



Ashland Place

United Methodist Church 1942-2017

75th Anniversary Notes...

Ashland Place United Methodist Church
Seventy-fifth Anniversary – 2017
Anniversary Notes – Installment #4



The prie-dieu was hand-made by Lawrence Cater in his shop in their backyard, in memory of Sarah Hendrix Cater.

Memorial giving has always been a strong tradition at Ashland Place Church. So many of the things accomplished with memorial gifts over the years have enhanced our worship and strengthened our ministries. As we approach our anniversary celebration followed soon after by All Saints Day, it seems fitting to mention a few of the many gifts from the past and to encourage current members to consider following this great tradition.

Recalling past gifts provides an enhanced sense of our history. So many who have been memorialized have been cornerstones – the lifeblood of our witness and growth. Details could fill this column for years. I have chosen a few, especially those most obvious to the worshipper. To narrow the field for this week's Notes, I've chosen a neighborhood theme.

The brass cross and candlesticks on the altar were given by family and friends in memory of Mr. Shelton H. Hendrix. Mr. Hendrix was a charter member and active leader for many years, as was his wife, Pauline

Hendrix. One of the UMW circles active for decades bore her name. The prie-dieu was hand-made by their son-in-law, Lawrence Cater, in his shop in their backyard, in memory of Sarah Hendrix Cater. The brass collection plates were given by Mrs. Hendrix in memory of her mother and her aunt.



The Chancel Furnishings were given in memory of Eloyse Beatty McLaughlin,

The Hendrix and Cater families lived just over a block from the church in the home later owned by another long-time member, Mrs. Ila Hill Hickey. (Side note: notice the first stained glass window on the right side of the sanctuary, given in memory of Ila's children who predeceased her.) Back door to Ila was her family home where her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Hill resided. Mrs. Hill and her family gave numerous memorial gifts over the years, including a piano for the sanctuary and the chimes on the organ (more about the organ in a later installment).

The chancel furnishings are in memory of another church neighbor, whose home stood where our fellowship hall is now. Katharine Hope says it best in her *History*: "On June 29, 1975, the members and friends of the Ashland Place United Methodist Church experienced a beautiful and inspiring memorial dedicated to the glory of God and to the memory of Eloyse Beatty McLaughlin, a charter member. The old and worn pulpit, lectern, altar, choir pews, and communion rail had been replaced by new ones, given by Mrs. McLaughlin's three sons....and other family members and friends." I'll add that Mrs. McLaughlin taught second grade at Augusta Evans elementary school for years. She was often called upon to play piano at church.



The Organ with Mrs. Kimbrough playing at a wedding.

Many gifts have been dedicated to the music ministry. It is interesting to note that our major investment in hand bells began with a memorial gift of two octaves of bells from Mrs. H. V. Cohron in memory of her husband, Mr. Henry Vinson Cohron. Incidentally, Mr. Cohron was the contractor for the Sunday School building. A third octave of bells was given by our beloved Mrs. Laverne Morris, long-time staffer and member who lovingly served the church and those in need in so many quiet ways.

For years, reaching out beyond our boundaries with music occurred every day because of the church bell and carillon player installed in the bell tower which was added as part of a major building program begun in 1978. The bell and player were given in memory of Dr. and Mrs. John C. Hope by their children, Leo Bryant Hope, Katharine Allison Hope, Leonora Hope Adams, Adele Hope McConnell, John C. Hope, Jr., Mary Page Hope Peck, and Robert Milton Hope. The carillon was heard each noon and at six each evening. Unfortunately, it is out of service and cannot be repaired. This presents an opportunity for another memorial gift.

When the new organ was installed in 1975, the old one was sent for use in the chapel of Searcy Hospital. According to Katharine Hope, "Few musical instruments have served so long and so well as this one. During the days of silent movies, it was part of the entertainment at the Crown Theatre. Later, Mr. W. O. Pape purchased it to be used in his radio station. Our former beloved organist, Mrs. Dorothy Kimbrough, played it at the radio station, as she later did at our chapel." It was stationed near the lectern at main floor level in the sanctuary. "In 1939 Mr. Pape presented the organ to the Ashland Place Chapel as a memorial to his mother, Mrs. Sallie Roberts Pape. Thus, from 1939 until March 30, 1975, it was a part of our worship."

Future installments will return to the background of some of the memorial gifts and also will continue relating details of building ventures, members serving, and further developments in our history.

Jane Finley
Memorial chairman