a wreath of flowers. To illustrate the inclusive theme, girls took part by bearing the names of various countries and their national flags: **Margaret McLarren** represented Turkey; **Janie Strange**, India; **Kate Byrd**, China, **Jaunita Simmons**, Syria; and **Janie McIntosh**, Mexico (“Beautiful...,” 1909, p. 6).

Another theme was “The Resurrection Story.” Each of twelve boys held a banner with a written letter of the word *Resurrection*. The twelve were **Harry Van Brunt**, **Terrell Yon**, **Carthel Byers**, **James Gramling**, **Ralph Crowder**, **Albert Moor**, **Lawrence Evans**, **Jack Dyer**, **Jarvis Kaigler**, **Clinton Harris**, **Alfred Blackburn**, and **Ray Roberts** (“Beautiful...,” 1909, p. 6).

For the recitation of the theme, “How Far Does Love Reach?,” four boys—**Philip Dzialynski**,⁷ **Ben Chaires**, **Robert Temple**, and **Joe Williamson**—carried banners, each with a letter of the word *Love*. **Bessie Temple**, **Joy Ganey**, **Janet Byrd**,⁸ **Lillias Collins**, **Mary Lester**, **Ruth Smith**, **Louise Proctor**, and **Azalee Moor** sang “Risen Forever More,” to illustrate the theme of “A Better Country”—with roles as “a voice,” angel, and six pilgrims (“Beautiful...,” 1909, p. 6).

In May 1913, the Epworth League conducted a Sunday evening service based on the fifteenth chapter of John with talks by **Joseph Wainwright**, **Bernard Byrd**, and **Louise Nixon** (Trinity..., 1913, p. 4).

The League invited all young people in Tallahassee to pre-Easter services in 1931 at the church each morning at 7:30 during the week. Members of the League conducted the service with Rev. W. F. Dunkle leading the observance of Holy Communion on Friday (Morning, 1931, p. 3).

At the Thursday morning service, Florida’s Secretary of State **R. A. Gray**, member of Trinity, spoke to the young people on the topic of humility, saying,

Humility is one of the finest of virtues, and one hardest to practice. To know how to be humble and how to be humble at the right time and at the right way is a great achievement one that all too few learn to make.

When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples he not only practiced what he preached but left to all mankind an example of the great truth that no necessary work, however lowly or menial, is or can be degrading or beneath the dignity of even the highest. (“Gray...,” 1931, p. 3)

Conferences

District Conferences

In 1906, Trinity hosted the Tallahassee District Epworth league Conference for a three-day program of morning, afternoon, and evening services. William P. Byrd welcomed the attendants, and **Rev. J. Edgar Wilson** (presiding elder of the Tallahassee district and who would later serve as editor of the *Christian Advocate*) hosted a reception at his home. In 1918, the Tallahassee District League Institute took place in Carrabelle, with the



Bessie Temple. 1911 circa. From *Tallahassee Democrat*, Apr 19, 1987, p. G1. Photo provided by her cousin, J. Doug Smith. Bessie was an active Leaguer at Trinity. Among other activities, she attended Epworth conferences, sang in church programs, and delivered addresses at meetings. One of her leadership roles was serving as 2nd vice president of Trinity’s Intermediate Epworth League in 1909 (“Epworth...,” 1909, p. 3).



“Byrd Family Portrait on the Steps of Their Home.” 1905. Florida Memory. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/10039>. General Note: From left to right, Back row: A. Bernard Byrd, Grandfather Jesse Talbot Bernard, Rubie Bernard Byrd (Mrs. Thomas Blake Byrd), Thomas Blake Byrd, and Bradford Byrd. Front row: Clifton (Mrs. William E. Van Brunt), Janet (Mrs. James Plant), Elizabeth (Mrs. Robert Taylor), Kate (Mrs. Leroy MacGowan), Ruby (Mrs. C. L. Harwick), and Willie. Of particular relevance to this photo here are Janet Byrd (Plant) who was League president in 1917 and William P. Byrd (Willie), who was League president in 1907.

League chapter welcoming fellow representatives from Hinson, Apalachicola, Tallahassee, Sopchoppy. Frank Moor, secretary of the Tallahassee District League, was one of the attendees (Epworth. . . ,” 1906, p. 4; “Conference....,” 1907, 36; “Alphabetical...” 1924, p. 18; “Florida....,” 1918, p. 1).

With the beginning of the 1920s, came a recommitment of the MECS to Epworth League throughout its jurisdiction. Leaders met in St. Louis to propose ways to broaden the “scope of the organization.” One proposal was to appoint two field secretaries for each state (“To Extend. ...,” 1920, p. 1).

To answer the call of recommitment, members of the Tallahassee District Epworth League hosted a two-day institute on March 21-22, 1921 (Monday and Tuesday), with special services at night and working sessions throughout the two days of opening services of the League Institute. On Monday, Frank Moor delivered the opening address, and **Maude Bevis** performed a solo. **Alice Crone**, field secretary of the state League, delivered Tuesday’s address (“Epworth League Dist. ...,” 1921, p. 5; “Epworth League Institute....,” 1921,

March 21, p. 5; 1921, March 22, p. 8).

Receptions followed the opening and closing sessions. The Monday reception was held in the church’s parlor. Tuesday’s reception was hosted in the church basement, which was decorated with violets and white roses to convey the League’s official colors. Maud Bevis performed on the piano.

Eunice and **Evelyn Grady**, daughters of Trinity’s senior pastor, performed on the violin, while guests enjoyed fruit punch and cake (Epworth League Institute....,” 1921, p. 5; “Delegates....,” 1921, p. 2).

Acting as mentors, the next month **Mary Davis** (who was League district secretary of Epworth) and Frank Moor visited the League Council in Miccosukee to offer advice and encouragement on expanding their League chapter there (“Miccosukee,” 1921, p. 8.)

At the close of the decade of the 1930s, just prior to Epworth League’s transition to Methodist Youth Fellowship in the newly formed Methodist Church in the United States, the Capital Fellowship Union of the Methodist Epworth Leagues met for supper at Chaires as an additional activity to

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their regular January meeting. Methodist churches participating were Leaguers representing churches across the Big Bend from Tallahassee, Chaires, Miccosukee, Waukeenah, Wacissa, Monticello, Lloyd, and Lamont (“Capital...,” 1939, p. 2).

State Conferences

From the beginning of the League’s establishment in Tallahassee, Trinity’s Epworth League members attended state conferences. Delegates in June 1905 to the Florida State Epworth League convention in Madison were **Nannie Gallie**, **Robert McCord**, **Lynwood Evans**, and **Susie Van Brunt** (“Miss....,” 1905, p. 2).

In 1907 the *Weekly True Democrat* quoted a writer in the *Florida Advocate* who praised William P. Byrd of Trinity, Epworth League chapter president, as an “enthusiastic Leaguer and an earnest Christian young man,” who came to talk with him about the upcoming Epworth state conference at Tallahassee. (“Local....,” 1907, April 26, p. 7).

The conference was a three-day session beginning June 18, 1907, with 125 delegates. **Bertha Jones** and **Pearl McCord** acted as committee planners. **Guyte P. McCord**⁹ and **Bessie Temple**, representing Trinity, and **Worth W. Trammel**, representing Tallahassee, presented addresses at the first evening’s program. The programs during the day were filled with reports and talks on topics such as the future of the Leagues and missions; a symposium on methods; as well as Bible readings, devotionals, and prayers and business sessions. A noted evangelist, **Emma Tucker** (whose property in Enterprise, FL, would become part of the site of the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home) gave morning Bible readings (“State Conference....,” 1907, June 7, p. 4; June 28, p. 1; “History, n.d).

Sallie Blake hosted a reception in her home, following the Wednesday evening program. Decorations in League colors (white and gold) with lit Japanese lanterns created a “weird and attractive” atmosphere (State Conference....,” 1907, June 28, p. 1).

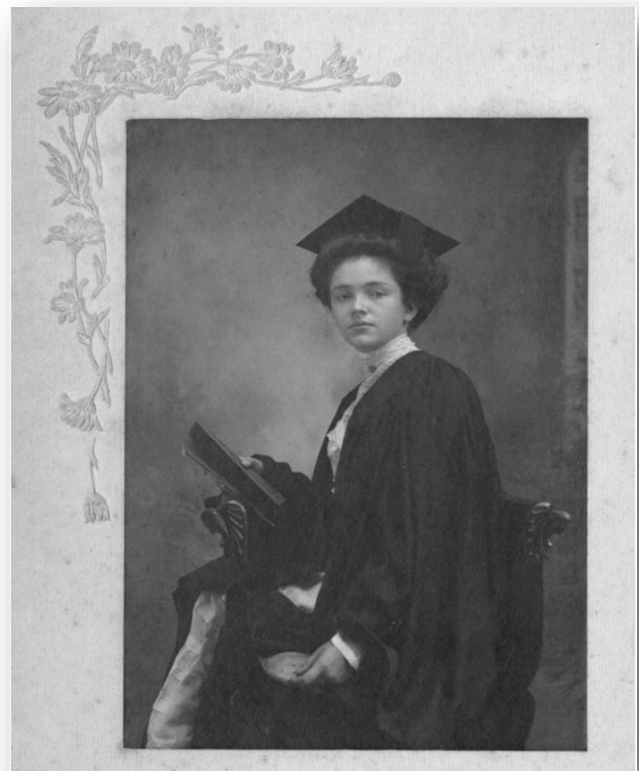
Trinity members and others in the city

“furnished homes for delegates,” and “young men of the town” provided financial assistance to cover expenses of the conference. Epworth secretary Guyte McCord expressed his appreciation in a published note in the city’s newspaper (McCord, 1907, p. 10).

Regional and International Conferences

Representatives from MECS Epworth Leagues made plans for a regional meeting of over 500 delegates from 12 Southern Methodist states in Lake Junaluska, NC, from August 5 to 15, 1926. (“500....,” 1936, p. 3).

From the beginning of its history, the Epworth League has sought to bring about unity in the spirit of the Southern and Northern Methodist denominations through its international conferences. At these joint meetings of the MEC, MECS, and the Methodist Church of Canada, youth came together to put differences aside. Trinity sent delegates to these conferences such as the one in December



“College Graduation Portrait of Suzie Van Brunt (later Bridges) – Tallahassee, Florida.” 1907 circa. Florida Memory. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/157374>.

1937, when five members from Trinity attended the national conference in Saint Louis (Smith, 1981, p. 225; Royster, 1938).

Conclusion

Trinity Epworth Leaguers did not spend *all* of their time in mission and conference work. They were often hosting and attending parties and enjoying other forms of entertainment as we shall see in the next article of this series.

Notes

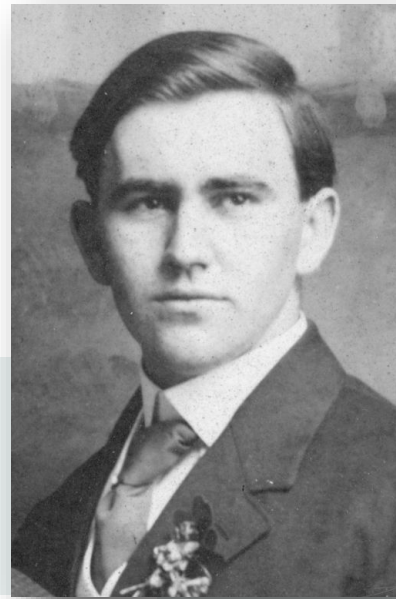
¹Amanda Ellen Patterson was president of the Woman's Parsonage and Home Missionary Society of the Florida Conference, which was a major organization prior to 1910. She was known as an outstanding administrator and leader, achieving statewide recognition for organizing two highly successful Junior Epworth Leagues ("Mrs. Amanda...", 1940, pp. 131-132).

²According to J. Warren Smith, Methodist historian, the Junior League consisted of young people, ages 10-12, Intermediate, 13-17 years, and young adults in the Senior League, 18-34 years of age (Smith, 1981, p. 226). It is not clear how consistent the age limits were from region to region and in different time periods. Documents and records offer a glimpse of how the age limits varied (See Crosby, 2022, p. 5).

³Robert C. Parker was an active leader at Trinity, serving on the Board of Stewards and as a Sunday school teacher. He was a naval lieutenant, stationed in the Pacific theater during WWII, and earned his law degree at the University of Florida. Parker was a petroleum products distributor in Tallahassee and was elected commissioner and mayor of the city ("Methodists Plan...", 1945, p. 2; "Parker Qualifies..." 1946, p. 1; Martin, 1949, p. 1).

⁴Tom N. Humphress was president, chairman, and CEO of Barnett Bank of Tallahassee, the city's largest single bank at one time. Awarded medals for WWII service, he later became a colonel in active reserve ("Tom Nixon Humphress," 2006).

⁵B. M. Cates was among the first to spearhead oil drilling in Florida.



Guyte McCord served as Epworth secretary in 1907 (McCord, 1907, p. 10). This photo of him, taken 1909 (circa) was provided by J. Doug Smith from his private collection

He sold land and stocks through the Bonheur Company, for whom he served as general manager and president. The drilling began in Wakulla County, 16 miles south of Tallahassee in 1916 ("The Stock Books...", 1915, p. 8; "Oil Wells...", 1915, p.1; "Oil Well...", 1916, 1; "Bonheur...", 1916, p. 2; Sellards & Gunter, 1922, p. 39).

⁶William P. Byrd became a partner with his father, T. B. Byrd, of a well-known grocery store in Tallahassee and left the city in 1915 to establish a bakery in Jacksonville. William died at the age of 33 in 1918 from the flu epidemic, which was raging in the country at that time (Haufler, 1965, p. 11; "Funeral Rites...", 1918, p. 1).

⁷Trinity membership records indicate that Philip Dzialynski joined the church by Baptism in 1908, when he was around eight years old. This was the time that Amanda Ellen Patterson was leader of the Jun-



"The Towle, Whitaker, Blake, Yancey Home at 517 North Calhoun Street - Tallahassee, Florida." 1958. Florida Memory. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/29823>. General Note: "Built for attorney and State Comptroller Simon Towle in 1847. Later sold to Richard Whitaker in 1854. Sold to Miss Sallie Blake in 1906 and then to City Manager Malcolm Yancey in 1942. In 1968 it was sold to Lucille Givhan and finally to the Democrat Executive Committee of Florida in 1976."

(cont. on p. 12)

ior League and cultivated an exceptionally dynamic organization. Philip's family was Jewish, and according to ancestry entries, his great-grandfather was also the great-grandfather of Ruby Diamond of Tallahassee and Florida State College for Women fame (McLarty, 2014, p. 56; "Searching Florida, n.d.; Tallahassee," n.d.; Heimovics & Zerivitz, 2000, p. 7; "Abraham...," n.d.).

8. Janet Byrd Plant, Epworth president in 1917, was later president of Trinity's United Methodist Women and was an organizer of the Altar Guild. Her daughter, Rubie Plant Butterworth, was an expert on Trinity's history, authoring a chapter in *Trinity United Methodist Church: Tallahassee's First Church, 1824-1999* ("Janet Byrd Plant," 1981, p. 2B; Butterworth, 1999, pp. 34-50).

9. Guyte P. McCord served as Tallahassee mayor (1919), mayor/commissioner (1920-1922), city commissioner (1934-1936), and clerk of the Florida Supreme Court (1939-1964) (McCord, 1907, p. 10; "Biographical or Historical" [McCord], n. d.).

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Crossroads

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Send your comments, corrections, and requests for printed copies as well as inquiries about submissions to Pamela Crosby, chief editor, at pcrosby@tumct.org.

The purpose of **Crossroads** is to provide descriptions of historical events and to publish news related to the Trinity United Methodist Church Historical Society. Its intent is not to endorse or criticize theological or ethical positions related to issues that these descriptive accounts might raise.

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Making History: Quarterly News from Trinity's Historical Society and Committee for the Preservation of Church History

Gratitude to Dot Binger and Cecile Baker

Members of Trinity's history organizations (Committee for the Preservation of Church History [CPOCH] and Historical Society [HS]) expressed gratitude at our December 7, 2022, meeting for historian colleagues **Dot Binger** and **Cecile Baker**.

Dot has been recording secretary (RS) since 2017, and she has exemplified all of the qualities that make a superb RS: articulate expression, devotion, tenacious memory, lightning speed writing ability, fidelity to accuracy, and—what is missing in some of us—astute hearing! She has made each month's Minutes an historical document in itself for our ongoing preservation efforts.

Members are also grateful that the person succeeding Dot is Cecile Baker, our newest member who is also exceptionally conscientious and bright. It is our great fortune to have Cecile serve as both RS and assistant editor of *Crossroads*; she has been especially outstanding and dedicated in the assistant editing role as well. Appreciation to both Dot and Cecile.

Comprehensive Historical Preservation of Church Communication and Records

At the December meeting, CPOCH reemphasized the importance of comprehensive historical preservation of church procedures and proceedings, including documentation of leadership transitions, as well as initiatives, policies, programs, ministries, events, and transactions.

In earlier years, this information was included in Trinity's printed publications. Currently, historians at Trinity rely on transient information such as that sent out on Facebook, emails, and the website calendar, and feature-oriented and human-interest content that is published in the *Tidings* newsletter. Discussion of how to have access to more broadly historically valued information for future historians and others will take place throughout the coming weeks.

Webpage Timeline

CPOCH members discussed at their December meeting the upcoming Bicentennial Celebration and an interactive timeline marking major events in Trinity's history. Lynn McLarty will devise a timeline prototype for the CPOCH and HS to consider.

Church Membership Data

Cecile Baker reported that the data for new church membership from 9/28/2008 – 2/2/2020 has been completed. Proofing each page for accuracy and consistency of reporting will occupy the next stage in the project.

Bicentennial Scrapbook

One activity planned to celebrate Trinity's upcoming 200th anniversary in 2024 is the creation of a scrapbook to illustrate and record this anticipated birthday event. Those interested in helping to create a treasured scrapbook that will be seen for years to come should contact **Dan Drake** at ddraco75@gmail.com to sign up to be a part of "Trinity's 200th Birthday History" project.

Talk on Trinity's History

E. Lynn McLarty presented to the Circle One of the United Women in Faith on December 11, 2022. McLarty's focus of his talk was a church history timeline, marking events from the beginning with the 1822 circuit riders from the South Carolina Conference to the projected 200th celebration of the church's organization in 1824. The setting for the presentation was in the parlor in the Parry Building at Westminster Oaks.



E. Lynn McLarty stands beside his Trinity timeline display with Cynthia Smith, chair of the Circle One of the United Women in Faith.

Historical Society Display Highlights Memorial Rooms & Garden

The Trinity Historical Society's display in the narthex for November featured photos of rooms and a garden of the church that are familiar to most members. The enhancement of each space was the result of a generous financial gift from family members in honor of deceased loved ones.

The display featured photos of McKenzie Library: dedicated in 1986 in honor of **Sarah Jane Patterson McKenzie** (1913-1999) and **William Guy McKenzie, Sr.** (1911-1996); the John T. Sewell Memorial Prayer Garden: dedicated in 1987 in honor of **John Tigert Sewell** (1906-1980); the Jameses' Music Suite: dedicated in 1993 in honor of **Walter Stevens James** (1915-2001) and **Rachel Lorraine Greene James** (1915-2003); the Lucy Cushman Collins Parlor: dedicated in 1994 in honor of **Lucy Cushman Collins** (1891-1993); and Moor Hall: dedicated in 1986 in honor of **Franklin Douglas Moor** (1894-1984) and **Bethana "Beth" Walton Moor** (1897-1986).



Cecile Baker (center) with sisters, Cornelia Bowen (left) and Jeanie Ough (right), seen here on Sunday, November 13, 2022, with the photo display of memorial spaces. The display was set up in the narthex and designed by E. Lynn McLarty. The sisters are the fourth generation of the McCord family to be members of Trinity. Their great-grandparents and grandparents became members in 1899, and parents in 1900s.

Submission Guidelines

If you would like to be a published author in an upcoming issue, see guidelines below:

Call for Stories and Articles

- **"I Remember When" snapshots:** These are short descriptions that recount church life memories. They are usually **25–100 words long**. See below for general guidelines.
 - **Oral interviews:** Interviews may be audio or video taped. Trinity historians write up the interviews in narrative form with approval from the persons interviewed before publication. Videos or audios of the interviews may be posted on Trinity's website with permission from persons interviewed.
 - **Firsthand stories:** Individuals may submit stories based on their firsthand experience at Trinity. The stories are generally **500 words, but can be longer**. See "General Guidelines."
 - **Research articles:** These articles are more formal in nature.
- o Criteria for formal articles include **relevance** to the purpose of the newsletter, which is to publish articles that pertain to the history of Trinity in a substantial way; **quality of**

writing; historical accuracy; clarity; conciseness; coherence; and readability.

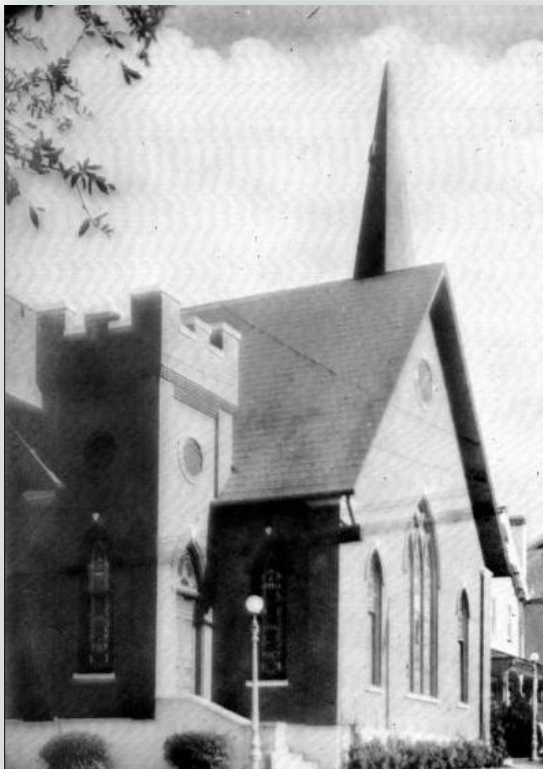
o Articles should be **original** works and not excerpts.

o The word limit for articles is **usually around 500 words, but can be longer**.

A list of resources used for historical research may be requested. **Original** sources (instead of information from history books, newspapers, or newsletters) are preferred when possible.

General Guidelines

- Writing should be free of disrespectful language.
- Photos and information should not violate privacy, copyright, or other established laws.
- All accepted works are subject to editing in compliance with all *Crossroads* guidelines, including style guide standards, and **must pass editorial approval** before publication.
- Submit Word document to **Pamela Crosby**, editor, at pcrosby@tumct.org.



Who Are They? A Look Back at 1914: A Future Governor in Children's Sunday School

Above photo of Trinity children's Sunday school class, 1914 (circa) from "Who Are They?" (1954, August 17). *Tallahassee Democrat*, p. 4. Names in photo from "Who They Are." (1954, August 17). *Tallahassee Democrat*, p. 4. Above photo: "Front row, left to right, Mildred Roberts, now Mrs. Jack Butler of Palm Beach, a half-sister of State Sen. Wilson Caraway; Eleanor Mizell, now Mrs. McMullen, State Road Department attorney; Frances Brown, now Mrs. Don Fielding of Tampa; Margaret Ausley, now Mrs. Parks Martin of Detroit.

Second row, left to right, Leslie Tryon, now dead; Carol Bridges, now Mrs. Robert W. Davis, wife of the deputy state insurance commissioner and state Senate secretary, Cameron Thompson, now of Atlanta, son of Lewis G. Thompson; Edna Mae Jones, now Mrs. R. T. Thomson of Merritt; L. T. and LeRoy Collins, Democratic nominee for Governor. The teacher is Mrs. Malcom McNeill, 317 East Call Street."

Suggested photo/article provided by J. Doug Smith. Left photo: The 1914 Sunday school class seen above met in this church building. It was a red-brick, semi-gothic sanctuary, built in 1893, and replaced the original sanctuary in which the Methodists had worshiped since 1840. The 1893 building was replaced by the current church building in 1964. <https://www.tumct.org/welcome/about/history/>