

ALUMNAE BULLETIN

June, 1957

ISSUED BY THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF THE
NEW YORK TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DEACONESSES
1047 Amsterdam Avenue, New York 25, N.Y.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President Mrs. Anthony Basile
Vice President Miss Marion Holmes
Secretary Mrs. Charles E. Merkel
Treasurer Deaconess Evelyn E. Seymour
(In making remittance s-send to 102 East 22nd Street, New York 10, N.Y.)
Chairman of the Scholarship Committee Miss Marion Holmes

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Officers of the Association
and

Mrs. Frank H. Botthof
Mrs. Charles Gledhill
Deaconess Ruth Johnson
Deaconess Lydia Ramsay
Miss Margery H. Ranger
Miss Dorothy Shel mire

Dear Members of the Alumnae Association:

How I wish more of you could have been present at our annual meeting. It is so good to see old friends again and to learn of their activities. We had a very busy meeting as you can see by the minutes. As usual we had a very pleasant time afterwards visiting with each other and enjoying Mrs. Hand's gracious hospitality. Afterwards we listened to Deaconess Johnson's delightful talk on her trip to England last summer. Please, won't more of our members who live nearby try and come next year? And others who are planning a trip to New York should try to make it in May. It would be wonderful to have a really large group. The Executive Committee is working on plans for next year's meeting. We are planning to have a Corporate Communion and meditation followed by lunch and then the business meeting. Do try and come.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee who have so faithfully attended meetings and given of their time in preparing the Bulletin, notices, and envelopes. In particular I would like to thank Margerie Ranger who has served so long and faithfully as secretary. Until some of us started helping her address envelopes, we had no idea of the amount of work she has accomplished for so many years. Deaconess Seymour has given of her abilities and time unstintingly with the Bulletin and the Constitution. Thanks to her we have been able to have our Bulletin and notices mimeographed with very little cost to our treasury. I would like at this time to thank Helen Flagg for her guiding hand in shaping the new constitution and to tell her how sorry we all were to learn of her illness. We missed her at the meeting. We are praying for her and hope by this time she will be restored to health.

Please read Deaconess Booth's letter and give some thought to holding meetings in other parts of the country. While it might not be possible for the officers to attend, certainly if Alumnae could get together for a meeting, we would be glad to hear from them. It would be wonderful if our Alumnae who are near Chicago could go for a Retreat at the Central House. I wish we all could.

It is with deep regret that I announce the death of Clara Simpson, Deaconess, whom so many of us knew and loved, on Feb. 10, 1957 at age 90. She was set apart in December 1892.

Let us pray for our Association and that more women will offer themselves for training in our Church.

With best wishes to all, I am

Faithfully yours,
Maria Prentiss Basile

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING, 1957

The 115th Meeting of the Alumnae Association of the New York Training School for Deaconesses was held at 2:30, in the home of Mrs. Augustus H. Hand, our Honorary Member, on Saturday, May 11, 1957.

As we gathered at Mrs. Hand's we were greatly distressed and disappointed to hear that Helen Flagg (1913) was ill and could not be with us. As Chairman of the Committee, she had been working on the new Constitution and By-Laws and had planned to come to the meeting to present the revisions in accordance with the ideas and suggestions of all of us, in the best form possible. As the President, Maria Basile, said, "However much we need her, our chief concern is for Helen, herself, and that she may speedily recover."

Including Mrs. Hand, there were 14 members present:

Maria Prentiss Basile (1936)	E. Susan McNulty, Deaconess (1916)
Marian Frascello Baxter (1915)	Irene Warner Merkel (1937)
Lucy Gray Bottof (1927)	Thelma Erickson Newhouse (1940)
Dorothy Williams Gledhill (1927)	Lydia Ramsay, Deaconess (1932)
Marion Holmes (1911)	Margery H. Ranger (1916)
Ruth Johnson, Deaconess (Sp. 37)	Evelyn E. Seymour, Deaconess (1938)

Dorothy Shelmire (1938)

I. The President called the meeting to order, asking us to stand for the Opening Prayers.

II. The Minutes of the last meeting, by vote of those present, were not read but accepted as printed in the 1956 Bulletin.

III. OFFICERS' REPORTS: The Treasurer reported a Balance this year of \$396.42.

The President reported that, in addition to the two Executive Committee meetings held in July and February, she attended two meetings held at Helen Flagg's on the drawing up of the new Constitution and revised By-Laws.

The Secretary expressed gratitude and appreciation to Lucy Botthof and Dorothy Gledhill for mailing out the Bulletin last fall and to Maria Basile for her help in sending out the Annual Meeting notices. She reported a few more names retrieved from the list of those for whom we need new addresses.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS: - SCHOLARSHIPS: Maria Basile reported that

Helen Flagg had made an appeal for the Scholarship Fund and that we had sent \$75.00 to the student whom we had voted to assist a year ago.

TRUSTEES' MEETING: Deaconess Johnson, Executive Secretary, and Dorothy Shel mire, our representative on the Board of Trustees, reported a very short meeting of the Board with little to report.

CONSTITUTION: In the absence of Helen Flagg, Deaconess Seymour said that our effort in this committee is to bring the Constitution and By-Laws up to date and into accordance with our changed existence since the closing of the School; and to bring the Alumnae Association into a growing and expanding organization in such a way as to please as many members as possible. She reported that in answer to the Questionnaire, sent out to all Alumnae, together with a copy of the Proposed New Constitution and By-Laws:

71 approved it

59 made no comment

and 4 were definitely against it.

The Article on Membership - IIc - brought forth most comment and most of the disapprovals; i.e., the adding to our membership of those who are not graduates or former students of the School, for the purpose of making the Association a growing organization. The exact wording of this Article as proposed by the Committee for the new Constitution was:

Members of this Association shall include:

- a. Graduates of the N.Y.T.S. for Deaconesses
- b. Former students of this School who have had at least one year of academic training at the School
- c. Women who have had comparable training elsewhere.

Deaconess Seymour said that most of the objections, however, first had to do with the name of the Association - someone suggested "Alumnae and Associates" - and second with the name and status of those we plan to bring into the Association who are not former students of St. Faith's.

Lucy Botthof asked about the status of the School today. The answer was: The N.Y.T.S. for Deaconesses does exist as an incorporated school by the State of New York.

Irene Merkel wanted to know whether or not there would be people wanting to be members of our Association. The answer: "Yes," by Deaconess Johnson who mentioned two she knows who would enjoy being with us, she believed, and the rest of us believed there would be others.

Mrs. Hand suggested the name "Affiliated Members" for those not students of the School.

Deaconess Ramsay said that we now have seven months' trained students, i.e., 'special students' in our Alumnae Association. She suggested the word 'friends' for our new members. This word, she believed, might simplify the selection of those to become members.

Deaconess Seymour said "We must do something in order to survive. It's just a question in the minds of all as to what to call these members we take in."

Dorothy Gledhill suggested that the Committee on the Constitution be asked to settle the wording of Article IIc.

Irene Merkel made a motion that Associate members be voted in by the Alumnae Association upon recommendation of the Membership Committee.

Deaconess Seymour made a motion that Article IIc under the Constitution and Article II-5 under the By-Laws (closely related to IIc) be omitted from this Constitution. This was seconded and carried.

The motion was then made, seconded, and carried that the Constitution and By-Laws (so deleted) now be accepted.

A motion was made that the omitted portions be referred to the Constitution Committee for rewording. This was seconded and carried and the matter referred to the Committee.

Irene Merkel suggested that the Committee also consider making some provision for absentee voting, and add a By-Law covering this, which could be voted upon at some later date. This met with unanimous approval.

There being no further unfinished business at this time the meeting proceeded to the New Business to come before this meeting. The President read the letter from Deaconess Booth which is included elsewhere in this issue for your information.

Deaconess Ramsay suggested a Meeting and Alumnae Retreat in Miami in 1958 at General Convention. A note was made of this suggestion for the Bulletin as a suggested answer to Deaconess Booth. Deaconess Ramsay made a motion that at least one hundred dollars be sent from the Treasury to Deaconess Booth to use as a Discretionary Fund. This was seconded and carried.

Deaconess McNulty read to us the greeting sent to her from Deaconess Booth on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of her setting apart, May 10, 1917.

Thelma Erickson Newhouse suggested that we arrange for speakers for our Annual Meetings or, perhaps, a corporate Communion or Meditation. It was stated that we do have a speaker from among our own members, as a rule, because meeting but once a year so briefly does not give enough time for essential business as well as an outside speaker. It was then suggested that we might plan another year to have a Corporate Communion at the Cathedral followed by 'brunch' and afterwards a Meditation followed by our meeting and tea at Mrs. Hand's. A motion was made and carried that the Executive Committee be authorized to take care of these suggestions.

The Scholarship Committee was authorized to draw upon General Funds for Scholarship aid during the next year to the extent of \$150.00.

The President then spoke of the death this past year of Maria Page Williams, Deaconess, and of Clara Simpson, Deaconess, and others, asking us all to remember them and to pray that their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed may rest in peace.

The Report of the Nominating Committee was given by Deaconess Johnson announcing the election of Marion Holmes and Irene Warner Merkel as Vice President and Secretary, respectively.

Before adjournment, it was decided that we should write to Helen Flagg to whom we are greatly indebted for her work on the Bulletins in the past and now in preparing our new Constitution and By-Laws; and letters are also to be written to Edith Booth and Amelia Brereton, the Deaconesses at Central House; to Hallie Williams (1916) sister of Deaconess Williams; and to Edith Chappell (1912), who wrote in resigning from the Association because she is going to be living in Honolulu. (We rather felt this might be a very good reason for remaining in the Alumnae Association rather than resigning!)

The Meeting adjourned for tea after which Deaconess Johnson gave a delightful talk on her trip to England last fall.

With a new thankfulness to Mrs. Hand for her warm and generous interest and hospitality and for our renewed fellowship one with another, we look forward to the future in Him Who has called us - and each and every soul - to service in His Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Margery H. Ranger
Secretary

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF THE NEW YORK TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DEACONESSES

Report of the Treasurer

May 10, 1957

Balance on hand, May 5, 1956		
In General Funds	\$499.18	
Scholarship Fund	29.48	
Deaconess Dahlgren Fund	<u>13.00</u>	
Total Balance on hand		\$541.66
Receipts during the year, May 5, 1956 to May 10, 1957:		
In General Funds (dues)	\$195.00	
Scholarship Fund	29.00	
Unassigned	<u>17.00</u>	
Total receipts		181.00
Interest on Savings account		<u>11.35</u>
Grand Total		\$734.01
Disbursements during the same year:		
To Dss. Booth for Discretionary Fund	\$200.00	
To Dss. Booth, Balance in Dss. Dahlgren Fund	13.00	
Printing of Annual Meeting letters, 1956	4.75	
Scholarship Aid to Central House, Oct. 1956	75.00	
Gift to Mrs. Asplund (for mimeographing)	5.00	
Mailing of Bulletins (1956, fall)	7.96	
Printing of Bulletins, fall, 1956	11.60	
Envelopes for mailing bulletins, 1956	8.62	
Envelopes & postage for mailing annual notices	9.70 (1957)	
Printing of Spring 1957 annual meeting notices	<u>1.95</u>	
Total Disbursements		\$337.58
Balance in Savings account, May 10, 1957		<u>396.43</u>
Grand Total		734.01

Respectfully submitted,
Deaconess Evelyn E. Seymour
Treasurer

THE CENTRAL HOUSE FOR DEACONESSES
718 Somonauk Street Sycamore, Illinois

May 2, 1957

Dear Alumnae:

This brings love and greetings from the Central House, and to thank you again for your generous gifts to the House, and for the candidate now in training.

Betty Lank our candidate is getting along well. It has been lonesome for her during these months. She has no one to "blow off" to about "the Deaks" but has had to keep all our queer doings and quirks bottled up inside her. But she is grand and has been a fine member of the family. We couldn't have asked for a better for our first student. We expect another candidate from the Diocese of Massachusetts in September, and there is still another candidate in Massachusetts who may come later. Please continue to pray for more vocations.

I have been wondering if it would be at all possible to have the Annual Meetings in different parts of the country, so that other graduates who cannot make that long trek to New York would be able to attend the meeting. Do all meetings have to be in New York? Would there be enough money in the Treasury to pay the expenses of the officers, at least the President so she could go to another part of the country to preside over the meeting?

Another thought has come to me too. The Deaconesses come to the Central House each year from various parts of the country for their Retreat and Conference. Would the Alumnae like to plan for a similar Retreat and Conference at Sycamore too? It is an ideal spot for such a Retreat and Conference, and a warm welcome awaits you.

Amelia sends love with mine and the hope that we can meet with you next year. If not we will surely see some of you at General Convention and we should have a good meeting then.

With all good wishes,

Affectionately,

Eldith A. Booth

P.S. The spoons you gave us have certainly been used and used. We are grateful for them.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPEAL

No better appeal for the Scholarship Fund could be presented than that furnished by the following letter from Deaconess Booth. She shares with us her problems and plans for the Central House, giving us all a part in this venture of faith through our gifts and our prayers.

Rogationtide, 1957

Dear Alumnae:

I have received from your treasurer your generous check for my discretionary fund. Thank you so very much for the support you are giving to the Central House. Much of this gift will be used for promotion, either in the form of literature, or travel to some of the conferences this summer when Deaconess Brereton and I will be going to serve the young women the challenge of work in the Church as deaconesses.

Your President, and the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee have asked that I write you some of the needs that assistance from the Scholarship Fund might fill. At the present time, one of the biggest needs is provision for the extras we need for our candidates to help broaden their understanding of the work of the Church, i.e., transportation for summer work, field trips to observe outstanding church schools in session, City Mission and their services, transportation to the nearby Teacher's College for additional courses. We all know how much the trips we were able to make in New York City meant to us while we were at St. Faith's, and we want our candidates to have similar inspiring opportunities.

We are looking forward to having another candidate from the Diocese of Massachusetts with us in September. From all we hear of her we should have a happy time with her. Betty Lank, our present candidate, will finish her training in January, and then be Set Apart. She is staying at the Central House this summer and will spend part of the time assisting the rector of the parish church in Sycamore with his Vacation Church School and then going to stay with the Chicago Deaconesses for about two weeks to observe their work in the various institutions served by the City Missions staff.

Each Wednesday we remember all of you, the graduates of the New York Training School for Deaconesses in our Intercessions and my mind often circles the whole country, and many of you come clearly into focus. I often wonder what you are doing and where you are. Mostly I picture

you in your navy blue uniform with the white dotted swiss cap, which by the way, is the uniform for our deaconess candidates in training. The chapel at the Central House is becoming more and more a center of prayer. Will you also use it? If you have anyone or anything dear to your heart for which you would like our prayers, please let us know and we will pray for your need or offer thanksgiving for your joy.

Amelia Brereton sends love with mine, and the real wish that you might come to visit us sometime. If you ever can, please remember a warm welcome awaits you.

Affectionately,

Edith A. Booth

DIRECTORY:

As a rather complete Directory was made up separately last fall, we are only giving the changes of address this year. Will you please make the following changes in your copy:

Evelyn G. Buchanan, YWCA, 626 Church St., Lynchburg, Va.
Margaret A. Bulkley, Pointe aux Pins, via Cheboygan, Mich.
Alys T. Fletcher, 202 Grace Drive, So. Pasadena, Calif.
Evelyn E. Hartley, 64 Summit St., Pawtucket, R.I. (page 14)
Grace E. Meyette, 2196 Ambleside Dr., Cleveland 6, Ohio
Belva J. Simpson, 126 Broadway, Wilmette, Ill.

ST. FAITH'S SCHOOL PRAYER

O Lord of souls, Who hast chosen and called us to service in Thy Church, all our trust is in Thee, for in Thee are the springs of our life. Abundantly give us of Thy Blessed Spirit, without Whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; and use us as it shall please Thee for the glory of Thy Name. Make our wills patient, our consciences pure, our tempers bright. Empty us of self and fill us with the meekness of wisdom. Increase our faith, mellow our judgment, stir our zeal, deepen our affections. Let our lives enforce what our lips utter. Do Thou choose for us the work we do and the place in which we do it, the success we win and the harvest we reap. Preserve us from jealousy and impatience: from self-will and depression. Make us faithful unto death and give us at last the crown of life. All this we ask for Christ's sake. Amen.

May 31, 1957

To the Alumnae: Greetings!

The Cathedral Close has been lovely this month. As you know, my third-floor apartment windows face the Close and frequently this month I have found myself visualizing the many Commencement processions of graduates and students that moved from St. Faith's, along the walk toward the Cathedral, and finally into St. Angarius' to the cadence of "Pomp and Circumstance."

The changes enroute are few: trees are taller and foliage heavier; the tall horse-chestnut with its showy white flower-clusters was replaced last year by a white birch; and the privet hedges now form broad green bands edging the walk. The Old Synod House (now the "Guild Hall") has undergone a "face-lifting" but the facades of the other buildings facing the Close remain as of yore, though St. Faith's has lost its ivy covering.

Remember the Outdoor Pulpit?

Remember Bishop Manning on his second-floor balcony receiving and accepting our "First of May" salutation?

Nostalgia?

During the past year a few former students have called on me, and mutual was our delight in recalling the St. Faith's of their residence. If/when others of you are in New York do drop in, but please telephone first so that I may be sure to be at home to receive you.

In the office here I continue to work on the material pertaining to the history of the School. I am presently engaged in assembling printed publicity folders as well as copies of Alumnae Association BULLETIN and NEWSLETTER. Missing in the official School file of the BULLETIN are copies for 1938, 1940, 1941, 1942, and 1949 - 1953. It may be that no BULLETIN was issued in the 50's. Maria Basile is doing some research on this. However, if you have a copy or copies of the BULLETIN needed to complete the office file will you donate the same to the cause? It will be greatly appreciated.

This request for missing items reminds me to thank again those of you who responded last year to my plea for additional information. Little by little an impressive volume of historical data is being gathered. I think you may find it interesting to examine when you revisit the scenes of your "days at St. Faith's." When this takes place, a warm greeting awaits you.

Ruth Johnson

DEACONESS MARIA PAGE WILLIAMS

One of her boys, Kermit Salyers, who was a true "son" to her, wrote the following editorial in his paper after her death. He has said in a beautiful way what we all feel and know about this gallant little woman who brought rich spiritual values within the reach of everyone:

"A Saint Passed This Way"

Yes, a saint passed this way, and in her sojourn among us she touched the lives of many. She always forgot herself in an effort to ease the burdens of those she knew. Maria Page Williams was her name and she died last Friday at the age of 81.

In her quarter-century of labors of love as an Episcopal Deaconess at Dante, Russell County, Virginia, she touched the lives of hundreds, even thousands, and made all of them glad that she had passed their way.

She was the very spirit of youth, despite her age. She never grew old, but remained young in heart until called home by her Maker.

Countless young men and women received high school and college educations with her help, the writer among them. We would never have had a chance to finish even high school without the help of "Deak" as she was affectionately called by all who knew her.

"Deak" is a legend in the mountains of Russell and Wise Counties, where she spent what she later recalled as the best twenty-five years of her life. Though she retired from the work there some twenty years ago her friends still speak of her as though she had gone away only yesterday, such is the impression she left by her utter selflessness, her compelling urge to help others, her bright outlook on life and her ready wit.

"Deak" kept a lively interest in the world and local affairs up until her eyes failed her in the last few years of her life. After her eyesight was gone, she tackled Braille and listened to "Talking Books," in order to keep up with the world.

She remained young to the end. To all those thousands of us who knew her and loved her, she is still among us and will always be with us. Yes, surely a saint passed this way."

ENTERED INTO THE LIFE OF PARADISE

Deaconess Maude T. Henrierson - 1903. - April 30, 1956

(worked mainly in China, St. Faith's Settlement, Shanghai)

Deaconess Clara Simpson - set apart December 1892 - February 10, 1957
(age 90)

Deaconess Ethel Spencer - special student 1916-1917; February 11, 1957

Deaconess Maria Williams - 1911 - March 15, 1957

(work in Southwestern Virginia)

Ella Pier - 1911 - no definite date of death, 1955-1956

(In 1953 her address was Excelsior, Minn. - a nursing home)

Rest Eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
And may light perpetual shine upon them.

NEWS ITEMS

Deaconess Harriet Bedell, Glade Cross Mission, Everglades, Florida

My neighborhood children who live in tiny houses of the white commercial fisherfolk have very little to entertain them when they are not in school. They come to the mission for books, games, etc. We especially like illustrated Bible and animal stories for the tiny tots. The Indians are very tribal minded but they are beginning to see the value of learning to read. Three boys are attending the public school in Everglades and books are given to study in their homes. First, second, and third grade readers, and the illustrated Children's Dictionary help to advance this work.

I cannot use old Church papers and magazines, nor old Forwards. Many of the Christmas and greeting cards are beautiful but I always have more than I can use. Cancelled postage stamps are needed for the children and women who are collecting them.

(Ed.note: Many inexpensive items made by the Seminole Indians would be an attraction at your next Church Fair and help the Indians to be self-supporting and develop their native art.)

Fisher, Mrs. Harry (Margaret Orcutt '39) - Margaret keeps busy as housewife and dental assistant. This year she was asked to lead the adult Bible group discussions during Lent.

Gaunt, Mrs. Wilber (Gayle Lansing '39) - The Junior Choir of St. Paul's Church, Bloomsburg, Pa., is a very enthusiastic group under Gayle's direction. They sing beautifully, clearly, and antiphonally!

Bransford, Mrs. John (Peggy Lemen SP '39) - A year ago Peggy and her husband were very seriously injured in an automobile accident. "We are both feeling lots better every day. John never wears his collar (for a broken neck) any more. I am off my crutches now and use a cane when I go to church." We wish Peggy and John continuing good health for a complete recovery.

Ballinger, Mrs. Lloyd (Charlotte Hubbard '46) - Charlotte was sorry to miss the Alumnae Meeting. She had part in a musicale that day. Her fourth child and third son, Thomas Francis, was born on April second. She and some women of the parish were making a High Mass set which they hoped to have completed for Ascension Day.

Newhouse, Mrs. Sydney (Thelma Erickson '40) - "In October my husband's car overturned down a bank and was demolished, after which he was driven the twenty-four miles from Callicoon to Liberty where a wedding was waiting for him. He performed the ceremony and two days later we found he had a broken back. He is now out of cast and brace and feeling fine.

At the Sullivan County Art Show I won first and third prizes for my oil paintings which was very thrilling and encouraging.

I had a telephone call from Jean Turner Dolan '40, in March. Her family of four girls are growing up fast. Teri is now sweet sixteen!"

Deaconess Mary Sandys Hutton is now Assistant to the Chaplain at the University Hospital, Charlottesville, Va, where she has been provided with a motorized wheel chair so that she may cover more ground in visiting patients. During the summer months she will be in full charge as Acting Chaplain.

Dear Alumnae:

In every letter I receive, there is always the same question, "Have you heard anything from any of the other St. Faith's girls?" Wouldn't it be nice if we all made a special effort to write something, no matter how unimportant we think our daily round to be. So, please sit down to-day or put it on your calendar, to write a nice newsy letter to me before August 15. Thank you.

Thelma Newhouse (Mrs. Sydney)
35 Chestnut Street
Liberty, New York

N.B. How about comments on the annual meeting suggestions as mentioned in the Secretary's minutes; and/or Dss. Booth's letter; and/or the President's letter. Don't forget 1958 is General Convention year.

Priscilla F. Griswold wrote, "I am being married April 6, in St. Andrew's Church, Lincoln Park, N.J., to Mr. Edward D. Conley of Auburn, N.Y." No new address was given however.

Election of Officers:

The question was asked by several, "Why are we electing a Vice President and a Secretary this year, when the Constitution calls for the election of a Secretary and Treasurer?"

The Answer: For the elections this year (1957) we are operating under the old Constitution which calls for these offices to be filled. The new Constitution quoted in the above question was not voted upon until the time of the annual meeting when the officers were to be elected. Next year (1958) an adjustment will have to be made to change from the old to the new.

Helen Livingston Lovell writes that she and her family are busy on their own farm which is in New Hampshire, although the Post Office address is R.F.D.#2, Windsor, Vermont.

Dorothy Shelmire has recently taken a little apartment near Memorial Hospital. Likes her work so well, she wants to be right close by - address: 345 East 68th Street, New York 21, N.Y. Apt. 3H.