Finding Connection at NRUMC

During the first years in the life of NRUMC, all members were highly active. Everyone had a job, served on a committee, sang in the choir, or taught a Sunday School class. The women stayed busy with establishing the UMW and participating in fundraisers. Below follows some memories from Mary Lee Robinson, a Charter Member of the church:

Though I was busy at home chasing two children, I remember my friends who came together to form the first circle of the North Raleigh UMW soon after the first building (metal) was complete. They called the first circle the “Agape” group, and met in the mornings. As the group grew, they added circles, “Covenant” being the second and meeting at night for those who could not participate during the day. I first became involved in the Covenant group. Not surprisingly, the Agape group experienced many firsts:
• The first president was Merle Chatham. She and her husband, Wes, were founding members of the church. She was followed by Polly Smith, another founding member, as the second president.
• The first meeting was held at Ginette McPeters’s house, also a founding member.

As the organization grew so did our impact. To raise money for missions, the first cookbook was born. I remember this well, as we put the office mimeograph printing machine through its paces. We had the black, ink-stained fingers to prove it. And, no doubt Rev. Sid Huggins remembers this adventure; don’t believe he got a moment of work done that day.
Other projects during our formative years included bake sales, bazaars, and note cards featuring North Carolina artist Jerry Miller’s rendering of our second sanctuary building (left). And some projects served needs around the church, such as making Chrismon ornaments, many of which are still in use today.

From the first years, we had a live tree in the Sanctuary during Christmas with Chrismons. The ladies held workshops in their homes and at the church to make the ornaments. Workshops were led by various women.

Some of these beautiful Chrismons were made nearly 50 years ago, and have been lovingly safeguarded through the years by members of the Altar Guild. Many new ornaments have also been added. We have nearly 200 handmade Chrismons in our collection.

- Mary Lee Robinson