

Jane Baer
Spring Street, Oxford Ohio

Jane has been a life-long member of the Oxford Presbyterian Church. In fact, she was born in the same year the foundation stone of the Memorial Church was laid. She and the Memorial Church have grown up together. Equally important is the fact that music and the choir have been a major part of her life.

Jane was known for having a beautiful soprano voice. She joined the choir while in high school in 1940 and was a member for 70 years. She especially remembers when Edward G. Mead was the choir director and organist. Mr. Mead developed the choir using primarily university students. Mr. Mead emphasized classical music. Jane remembers that the choir loft was remodeled in 1954-1955 when George F. Barron was choir master. And she remembers the beautiful solos sung in the choir during those days. After the choir had been managed by George F. Barron and his wife for ten years, Robert Moore, son of Mrs. Hazlett Moore, took over. Mrs. Hazlett A. Moore had started inviting members of the congregation to join the choir. Robert Moore continued his mother's work and made the choir up of Church Members, as it is today.

She also remembers the pastorate of Dr. Eliot Porter (1934-1949). Jane remembers that it was in the Presbyterian Church during Dr. Porter's time that Dr. Hazlett Moore, a local physician, and church member, created a free Community Clinic for Oxford residents in 1935. At this time there was no hospital in Oxford. The clinic met once a week upstairs on the second floor. The doctors devoted their time and talents, while the drug stores provided prescriptions at cost. This Community Clinic remained in the Church until 1939 when it was taken over by the Village of Oxford and then became the basis for the current McCullough-Hyde Hospital.

She also remembers Dr. Eric Erickson, who sang bass in the choir, and his wife Louise, who taught piano at Miami. The Ericksons gave a major donation to McCullough-Hyde Hospital to remodel the labs in 1973.

She also remembers Robert "Smiling Bob" Foster who was the longest serving pastor of the church (1960-1979). During his pastorate there were two church services. The High School choir sang at the 9:30 service and the Membership choir sang at the 11:00 service. After his pastorate the church reverted to one regular service at 10:00.

When Jane was going to College, all of the girls had to live in university housing or in a home. Jane majored in American history while in school and worked at the university library, before King Library was built. She was also a member of Delta Zeta sorority, which was founded at Miami.

Jane's grandfather had previously purchased the large property at the corner of Spring and Campus in 1902. He was a minister in Blue Ball, Ohio and became acquainted with Oxford when his only daughter Edna, wished to go to college. She chose Western College for Women. Later in 1907, the family moved into the Baer home at Spring and Campus. Her younger brothers then went to Miami University while living at home. Jane's father, Paul Baer, took over the home in 1936 and raised his family there, so Jane has lived in this house since that time. Jane's father, Paul, owned and operated the White Cross Dairy in Oxford for many years. Her nephew, John, lives with her today in the house, while another nephew, Jim, lives in Cincinnati.

Jane began working for Miami University while still a student in 1942. She spent 41 years in the Admissions Office and saw the university grow from 3000 in 1946 to 17,000 students today. Jane believes the University has developed into an outstanding school over the years.

Jane no longer sings in the choir but she still enjoys music. She has a baby grand piano in her living room and enjoys have the meeting of the Women's Music Club of Oxford in her home each December. She also has the Presbyterian Woman's Circle the first Tuesday of January and is famous for the homemade cookies she serves. She still likes to attend church when the weather is good, but does not go out when it is wet and cold. She enjoys seeing Robert Smith, the Deacon who visits her. She is helped by her caregiver, Karen Cupp, and is happy to remain in the family home where she has lived since 1936.

Jane is a beautiful, lovely lady who provided Oxford and the Presbyterian Church with delightful musical memories.