

Dear Janet,

I hope I am not too late with my story, which I guess is of a historical nature.

I do not remember my earliest association with First Church. I was six months old in 1932, and a member of the "Cradle Roll." About that time, I was baptized by Dr. Stewart with water from the River Jordan, that he had brought back from his trip to the Holy Land.

I still have my New Testament that Ruth Transon gave to me for "regular attendance", in 1937. Our Sunday School classes were held in sections of a very large room that had doors that slid out of the wall to make two rooms, where Whymman Hall now stands.

As a teen age girl, our class was held in the "ladies lounge" in the basement. We had to walk thru the basement furnace room to get there.

While the new Sunday School rooms were being built, we had our classes in small groups in various sections of the sanctuary.

I was confirmed by Arthur Bouton. On June 1, we were married by Dr. Whymman. He used to say that when he married someone, they stayed married.

In June 2001 our girls gave us a lovely party in Whymman Hall to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Both of our girls grew up and were married at First Church also.

Myrtle "Shirley" Birch