



Mary Lou Williams Carr
(1898-1999)

Photo 1961, Hallie Pope Bible Class Scrapbook

Mary Lou and her husband Henry C. Carr moved from Wallace, NC to Durham in 1919. Dr. Carr established his dental practice in Durham. They built a home in Trinity Park at 409 Watts Street. She and Henry first joined the First Presbyterian Church. At that time Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church (TAPC) was a mission church under the care of First Presbyterian. In 1924 the Carrs were among 38 members moving their membership to TAPC to help revitalize the church. Dr. Carr became an elder and then chair of the building committee.

Mrs. Carr was equally active in Trinity Avenue. She had a bachelor's degree in music and was organist for 28 years and helped develop the children's music programs. She was an active member of the Hallie Pope Sunday School Class. She served as president of the TAPC Woman's Auxiliary three different times. She was named Honorary Life Member in 1968. Mary Lou Carr was Trinity Avenue's first historian and wrote the "Historical Sketch of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC from 1893-1933"

Mrs. Carr was very active in the Trinity Park Neighborhood Club, and she lived at 409 Watts all her life. She was a charter member of the Durham Study Club established in 1923. She was also a charter member of the Durham Woman's Club.

Mr. Carr passed away in 1972. In 1973 a beautiful bell tower on the church grounds standing 28 feet tall and housing 5 bells from Van Bergen Bell Foundries of the Netherlands was dedicated in honor of Dr. Henry Carr. The Bells were a gift of Mary Lou and her daughters, Eleanor Stokes Carr Boyd and Frances Sprint Carr Parker, together with memorial gifts of friends. Mary Lou outlived her husband by more than a quarter of a century and achieved her 100th birthday.

She chose for her favorite Bible verse recorded in the TAPC Hallie Pope Scrap book:

Ephesians 4: 32 "...be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Sources TAPC Archives: *Durham Sun*, 12/10/1988, *Hallie Pope Bible Class Scrapbook*, 1960; *Historical Sketch of Trinity Ave Presbyterian Church*, Durham, NC 1933 – 1939, M.L Carr