

## **HISTORY OF THE FIRST AID NURSES FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH**

The First Aid Nurses were re-organized under the leadership of Pastor Shelvin Jerome Hall in 1956. The officers were: Mary Lucas, President; Christine Mack, Vice President; Ethel Mims, Secretary; Willie Mae Carlos, Secretary; Millie Stribblin, Treasurer and Lubertha Graves, Inspector. Mrs. Lucas served as President from 1956-1959. The Presidents who served from 1969 to 1980 include: Mrs. Christine Mack, Mrs. Norine Thomas, Mrs. Roberta Whigham and Mrs. Effie. Cooper. The first male nurse, Mr. Charlie Bunch, joined the Board in 1972; the next male nurses, Mr. Johnny Miller and Mr. Dennis Hoffman joined in 1986. A musical was sponsored by the nurses in 1978.

Mrs. Florida Miller served as President from 1981-1983. During her tenure, the nurses participated in the combined Service Department Annual in 1983. Mrs. Effie Cooper was re-elected President in 1984 and served until illness forced her to resign. Vice President, Mrs. Sandra Griffin completed the term and served until 1987.

In January 1986, the Board visited nursing homes and other sick and shut-in members of Friendship. The Jackson Square Nursing Center was adopted by the Nurses Board in 1987. The nurses attended classes on First Aid, CPR, Home Nursing, Church Nursing, Vital Signs, and Hypertension Detection.

In 1987, Mrs. Betty Booker was elected President with Mrs. Dorothy Hill served as Vice President. Under their leadership, the Board began fasting and praying each Wednesday. They held their first annual prayer brunch, developed a chain of communication among Board members, and financially supported the L. Priscilla Hall Scholarship Fund. In 1989 each member adopted a youth. When the Holy Spirit directed Pastor Hall to ask the nurses to stand for Jesus, several nurses joined the Board. Two registered nurses, Krystal Spivey-Holmes and Mattie Geary joined. In addition, Dr. Janice Robinson joined the Board as an honorary member in 1989.

Due to added responsibilities, Mrs. Willie B. Odum served as the 1st Vice President in 1989 and Mrs. Krystal Spivey-Holmes was appointed 2nd Vice President in 1990. Also during that year, Mrs. Betty Hall and Mrs. Freddie Jean King were appointed as Chairmen of the Sick Committee.

An Awareness Workshop on Church Nursing, First Aid and Parliamentary Procedures were implemented in 1990. The instructors were Mrs. Lubertha Weatherall, Mrs. Krystal Spivey-Holmes, Mrs. Mattie Geary and Mrs. Alfreda Williams.

The nurses supported Local, State, District and National activities. There were seven (7) nurses in attendance when Pastor Shelvin Jerome Hall was elected President of the Baptist General State Convention of Illinois, Inc. in 1990.

The Willa Mae Carr and the Roberta Whigham Awards were established in 1992 to honor those nurses whose dedication demonstrated their love for God and commitment to their church and pastor.

In 1993, Mrs. Dorothy Hill was elected President and Ms. Priscilla Randolph was elected Vice President. Through God's blessings and the perseverance of dedicated nurses, the following Friendship nurses held offices with the Salem Baptist District Association and the Baptist General State Nurses health Unit: Mrs. Jeraldine Bowen, Mrs. Argirtha Sivels, Ms. Priscilla Randolph and Mrs. Josephine Morgan-Brown.

In 1994, President Dorothy Hill was honored for outstanding and dedicated service by the Salem Nurses Health Unit.

In June 1996, Mrs. Jeraldine Bowen was elected to a six (6) year term as President of Baptist General State Nurses Health Unit. In 1997, Ms. Priscilla Randolph was elected President of Salem Baptist District Association Nurses Health Unit.

In October 1997, Ms. Priscilla Randolph was elected President of the Friendship First Aid Nurses, and Mrs. Sandra Griffith, First Vice President. Ms. Randolph assigned various duties to the nurses to enhance the quality of service offered by the nurses.

On June 9, 1998, President Priscilla Randolph was presented the Gertrude Hunt Trophy in Rockford, Illinois as the President of the District having the highest number of Churches attend the State Nurses Health Unit Workshops and Board Meetings.

In 1998 and March 1999, the Nurses Board donated socks to the Baptist General State Nurses and Salem Baptist District Nurses to be given to nursing homes.

Mrs. Linda Buffington was appointed Second Vice President on April 25, 1999. The nurses attended the Baptist General State Nurses Workshop/Health Fair on May 22, 1999. The topic was "Ministering to the Bereaved," and the nurses received a certificate.

The nurses continued to support the L. Priscilla Hall Scholarship Fund. They continued to stand for Jesus, although some members were unable to stand. The Nurses Board continued to donate socks and fruit baskets to the sick, shut-in and numerous nursing homes in Chicago and across the State of Illinois. They also attended many State Nurses Workshops.

On May 20, 2000, the following nurses received certificates from the District Nurses Workshop in Church Nursing & CPR: Mrs. Willie B. Odum, Mrs. Valeria Mitts, Mrs. Linda Buffington, Mrs. Josephine Morgan-Brown and Mrs. Priscilla Randolph-Stephens.

On September 16, 2000, the First Aid Nurses had a Prayer Brunch and honored Pastor Shelvin Hall and Associate Ministers, Rev. Reneé Willett, Rev. Henry Henard, Rev. Elvin Simpson, Rev. Antwon Funches, Rev. Clarence Earl Miller, Rev. Arthur Jefferson and Rev. Marcus C. Owens. On September 16, 2000, during the funeral service of Nurse Linda Dabney, President Priscilla Randolph-Stephens performed the first Retired Nurses Cap Ceremony.

In February 2001, Valoria Mitts was appointed Second Vice President. On May 19, 2001, Mrs. Willie B. Odum, Mrs. Valoria Mitts, Mrs. Josephine Morgan-Brown, Mrs. Barbara Robinson and Mrs. Priscilla Randolph-Stephens attended the Salem Baptist District Nurses Annual Workshop on Parliamentary Procedure, Church Etiquette and Managing Steer.

In September 2001, Friendship's First Lady, Mrs. Lucy Mae Hall and the Ministers Wives, Mrs. Shirley Willett, Mrs. Edna Henard, Mrs. Allison Funches, Mrs. Catherine Simpson, Mrs. Vanessa Jefferson, Mrs. Olivia Brown and Mrs. Ocie McCall were honored during the Nurses Prayer Brunch.

In February 2002, the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Eddie B. Edwards Black Awards Banquet was held in Bloomington, Illinois. On February 16, 2001, President Priscilla Randolph-Stephens was honored for being an outstanding humanitarian.

Mrs. Priscilla Randolph-Stephens and Mrs. Josephine Morgan-Brown were asked to be part of the 2002-2008 State Nurses Administration as Recording Secretary and Assistant Recording Secretary. During this time Mrs. Jeraldine Bowen served as Corresponding Secretary of the Health Unit under the National Woman's Auxiliary.

On May 18, 2002, four (4) nurses, Mrs. Florida Miller, Mrs. Debra Grandberry, Mrs. Barbara Robinson and Mrs. Priscilla Randolph-Stephens attended the first Salem District Nurses Retreat held at the Best Western Hotel in Calumet Park. They received certificates for the completion of First Aid Procedures Review and a Prayer Seminar: How's Your Prayer Life? These classes were taught by Mrs. Jeraldine Bowen and Mrs. Gladys Gill, respectively. The theme was Spiritual Fitness.

In September of 2002 at the First Aid Nurses Prayer Brunch, Deacon and Deaconess – James and Ruby Lucas, Jerry and Helen Wilson, Charles and Sylvia Simpson, Sterling and Debra Grandberry, Mrs. Vina Mae Carroll, Mrs. Josephine Morgan-Brown, and Mr. J.B. Bates were honored.

In 2003, Mrs. Willie B. Odum was elected President and Mrs. Florida Miller was elected Vice President. The nurses continued to visit nursing homes, and the sick and shut-in members of Friendship Baptist Church.

In September 2003 at the First Aid Nurses Brunch, the Friendship choirs were honored, which included: Voices of Friendship, Hall's Ensemble, Angelics, Singing Churchmen and the Dr. Watts Chorus.

In 2004, another link in the chain was broken, as Mrs. Willie Mae Carlos' cap was retired.

In September 2004, the Nurses Board honored the Friendship Baptist Church Mothers Board during its Prayer Brunch.

In September 2005, Mrs. Lucy Mae Hall, Friendship's First Lady, was honored for 50 years of dedicated service during the First Aid Nurses Prayer Brunch.