

Fannie E. S. Heck

Fannie Heck, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Jonathan Heck, was born in Virginia. She had five sisters and four brothers. In September 1862, when Fannie was 3 months old, the Hecks moved to Warren County, NC and later to Raleigh. The family was very active in the First Baptist Church. Fannie attended Hollins Institute, now Hollins College in Roanoke.

In 1886, Dr. Theodore Whitfield, pastor of First Baptist Church, New Bern, and Vice President of the Foreign Mission Board, talked with Dr. C. T. Bailey, editor of the Biblical Recorder, about the need for a new missions organization to assist and encourage missions work that was already being done in some churches.

Attention turned to 23 year old Fannie Heck as the chairman. Fannie and her friend Sallie were already involved in ministry to children in a poor section of Raleigh. Fannie agreed to be chairman of the new Women's Central Committee of Missions, forerunner to Woman's Missionary Union of NC. Sallie, 16 year old daughter of the editor of the Biblical Recorder, agreed to be corresponding secretary. Little did these two young women realize in 1886, their commitment was a lifetime commitment to missions work as done through Woman's Missionary Union.

Fannie Heck served 30 years as president of WMU of NC until her death in 1915. Even when Fannie Heck lay dying of a terminal illness, the women of NC could not bring themselves to elect another president, saying, "Only God could break the bond between them and Miss Heck."

During the thirty years Miss Heck served as president of WMU of NC, fifteen of those years she also served as president of national WMU.

Miss Heck is remembered for many things. Some of those are the beginning of a missions magazine we know today as "Missions Mosaic", as well as helping to start Royal Ambassadors and the WMU Training School for Women in Louisville, KY. Also, Miss Heck's boundless energy was shared with community organizations. She was a strong supporter and fundraiser for Meredith College, served as Chairman of Associated Charities of Raleigh, assisted in development of juvenile courts in Raleigh, and was a founder of the Raleigh Women's Club, also serving as its president. She served as Vice President of the Betterment Society of Wake County and was a founding member of NC Social Congress.

In her last message to the women, Miss Heck said, "I do not fear to leave you. I can dream of your future with a trusting heart." Miss Heck's life and commitment to missions still inspires and challenges Baptist to a missions lifestyle.

Fannie Heck and Sallie Bailey Jones had an undivided allegiance to the God who called them to His service.

*Surely each heard from the Master,
"Well done, thy good and faithful servant."*

Our foremothers have passed on to us a goodly heritage. WMU of NC is seeking to pass on an equally good heritage to those who come after us.

Sallie Bailey Jones

Sallie Bailey was born on January 29, 1869, in Greensville County, VA to Dr. and Mrs. C. T. Bailey and had four brothers. When Sallie was nine years old, her father bought the Biblical Recorder and moved his family to Raleigh. Sallie studied at Peace Institute and Richmond Female Institute, now known as Westhampton College. At the age of 19, Sallie married Wesley Norwood Jones, a Wake Forest graduate and a promising lawyer. They had two daughters and a son.

The Joneses were very active in First Baptist, Raleigh, he serving as a deacon and she being chosen among the first deaconesses at FBC. There were two things Sallie did not learn to do—one was to cook. It was said "she was not robust" during her childhood so that may have had something to do with that. Second, she did not drive a car. It was said they always had capable help with the cooking and there was always someone who could drive.

In 1886, Fannie Heck, age 23, who had been asked to be the chairman, suggested they ask Sallie, age 16, to serve as corresponding secretary of the newly formed Women's Central Committee of Missions. Sallie immediately accepted when told her father, Dr. C. T. Bailey, editor of the Biblical Recorder, wanted her to accept this position. Together, Fannie and Sallie caught the vision of what God was wanting to do through this organization—to teach missions, pray for missions, do missions and support missions.

Sallie Bailey Jones was Corresponding Secretary for many years, only briefly taking time out to have a baby. When Miss Heck died, Sallie became President of WMU of NC for twenty years. Mrs. Jones was recognized for the fifty-seven years she had served in some official capacity for WMU of NC. She was elected President Emeritus for life and served on the Executive Committee until her death in 1943.

What is the Heck-Jones® Offering?

In 1924, nine years after Miss Fannie Heck's death, WMU of NC's Executive Board established the "Heck Memorial Offering" in her memory. Funds raised through the years were used for WMU's mission work.

In 1947, at the Annual WMU Meeting, the name of the offering was changed to the Heck-Jones Memorial Offering. Fannie Heck and Sallie Bailey Jones collectively served as president of WMU of NC for fifty years. This offering was vital to the work of WMU.

In 1977, at the request of the Executive Director/Treasurer and the Executive Committee of the Baptist State Convention, WMU and other entities of the convention were asked to cease collecting individual offerings and be included in one offering—the North Carolina Missions Offering. After a few years, the other agencies realized they needed more money than they were receiving from the one offering, so some began again their individual offerings. WMU stayed with the NC Missions Offering.

Why the Need for the Heck-Jones® Offering?

The Executive committee of the Baptist State Convention voted to give the Executive Director-Treasurer of the convention the final authority for hiring of WMU staff, a departure from 120 years of practice. In 2007, WMU of NC chose to move their office of operation outside the Baptist building, in order to continue being an autonomous organization. That same year, convention messengers voted to deny WMU any money from the NC Missions Offering. WMU stated they would continue to promote and equip church leaders with materials needed to continue supporting all missions offering, including the NC Missions Offering. However, the messengers voted to not help with any of these expenses. Hence, the need for money for WMU's continuing mission work made it necessary to reinstate the Heck-Jones® Offering for missions.

Offering Promotion

The promotion of this offering will be held each year in February, during our Focus on WMU.

Some of WMU of NC's Ministries:

- Restorative Justice (prison)
- Camp Angel Tree (children of inmates)
- NC Baptist Nursing Fellowship
- Camp Mundo Vista
- Ministers' Spouses Support
- Military Ministry
- Multicultural Ministries
- Missions Training and Missions Leader Training
- NC Christian Women's Job Corps® / Christian Men's Job Corps®
- Missions Partnerships
- Missions Organization Start Up
- Missions Organization Support—Train and encourage church missions leaders
- Promotion of Missions Awareness—through staff speaking, publications and events
- Missionary Start Up—Monetary gift to each NC native entering full-time service with IMB, NAMB or CBF
- Short-term Missions Volunteers—financial assistance as funds allow

And much, much more!



*The missions and ministries of
Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina
are made possible by contributions to the
Heck-Jones Offering*

The Heck-Jones® Offering

Woman's Missionary Union of NC

2009 Goal: \$1.3 million

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