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# Stephens Burrall Mem'ries

in "Susies" Own Words

175th Anniversary  
Second Edition 2008

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Second Edition April 2008

Published in the United States

Phillippe-Fenton

326 Devonshire Court

Saint Peters, MO 63376

Typesetting & Design by Pat Turner

***“Some day we’ll come back  
with mem’ries to tell...”***

Introduction

The Stephens Burrall Mem’ries book evolved from the Reunion 2005 Vespers talk I gave in my role as Classics Class President. I wanted to emphasize the legacy of Vespers so I selected alumnae at random to recall their memories of Vespers. To preserve those memories I decided to put them in a book. It includes other Burrall programs and activities due to alumnae interest.

The purpose of this book is to enable alumnae to reconnect with Stephens College and to one another by recalling and sharing their most memorable Burrall experiences. A book of the Burrall Program memories would be incomplete without honoring the founder, Jessie Burrall Eubank. Reading the memories sent to me and researching the life of Jessie Burrall Eubank has been a deeply moving spiritual experience.

As an educator in Minnesota, Mrs. Jessie Burrall Eubank cared about helping teachers teaching children throughout the world learn about geography and world cultures. As a Sunday School Class teacher at Calvary Baptist Church in Washington D.C., she cared about the religious needs of young women living and working in the nation’s capital during the World War I era.

At Stephens College, Mrs. Eubank cared about the religious needs of students, not only the Stephens women, but also the University of Missouri and Christian College students. Because she cared, she succeeded in making a positive impact on thousands of young women and men. Her spiritual legacy continues.

The Burrall Bible Class, founded by Jessie Burrall Eubank in 1921 at Stephens College, was a remarkable innovation and the catalyst for other innovations. These included Burrall Cabinet,

Burrall Orchestra and Choir, Ten Ideals, Evening Prayer, 2:22 and 7:22 Discussions, Special Vespers, White Sunday, Burrall Scholars, Concert Chorus, The Grail newspaper, KFRU, Stephens first radio station, The Chapel, Community Service and People Projects volunteers.

The Burrall effect continues. “Students participating in numerous community service projects, including a blood drive, recycling drive, and campus cleanup,” said Janee Jones, 2006, Student Government Association, President, and Respect Ideal.

My sincere gratitude to the wonderful alumnae who cared about the Burrall Program. Their memories are contained in this collection. All have generously shared their Burrall experiences and have made my task a most enriching experience. This book is dedicated to Stephens women.

I also want to thank several people who were essential in helping me prepare this book. Dr. Alan Havig, Stephens College Archivist, for providing pertinent information from the Archives. His help and support has been invaluable. Stacy Fiala and Elena Gormley, student researchers assisted Dr. Havig. Pat Turner, '78, Editor and Publisher of EMinfo, did the typesetting and cover design. She provided support, guidance and unparalleled talent to put everything together.

Marge Phillippe Kelley '52  
Alumnae Association Board  
President, Classic Classes  
April 2008

## **Jessie Burrall**

### ***The Founder of the Burrall Program***

President Wood's choice for the "first director of religious education at Stephens College is a significant chapter in the history of the College. After a search throughout the United States, he was led to Jessie Burrall, an associate editor of National Geographic magazine. She had organized the largest and most outstanding Sunday School class in America. As a result of an interview, Miss Burrall came to Stephens College in 1921 and assumed the responsibility of interesting an entire student community actively in the religious aspects of living."<sup>1</sup>

Prior to coming to Stephens, Jessie Burrall was "employed by National Geographic Society in Washington D.C. As the first Chief of School Services, her goal was to revolutionize geography teaching in the schools." Her article, "Sight-Seeing in School: Taking Twenty Million Children on a Picture Tour of the World", appeared in the June 1919 issue of the National Geographic magazine. This article announced a new service for the schools of the nation, the 'brain-child' of Jessie Burrall. It was called the 'Pictorial Geography series' - the first study prints ever distributed to schools."<sup>2</sup>

"At Calvary Baptist Church in Washington D.C., Miss Burrall started a Sunday School Class with six women co-workers from National Geographic. To get new members, she asked each woman to bring a friend next Sunday."<sup>3</sup> By 1920, the enrollment had increased to two thousand, becoming the largest women's Sunday School class in the world."<sup>4</sup>

Mrs. Edna Reynolds, a long-time member of Calvary Baptist Church, remembers "seeing the girls coming out the back door of the Rialto Theatre. Miss Burrall had convinced the manager to open the theatre early on Sunday". Later, Mrs. Reynolds "joined the Burrall Class which lasted eighty years. It was "retired" in 1995 with a party because of a decrease in members. The population had dwindled, causing the area to change near Calvary."<sup>5</sup>

According to the Good Housekeeping 1920 article, “Jessie Burrall-Girl’s Girl” by Alice Gram, “faith and belief in girls is probably the foundation for her success”. She “empathizes with the problems girls encounter in their daily lives, and, to solve their problems, Miss Burrall brings a deep spirituality along with common sense.”<sup>6</sup>

At Stephens, Miss Burrall’s work was “influenced by the Social Gospel Movement. She encouraged the students of the 1920’s to convert the principles of the Christian gospel into social action. Her work also connected with the beginnings of the ecumenical movement. Her Christian beliefs guided her to be non-denominational with the students.<sup>7</sup> President Wood liked her method of teaching, which was the “layman’s language of religion”.<sup>8</sup>

Miss Burrall’s exceptional leadership and organizational skills were detailed and thorough. In The Grail October 18, 1925 issue, writing her column, she “asked students in the Burrall Sunday Class to sign up for activities. Eight categories were listed: Leadership, Singing, Constructive Workers’ Group (community service), Prayer Life of the Class, Cordiality, Membership Work in the Class, The Grail, and Daily Bible Study.” “Leadership group was the beginning of Burrall Cabinet. Each Sunday morning, Miss Burrall spoke but the students read the Scriptures, offered the prayers, ushered and provided the music.” - Stephens Life, October 28, 1971.

In 1928, Miss Burrall married Dr. Earle Eubank and retired as director of religious programs.<sup>9</sup> According to the Stephensophias, her personality and work had made a lasting positive impact on Stephens College and the community. She returned to Stephens for special occasions and continued her educational and religious interests until her death in October 1960.<sup>10</sup>

## **A Chronology of the Burrall Program as recorded in the Stephens Life newspapers, Stephensophias and The Grail.**

1921-1928

Jessie Burrall

Director of Religious Education

“It was not an ordinary event when President Wood brought Miss Jessie Burrall to Stephens College to found a Sunday School Class. Nor was it usual when the university men and women asked permission to join that class.”

“The lesson, the practical spiritual message which Miss Burrall brings to the class, is the true reason for the success of the class. The splendid spirit and organization of it is due to the faithful service and inspiration of Miss Burrall. She coordinated the work of the religious department in order to reach every girl on campus.”

“Christmas vesper services were held around the immense evergreen tree Miss Burrall placed on campus. It was lighted every night with colored lights and a glowing star atop. “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” and other Christmas songs take on new meaning when sung by hundreds of young voices under the quiet stars. Four nights a week, Stephens girls met immediately after dinner for a vesper and prayer service.”<sup>11</sup>

The Grail, “Burrall Bible Class sponsored weekly paper’s first issue was September 20, 1925. Miss Burrall wrote a weekly column for the newspaper.”

“During October 1925, Stephens College broadcasting station was installed on campus. The station was formerly KFRU of Bristow, OK. Burrall Bible Class members took the initiative to get the station by raising the first \$1,100 toward the \$20,000 station. It broadcast the Sunday service of the Burrall Class, morning sunrise service with hymns, and Vesper service.” - The Grail, September 20, 1925. The Burrall Class Motto, “We Specialize on the Wholly Impossible” which comes from the third line of the stanza of “The Song of the Panama Builders”, was featured in Jessie Burrall’s September 27, 1925 column.

“Burrall Bible Class has the proud distinction of being the only Bible class in the world with a symphony orchestra and a genius for a director, Professor Basil D. Gauntlett. The members are students of Stephens and the University of Missouri.” - The Grail, January 16, 1927.

1928-1934

Nellie Lee Holt

Professor of Religious Education and Teacher of the Burrall Bible Class

“Miss Holt was prepared for the leadership of Burrall by her former experience in Burrall Sunday School teaching, by an extensive world tour in which she came in contact with the outstanding leaders of religious thought, by an unusual talent in public speaking, and by a very special ability for aggressive leadership of young people.”<sup>12</sup>

In the Stephens Life, March 21, 1929 issue, “Nellie Lee Holt Talks on Courtesy,” she said “that in our list of ideals, the ideal, ‘Courtesy in speech and action,’ might come as a subdivision of ‘Appreciation of the Beautiful’ as an intimate and integral part of one’s life.” “Courtesy,” Miss Holt said, “is an outward expression of an inward attitude.” “She concluded by giving Dr. W. W. Charters’ opinion of Stephens College. He said, “Stephens College is not a finishing school. It is a polishing school. The finish of anything can be chipped off, but the polish will endure.”

“At Vespers, the traditional Christmas service included the living Christmas tree, composed of fifteen girls holding a candle in each hand, and forming a pyramid similar to the shape of a real tree. It was ceremoniously lighted. Miss Holt said the living Christmas tree symbolized her conception of the true Christmas spirit.”<sup>13</sup>

1934-1952

Paul Weaver

Dean of Religious Life-1946-1952

“Mr. Weaver stresses the indispensability of straight, unfuzzy thinking to solve the myriad big and little problems faced by everyone. He discusses problems pertinent to college youth,

the claim of religion on solving those problems and on the achievement of intelligent growth.”<sup>14</sup>

A Stephens Life February 17, 1941, article states, “Burrall Class is the world’s largest student religious organization with more than 4,000 student participants and a radio audience of thousands. It’s ‘living religion’ program gives young men and women a sound foundational philosophy of life with constructive social and welfare activity.”

“By 1950, the Burrall Program, as the central religious activity at Stephens, exerted great influence upon each student. Burrall activities included the play, ‘All My Sons’ and the opera ‘Carmen’. Dramatic productions involved students from the three campuses.

Vespers, Evening Prayer, Burrall Symphony Orchestra directed by Edward Murphy and Burrall Choir with Irwin Umlauf as director, were popular with the students.”<sup>15</sup>

1952-1957

Dr. Harry M. Philpott  
Dean of Religious Life

Barbara Burroughs article, “Burrall Program for Students Places Emphasis on Service, Religion, Ideals” in the Stephens Life, September 20, 1956 issue stressed the word - “Attitude”. She wrote, “YOUR attitude toward Burrall will make it either a technical and compulsory program in religion or a path to far greater spiritual development, strength and understanding.”

The article, “Radio Fraternity Tapes Burrall Class, Stephens Life, October 18, 1956, explained the procedure “members of Alpha Epsilon Rho, radio fraternity does prior to recording Burrall Class to be broadcast over KFRU.”

Stephens Life, November 15, 1956, “MU Voices Blend in Burrall Choir,” tells about the beginning of it. “In 1925, Ernest Cox, chairman of the music department, organized Student Concert Choir with about 15 men and women. Then in the mid-thirties when Nellie Holt Bok was teacher of Burrall Class, President Wood asked that a concentrated effort be made to enlarge the

choir and to seat the group on the stage of the Old Auditorium during Burrall. The name was changed to Burrall Choir; it grew steadily to become one of the finest groups of its kind in the country.”

“The Stephens College Chapel was dedicated November 24, 1956. It was long a dream of Stephens alumnae and especially President Emeritus James Wood. Dean Philpott performed the service of dedication. The Chapel design was completed by Eero Saarinen whose father Eliel had originally done drawings for it. Eero modified his father’s design.”<sup>16</sup> “Dr. Philpott resigned in 1957.”<sup>17</sup>

1957-1959

“Dr. Klair Armstrong was the Burrall Program Director and Dr. Leslie Bates was chairman of the Division of Religion and Philosophy during this time.”<sup>18</sup>

A Stephens Life May 15, 1958 article, “Burrall Sponsors Recognition Vespers,” revealed that about “600 students who have been outstanding participants and contributed their services to the Burrall Program were honored at a Joint Recognition Vespers May 14, 1958. Klair Armstrong and Acting President James G. Rice lit the candles of the present and the future Burrall Cabinet presidents, Patty Peterson and Judy Coday. They in turn continued the lighting.”

An April 25, 1959, Stephens Life article, “Renaissance Church Inspired Design for Chapel” by Sue Sundberg explained the origin of the Stephens College Chapel (now Firestone Baars Chapel). In 1939, during a meeting of 21 students at the home of Dr. James Wood, they were asked what the Stephens campus most needed. They said a chapel, a place dedicated to quiet devotion. The next day the girls pushed an envelope under President Wood’s door with \$21.00 - the beginning of their chapel.” The Chapel was dedicated on November 24, 1956 with the purpose to create a sanctuary in which every student whatever faith or creed, might find spiritual refreshment.”

1959-1967

Dr. T. William Hall

Dean of Religion

Memories of Stephens - Dr. Hall

“All of us at Stephens inherited the Burrall Program so creatively initiated by Jessie Burrall during the 1920s. I have many memories of my life as Dean of Religion. I remember with vividness Vespers. We always started by singing quietly:

O blest creator of the light,  
We stand now on the edge of night,  
Through every darkness be our guide,  
Cast our lonely fears aside

The lights would then slowly come up on a brilliant stage design as musicians or a dance group would appear, presenting the theme for the service. The light would then shine on me as I sat on a stool prepared to give a brief sermon or tell a story. In addition, I remember Sunday Evening Prayer in the Chapel, Sunday morning worship with our Symphony orchestra and the 100 voice Burrall Choir, service projects, 7:22 discussions, week-end retreats in the new lodge and much more. Burrall Cabinet members gave excellent leadership in each area. I felt deeply that the entire Burrall Program provided spiritual enrichment for everyone on campus as a partner to her academic life.

My seven years at Stephens were the most exciting and satisfying of my 35 years as a college professor or religious leader. And my loving partner for more than 60 years, Ruth, who was hostess to thousands of students in our East Broadway home, often joins me in expressing our loving memories of our Stephens years.

Thank you for asking me to contribute to the 175th anniversary edition.”

Bill Hall

The Stephens Life, October 22, 1959, issue reported that “Mrs. Jessie Burrall Eubank, founder of the Burrall Class in 1921, received her Burrall Cabinet Key when she returned to campus

for her annual visit. She said she was proud of the program that bears her name.”

In Dean Hall’s historical review of the Burrall Program, he recommended that “Sunday religious attendance requirements be modified. Three to five all-school religious convocations be required of all students and church attendance on Sundays be voluntary.”<sup>19</sup>

“Calm moments of meditation, challenging discussions of philosophy, and valuable services to the community are all parts of the unique religious programs on campus. Burrall seeks to strengthen the most essential part of the individual panorama - a workable philosophy of life”, according to the 1960 Stephensophia.

“The Stephens philosophy maintains that religion is the foundation upon which a successful life can be built”, notes the 1964 Stephensophia.

“Burrall is referred to as the ‘Conscience of Stephens College’ said Ellen Gilbert, chairman of Burrall projects, in the Stephens Life, September 29, 1966 article, “Burrall project sign ups begin Monday.” “There is a great variety that exists.. the experiences gained through contact with the outside world is rewarding and beneficial.”

1967-1976

Charles D. Lake

Dean of Religious Life

1968-1972

William Kirby

Assistant Dean of Religious Life

“Burrall is People” is the slogan used in the 1969 Stephensophia. “Burrall Cabinet pursued a religious and service oriented program. The religion was humanitarian and non-secular with a universal ecumenical ideology.” The Vespers programs lost their religious connotation during this time.

From the 1976 Stephensophia, - “Over 500 students have volunteered to serve in more than 20 Burrall projects, including

teaching at nursery schools, and helping in hospitals. The 1977 Burrall Cabinet focuses religious activity in multiple programs. Burrall Abroad sponsors foreign students on campus. Project Growth includes tutoring, baby-sitting, and political and social education for the community. Burrall retreats bring workers together to examine goals and effectiveness.

1977-1979

Dr. Winsome Munro  
Chaplain

“The Jessie Burrall Program of Religious Life comes under the direction of Dr. Winsome Munro, an ordained minister. She works with the Burrall Cabinet. Regular Christian ecumenical worship as well as occasional Jewish Sabbath services and Catholic masses are held in the Stephens Chapel. Community Service Burrall Projects are continued during this time. At Stephens, Dr. Munro emphasized women in religion.”<sup>20</sup>

1980-1989

A September 30, 1982, Stephens Life article “Burrall Cabinet Continues to Promote Spiritual Life,” by Karen Goodlaw, stated that “Burrall Cabinet continues with its purpose of increasing student and faculty awareness of spiritual life at Stephens. In 1921, Jessie Burrall began the Burrall Bible Class and the volunteer program that has become the Burrall Cabinet and the People Projects, the official volunteer program of Stephens. Burrall Cabinet sponsors program and events in Christian, Jewish and social action.”

The Burrall Cabinet sponsored projects during the 1980's. From the 1988 Stephensophia:

“Films on topics of national and world-wide concerns.  
Oxfam Fast, a program where students can give up their regular Commons lunch to eat rice and tea. In turn, Food Service donated a portion of the students' lunch money to world hunger.”

The 1989 Stephensophia lists these projects:

“Oxfam Fast for world hunger project continued.

Volunteered at the Central Missouri Food Bank Booth.

Collected clothes for needy children. Largest project was the

Monopoly Tournament to benefit Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.”

There were only two Stephensophia yearbooks printed after 1989 to the present time. There was no mention of the Burrall Cabinet or Burrall Projects.

Was Burrall Cabinet active after 1989? *There is no record that it continued.*

Who was the last Burrall Cabinet president? *It appears Jennifer Pomerantz and Julie Ward Bray were the last leaders of Burrall Cabinet.*

What happened to the original Burrall Cabinet key that was passed on to the next president each year?

*The original Burrall Cabinet key has not been located.*

If you have information to share, please contact Dr. Alan Havig at Stephens College or Marge Kelley.

Mrs. Jessie Burrall Eubank, Nellie Lee Holt Bok, Dean Weaver, Dean Philpott, Dean Hall, Dean Charles Lake and Dr. Winsome Munro were the full-time religious leaders. <sup>21</sup> It appears Stephens placed the most emphasis on religion prior to the 1970's. This seems to be due to many factors. (see alumnae memories)

According to former faculty, present faculty, and alumnae contacted, these reasons for the demise of the Burrall Program were given: Many other opportunities such as church organizations and the University of Missouri students' diverse religious groups had evolved over the years. Stephens students were no longer required to be on campus for Burrall Sunday School, nor was Vespers required. The students preferred going to the church of their choice voluntarily.

Please send your Burrall memories/comments to:

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Saint Peters, MO 63376 or  
[mkelley2@mail.win.org](mailto:mkelley2@mail.win.org)

# 1920's

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Miss Burrall came to Stephens in the Spring of 1921 and was an immediate success at drawing people to Burrall class and her teaching. She was an attractive person and everyone liked her. At that time I was a Music Major preparing for graduation. Afterwards, I heard continued reports of the growth of Burrall class and Miss Burrall's magnetic personality. A Stephens graduate I believe, will be a success in whatever she attempts. Contact with the teachers and people like Jessie Burrall just about guarantees it. I have fond memories of my days at Stephens and of much pleasure in the progress and success of "my school."

Mary Louise Staley Black 1921

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My years at Stephens College were wonderful. The Burrall Bible Class was important in my life. Jessie Burrall and Nellie Lee Holt gave talks to the class; both were amazing speakers and I loved them. Stephens' Ten Ideals have meant a lot to me throughout my life.

Lillian Rydberg Amick 1926

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Vespers was an inspirational experience for me and many other students. My friends and I walked together as a group from South Hall to Vespers. I especially liked the wonderful music. During my time at Stephens I learned so much from Jessie Burrall and Nellie Lee Holt, both extraordinary teachers.

Hildred Schweiter Edlin 1929

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Although we were required to go to vespers I never minded, in fact I loved the Vespers service from the start. Jessie Burrall was an interesting and dedicated teacher of the Christian religion. Miss Burrall was so sincere in her belief in Christ and expressed herself so positively that I'm sure she reinforced the belief of most of her audience. She certainly reinforced my beliefs. On Sundays the auditorium including the balcony was full. There was standing room only.

Nellie Lee Holt took over the class and vespers when Jessie Burrall married. She was very good and the Burrall program flourished under her leadership. I thought Jessie Burrall and Nellie Lee Holt were exceptional leaders in this program. I also remember Kenneth Brown; he was good too. I remember the tradition of having a beautiful living Christmas tree at vesper services near Christmas. My days at Stephens were very enjoyable. I liked living in Senior Hall because I could go to the swimming pool, the dining room and the auditorium where vespers and Burrall Bible Class were held without going outside.

Mary Laurele Dunham White 1929

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CHRISTMAS TREE PROGRAM

# 1930's

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Vespers and Burrall were two of my happiest memories of Stephens...which go back to 1930! Vespers was a really spiritual experience. It was held in the old auditorium and was made more intimate by having the lights off except on the stage. It held a grand piano, perhaps some flowers and a chair for the speaker, the gifted Nellie Lee Holt. Her memorable talks always seemed to reach you and your particular problems. Of course, she knew her audience well and geared her talks to it, but it still took a sort of genius to present them so effectively. Burrall spoiled me for the usual church service. During 40 years at the church's pipe organ, I hear a lot of sermons but only three or four that approached hers... and those were usually by lay speakers.

Barbara Brown Monroe 1932

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Burrall was wonderful because Nellie Lee Holt's messages were so inspiring. She was the very first person to call me "Peggy." I loved her. When President Wood sent her to India for three months to study under Mahatma Ghandhi, we were all impressed. Then he sent Nellie Lee to New York to interview Curtis Bok who fell in love with her. I had just given my senior violin concert when it was announced that their wedding would be at her home in Grand Island, Nebraska. A special train was sent to bring Sir Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Symphony plus the Bok family and guests to Grand Island. My roommate, Lorraine Gibson, went to the wedding, but I had to stay and conduct the Burrall Orchestra because the wedding was on a Sunday.

Margaret "Peggy" Gallup Joslyn 1932

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It was a pleasure to dress up on Sunday and go to Burrall Bible class. I enjoyed Nellie Lee Holt and her philosophy of life which made me very broad minded about life and religion. I had great admiration for her and she touched many lives.

Every school should have a Burrall Bible class and all that goes with it. I always enjoyed the music. It seems I went to a Sunday night Vespers in 1934-35???

Dr. Mortensen was my advisor since I was interested in theater arts. I participated in many stage productions. Dr. Antoine started the first Stephens band and I played the clarinet and also the wood wind ensemble.

I wasn't an "A" student, but I sure did learn a lot, which I realized at age "50" when I took the National Teachers Exam at Tulane and passed it the first time.

I enjoyed the formality of the dining room, the delicious food and I learned many social graces that have followed me and my family.

I was fortunate to live the Wood Hall and the Senior Hall. Most of my friends are gone, but the memories linger. "Stephens Stephens" still brings tears to my eyes at 92.

#### Rhoda Reinhold Stipe 1935

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I am 92 years old and reside at a retirement center, Claremont, CA. When I was at Stephens (class of 1934 ) every Wednesday evenings there was vespers and I was always present. NOW at Claremont Manor there is vespers every Wednesday evening and I am always present. Good habits and pleasant mem'ries last a life time. Thanks Stephens. My best wishes for the college and Burrall Class continued success.

#### June Helton Stromberg 1934

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*Memories of Stephens White Sunday*

The main memory I have of the Burrall meetings is expressed in the word, "quiet." We had music there also, but it was a place where we could think about the day's happenings. Sometimes we had guest speakers, too. I enjoyed going to Burrall.

Helen Bailey McIntire 1935

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The Burrall Class was very meaningful to the students who did attend and it was one of the innovations that made Stephens special and different. I loved going to the Sunday night Vespers. It was a quiet time for meditation and inspiration. Paul Weaver usually spoke and gave us something to think about in a religious way. There was often a musical presentation. The lights were dim inviting a quiet atmosphere. Vespers was a time to rest, relax and reflect on our lives. It prepared us for the week and the years ahead. I occasionally played in the Burrall Orchestra which included musicians from Columbia and the University of Missouri as well as Stephens. Both the Burrall Class and the Vespers Service were held in the auditorium located between Senior Hall and the Conservatory.

Helen Swan Padberg 1938

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*Can Sunday*

My main memory of Vespers is of Nellie Lee Holt, who was a lovely person and an inspiration to all. She was in charge of both Vespers and Burrall. Vespers was a quiet and reflective time which I enjoyed very much.

Virginia Huse Weidenkopf 1935


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Vespers was one of the finest memories of my beloved Stephens. There was a definite atmosphere of reverence in the darkened auditorium. The quiet organ music and singing “Day is Dying in the West” made it special. Vespers was one of the most positive influences in my life. I am sure that my being chosen to represent one of the Ten Ideals, “Reverence to the Spiritual” was a result.

Janet Mauzy 1936

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I remember Vespers and Mr. Weaver’s wonderful devotional services he conducted. I’m so glad we were required to attend. Much was gained from the experience.

Elizabeth “Libby” Hertzler 1937

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Vespers on Wednesday nights became an educational highlight that taught, inspired and often entertained us with examples from the Bible, subtly and not so subtly helped us to form a solid value system upon which to mold our lives. Christian values made the difference between a life inspired by God and one inspired on the misdirected values of instant gratification and the absence of God.

I loved Vespers because everyone was quiet and the speakers gave us much to think about. The quiet often spilled over into our return to our dorms, mine being the 4th floor of Wood Hall. Vespers was an outstanding, inspiring and character building program.

From a practical application of the Vespers experience, I developed an interest in the “stage management” of its programs. The

lighting, sound, and presentation aspects of the programs aroused my interest in all things theatrical and in the back stage activities especially. I became part of the Drama program under the famed actress, Maude Adams. That lovely lady came to the Stephens Campus in my first year on campus. "Daddy" Woods had managed to recruit the renowned actress to become Stephens College Theatrical Director. Under her talented and enthusiastic leadership, I learned enough to qualify my entrance into Ithaca College where I earned my BS degree in Theater Arts.

It was the Vespers program that led me to a career and life that still reflects the values and ideals that make for "the good life in Christ."

Alice Churchill Hadley 1939

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Thank you for your invitation to add to your collection of the memories about Burrall Class and evensong. I have more vivid memories of faculty and President James Wood. He convinced Nellie Lee Holt to come to Stephens to speak to the Burrall Bible Class. In preparation for her leadership of Burrall, President Wood sent her to see the Russian experiment, Tolstoy's heritage, Mahatma Gandhi and other great religious teachers. Burrall became a great Stephens' tradition.

Dr. Nell Plopper Eurich Lazarus 1939  
Four-Fold Girl Ideal  
President, Civic Association  
Acting President, 1952  
Stephens College

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Burrall Class and Vespers were the two most important things in my life at Stephens College. Vespers was always so worthwhile; it was a respite of peace in the middle of the week. I often read the scriptures at Burrall vespers and selections from "The Prophet", especially those that were applicable to girls that age. The book has influenced my life more than any other. At Stephens, I was a theatre major and played the lead in Maude Adams plays. Actually, I was her protege. I played the lead role of Chantecler, the vain

rooster, in 'Chantecler'. Burrall Class produced "Our Town", Thornton Wilder's play without scenery or props. I find the philosophy of the play very meaningful. My roommate, Jeanette Armentrout Thomas, was president of Burrall Class. Our wonderful friendship continues; it has meant a lot to me. I loved Stephens.

Virginia Branum Cobey 1939  
Burrall Cabinet, Vespers Chairman  
Appreciation of the Beautiful Ideal

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Dr. Paul Weaver's messages at Vespers were very enlightening. He was a wonderful speaker and extremely well liked. On Sundays, I attended the Catholic Church. My friend, Jeanette Armentrout was president of Burrall Class. She was interviewed by Margaret Eades for an article in the "Stephens Standard" Christmas 1938 edition. Jeanette quoted Mr. Weaver, professor of Philosophy, 'The purposes of the Burrall Class are to help students use the resources of their religion in solving their problems and to help them construct an adequate philosophy of religion.' These two purposes involve both the intellectual and emotional types of growth, and the integration of both." She also revealed, "This year for the first time Burrall is sponsoring the symphony concert series. The Sunrise Choir service, another branch of Burrall, is broadcast early every Sunday morning and we have more volunteers for service than we can take care of... that's always an encouraging sign."

Nora "Teeny" Duffy Parks-Gibbons 1939

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By the time Burrall Class was 16 years old, when I arrived at Stephens, it had grown to include extensive social services, weekly discussion groups, weekly parties in Walters Hall, the sponsorship of an annual full-length play, and a large co-ed chorus and symphony orchestra that provided impressive music each Sunday morning.

In February 1939, when Mrs. Jessie Burrall Eubank, founder and first teacher, returned to Stephens for the 17th birthday anniversary of Burrall, she spoke to the class. At the annual

birthday tea, I was honored to be in the receiving line with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weaver. Jessie Burrall was replaced by Nellie Lee Holt when Miss Burrall married Mr. Eubank. Then, when Nellie Lee Holt married Curtis Bok of the Curtis Bok publishing company, she was replaced by dynamic, young, handsome Paul Weaver and his beautiful wife (blond!) and the Weaver's were campus favorites.

Jeanette Armentrout Thomas 1939  
President, Burrall Cabinet

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# 1940's

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Burrall and the Ten Ideals values were very important to us at Stephens, as were our sorority connections. Reflecting on Vespers in the auditorium, with Paul Weaver's messages along with the pleasant, peaceful music brings back many wonderful memories. President Wood was a positive influence and an extraordinary man. We tried our best to live up to his high standards.

Julie Sheckler Brown 1940  
Jane Hedin Blackmore 1940  
Mary Fiedler Hardman 1940  
(sister-Jessie Fiedler McClain 1942)

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At the 1938 Opening Convocation, Mr. James Madison Wood's Convocation address was "Stephens College and You." The Ten Ideals were stressed and listed on the program as "standards and traditions by which a Stephens girl lives." The Hymn we sang was:

Stephens, our Stephens  
Hail to thee  
We'll praise the name  
Through all eternity.  
Thy Ten Ideals  
We'll live, so you can see  
That dear, dear, old Stephens,  
We hail to thee.

During my time at Stephens, I remember going to Burrall Class every Sunday. On White Sunday, all the girls going into the old auditorium chapel looked like a white cloud moving up the steps. Students came from M.U. to attend services, too.

Alma (Amie) Shireman Morrow 1940  
(Grandmother of Amy Ramatowski 2010)

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One thing that really impressed me early on at Stephens was the music groups sponsored by Burrall. Imagine a full orchestra! And a small town girl was “blown away” to hear such a great guest artist as Percy Grainger, the Australian pianist and conductor!

I was initially very homesick and the Burrall Sunday classes and Vespers were so helpful. The highlights included many dynamic talks by Paul Weaver. And the inclusion of University of Missouri students added to the pleasure. Interestingly, Paul Weaver’s younger sister, Gertrude, was also a Stephens Susie and a friend of mine.

I also remember meeting Jessie Burrall Eubank. She was a charming lady and I am sure that the outside community work started by her and sponsored by Burrall class was the forerunner of all community work carried out by Stephens graduates in their future years. The experience of attending Stephens College was the best thing that ever happened to me and had a tremendous influence on my life. I was elected President of the Student Body (Civic Association) so the President of Burrall, along with the other student leaders, reported to my weekly legislative sessions.

Serving as CA President and being chosen one of the Ten Ideals was “icing on the cake.” But by far the highlight of those years, was knowing President Wood! His educational philosophy was faultless. He was a mentor to me and invited me to travel with him in the summer before my senior year to speak at the dinners for prospective students at various cities in the Midwest. And I worked the summer after graduation as a Campus Hostess at Stephens. My maiden name is Jean Arthur-same as the movie actress. President Wood even invited me back to campus the next year to meet Jean Arthur and her husband who were guests in his home.

Jean Arthur Hoel 1940  
President Student Civic Association  
Self-Discipline Ideal



My memories of Vespers at Stephens have lasted many years. As a young student from Huntsville, Alabama-so far from home, I found Vespers a special experience as I adjusted to college life. Dean Paul Weaver was an important anchor and he always gave appropriate advice and wonderful examples. I always felt more secure after attending Vespers Of course there was no homework or preparation for attending, but calm relaxed feeling as a result. If we could only revive today the result of morality and fulfillment in our college students we would enhance our educational benefits as well as an enriched lifetime.

Alyce Roberts Cheatham 1940

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Stephens was and still is a very special place to me. My years there were some of the happiest I've known. I'm still in touch with some of the friends I made there. The friends I made-the great faculty- and all of the activities made it a very complete experience. It just didn't last long enough!!!

Vespers was something I looked forward to every week. Dr. Paul Weaver was a wonderful and inspirational speaker. He always left you with a lot to contemplate and "mull "over. (not to mention how handsome he was!!!!!!) I don't know of anyone who didn't find Vespers an important part of their Stephens life.

I think it is obvious that I loved Stephens and everything about it. Good luck with your special anniversary edition.

Nancy (Root) Orselet 1940

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It was such an honor to be chosen as Spiritual Ideal, and completely unexpected. I remember so many girls congratulating me as we came and went on our daily routines, and how special that was-certainly one of the best parts, an affirmation of all the friendships built up over those two years we were there at Stephens. So many of my friends embodied these Ten Ideals in their own lives, and I really was just their representative. I was very involved in the Burrall Class and it was one of the highlights of my time at Stephens. As I went on to college, and the U.S. went to war, and

marriage and children came along, many other memories crowd into my “memory box.” However, the Stephens Ideal of the Spiritual has guided me in my life and I hope I have been worthy of this trust.

Barbara Hart Wilson 1941  
Spiritual Ideal

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The Vespers with Paul Weaver, philosophy professor, and his quiet talks in the darkened old auditorium was a special time out for me. In the busy life of classes, working in the dining room, hall activities, etc., those moments of quiet and introspection for an 18-20 year old were valuable.

The Ten Ideals were also a goal to strive for--not the choice of representation, but the living of those ideals. I have great memories of all the girls who were chosen, especially in my senior year when I knew everyone better.

I had the assignment of collecting the money from one of the Campus cottages where the students went for breaks, smoking, refreshments, etc. between classes. I remember storing the cash in my open room in Senior Hall until I had a break to deliver it to the Administration Office. Honesty prevailed. I never was nervous about the easy access to that money. Again--the ideals were at work.

I loved the small classes. I came from a 30 member senior high school class, so I was not overwhelmed in college at Stephens before I moved on to the huge classes and lesser teachers at the University of Oklahoma. Well, I did have some good teachers there, but not the majority as at Stephens.

Another fond memory was being able to go over to President Wood’s home on Sunday evenings to sit and chat with him. This was in 1941 and I remember him saying we needed to be concerned about Russia. How true that became. I hope Stephens continues to prosper with young women for the next 175 years!

Betty (Rout) Poppe 1941

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Vespers was my favorite time at Stephens; my friends and I always looked forward to it. I enjoyed Paul Weaver's messages and the quiet, serene atmosphere. That's a special memory that has stayed with me. Every year I look forward to attending Vespers at reunion. It's an especially reverent time during the busy reunion activities. I love Stephens.

Virginia Boos Bigelow 1941

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It was such an honor to be chosen as Appreciation of the Beautiful Ideal. I enjoyed playing the flute in the Burrall Orchestra and have fond memories of that time. It was wonderful to participate in so many interesting Burrall activities.

LeReine Otten Hellerman 1942

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I felt so rich and blessed to be chosen as the Four-Fold Girl Ideal. My Stephens experience meant a great deal and I will always cherish it. Vespers was important and I looked forward to it every week. I also treasure the life-long friends, especially Janet Sorenson Buck. Stephens women are so special; an article I wrote to clarify that special aura, "The Stephens Mystique" was published in the Stephens Alumnae magazine.

Dr. Lucille Garber Ford 1942  
Four-Fold Girl Ideal

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I looked forward to Vespers every week. Mr. Paul Weaver always had a message that I took with me and hopefully used. I remember sitting in those theatre seats in the old auditorium. It seems like a long time ago, but the memories of that special reverent time remains with me.

Bernice Steigler Orr 1942

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The Ten Ideals Concept drew me to Stephens College, and when I was named Ideal of Scholarship it was so meaningful to me. My grandmother had been a teacher, my mother, a valedictorian and although they weren't alive to pat me on the back, I felt they were proud.

Even after 60 years, I smile when I remember the wonderful people; Maude Adams, Dean Paul Weaver, my suitemates, Stop Days, advisors, sticky buns, learning to crawl like a caterpillar for "Alice" and stumbling around in the dark on the first day of Light Savings Morning. Oh, so many things! I'll never forget Missouri in the spring time.

Erin Kameron Coffey 1942  
Love of Scholarship Ideal

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7:22 Discussions

Vespers was very special to me during my years at Stephens. I thoroughly enjoyed Paul Weaver's messages every week. I was so very, very honored to receive the Self-Discipline Ideal Award. I thought, "I wish I could be as good as this Ideal." The wonderful feeling of being there at Stephens has lasted forever. I will be at the reunion in spirit. The friends I made at Stephens I still have, especially Dr. Lucille Garber Ford, our top Four-Fold Girl. I am so thankful for the two special years and I was thrilled to graduate from Stephens College.

Janet Sorenson Buck 1942  
Self-Discipline Idea

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In 1943, we went to Burrall every Sunday. The wonderful singing by the Burrall Choir is a special memory because my friend, Flossie, sang in the Choir. Then in 1944, we went to Burrall every other week and the church of our choice in between. Special Burrall services were held on White Sundays - one after we arrived in the fall and another one near graduation. Burrall also sponsored musicals, and I especially enjoyed the music during Vespers.

Jo Mackay Imeson 1944

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Even though it's been 64 years, I can picture myself in my dining room uniform scurrying across campus with hundreds of others for Burrall Vespers at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays. As "Day Is Dying in the West," was played and unique lighting surrounded us in the Auditorium, students had thirty minutes of complete change from our daily activities Then back to the dining room grateful for the few moments of respite with inspirational and practical words from Dr. Weaver to guide us through the coming week.

When I was selected to represent the Ideal of Reverence Toward the Spiritual in 1944, I was most of all humbled but very grateful and honored. As I reviewed the Ideal of Reverence Toward the Spiritual: loyalty to high ideals, a desire to be a positive force for good, tolerance of religious beliefs of others, and a real sincerity in the individual practice of a personal religion--I was reminded again of these wonderful goals. No claim that I have reached the mark,

but ever trying to live up to these ideals. Being a part of a church all my life has given me opportunities for service, learning, and a source for a spiritual life. My best to you.

Mary Nelle Park Bryant 1944  
Reverence toward the Spiritual Ideal

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Vespers was very special to me. It was a time to sit in the dark and think about my life at school and a time to give thanks to the Lord. We had a very special prayer that meant so much to me and is still part of my life. Stephens was a very special place to me during my time and an important experience.

Anita Zimmerman Johnson 1944

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I enjoyed Vespers with Paul Weaver's messages tremendously. On Sundays, I attended church in Columbia. Madolyn Youse Babcock, 1944, and I lived in the same dormitory at Stephens; we both transferred to the University of Minnesota and joined the same sorority. We have remained good friends and talk to each other frequently. Stephens memories and friends have stayed with me.

Martha "Marti" Boman MacDonald 1944

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My most cherished memories of Stephens relate to people. President Wood was still living on campus as he had been when my mother, Glad Robinson Youse, 1917, was a Stephens student. His friendship and his vision for Stephens touched members of the extended Robinson family, to name but a few of the many. Louise Dudley (Humanities) instructed my mother as well as me. Perhaps her demeanor frightened my mother but she captivated (tip-toeing to the "Dance of the Hours") and inspired (recounting our Greek heritage) me. Molly White made chemistry so fascinating that I later chose that as my major when I entered the Minnesota Institute of Technology.

Paul Weaver was the Director of Burrall Class. His influence was felt not only at Stephens but at the University of Missouri as well. And friendships! What a treasure the two years provided. Marti Bowman MacDonald, Mary Nelle Park Bryant and Pat Haskell remain special pieces of my life. What a lovely “Memories Generator” Stephens remains for me.

Madolyn Youse Babcock 1944  
President Burrall Cabinet  
Four-Fold Girl Ideal

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When asked to share Stephens memories especially relating to the varied facets of the Burrall program, so many examples spring to mind. After nearly 65 years as an alumna it astounds me that Stephens impressions are still so strong in my mind and my heart. Certainly the Sunday Burrall Class and the Thursday Junior and Senior Vespers services were a wonderful influence on us all. Dean Weaver always seemed to choose a timely and appropriate topic that hit home. At the first Vespers I remember, when we were newly arrived on campus and getting acquainted with our assigned roommates, he spoke on the virtues of communication and compromise--“Don’t just go close the window when your roommate has thrown it wide open! Talk about it!”

The Ten Ideals is another Burrall program dear to my heart. Until 1964 the Ideals were: Courtesy, Honesty, Forcefulness, Love of Scholarship, Health, service, Self-Discipline, Cheerfulness, Reverence toward the Spiritual, and Appreciation of the Beautiful. All stand as traits to be desired in women of my generation and were regarded as straightforward, worthwhile and attainable aspirations. The present Stephens Ideals, adopted in 1983 are: Respect, Courage, Independence, Creativity, Sensitivity, Responsibility, Belief, Support, Leadership and Intelligence--all highly sought in present -day women and all open to interpretation and adaptation, which I find fascinating and challenging. Oh, to be back on campus!

There were many unique Stephens regulations that were accepted and followed in the 1940’s and before, that have fallen along the way, I am sure, e.g: required Sunday attendance at church or

Burrall Class, Siesta in our rooms after lunch, lights-out at 11:00 p.m., sign-out to leave campus and off-limits places that sold liquor. We were very protected to be sure, but few rebelled because of our love and respect for President Wood and his vision for women that was innovative and relevant, but also idealistic. I think we had the best of both worlds!

Shirley Ward Dieter 1944  
Love of Scholarship Ideal

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Burrall was the highlight of my week. I came to Stephens for an excellent education which surpassed my expectations. Every week my spirits were lifted and those quiet moments replenished my every being: body, mind and spirit. Those days were days of World War II. Unless you lived through them you cannot understand all the unsettled and anxious times we lived in. Dean Paul Weaver inspired us and “kept us going” through these difficult years. When we handed our Burrall cards in at the door on entering (signifying, of course, we had attended!) we entered the quiet, peace semi-darkness and shut out the world. We kept an empty seat on either side so we could feel alone. Thanks to Dean Weaver and others who led us on this path each Thursday for renewal. His messages always were timely and just what we needed that week. I am grateful!

Lillian King Branson 1945

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During my time at Stephens, 1943-45, the Ten Ideals were very important. My copy is still framed and is a treasure! Vespers was required but I was one not to miss it. Walking into a dimly lit chapel was relaxing in itself. My recollection centers on the quietness and peaceful feelings. Singing (a great part of my Welsh heritage) “Day is done” still invokes a feeling of completion for the work of the day and the prospects of a new dawn on the horizon. Opportunity and hope for tomorrow. To me, Vespers was a primary part of Stephens life. It was an important element of college life.

Carol Stiefel Swift 1945

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Going to Vespers was one of the highlights of my two years at Stephens. The dynamic and charismatic Dr. Paul Weaver's inspirational messages were almost mesmerizing. The Burrall Class and Evening Prayer were special to me, too. Some of my most memorable and valued lessons I learned at Stephens were from the friendships and genuine love among so many girls from all over the U.S. and other countries. I learned that everyone is different, but that we could all live in harmony with one another.

Joyce Petit 1945

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Burrall surely mattered for me during my time at Stephens. In particular, I treasure Vespers on Friday afternoons. "Day is Dying in the West" is still a familiar melody. The service was a fitting conclusion to a week of study and work. I know the importance of Burrall influenced my parents in giving their support to me when I first told them I wanted to go to Stephens. I was proud of the girls chosen to represent the Ten Ideals. One was a neighbor near my home in Los Angeles.

Charlotte Osterman Buchanan 1946

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The quiet time of Vespers was always welcome. Dean Paul Weaver, head of the religion department, knew the correct thing to say to the young women of the 1940's. The subdued lighting and the classical organ music added to the mystic of Vespers.

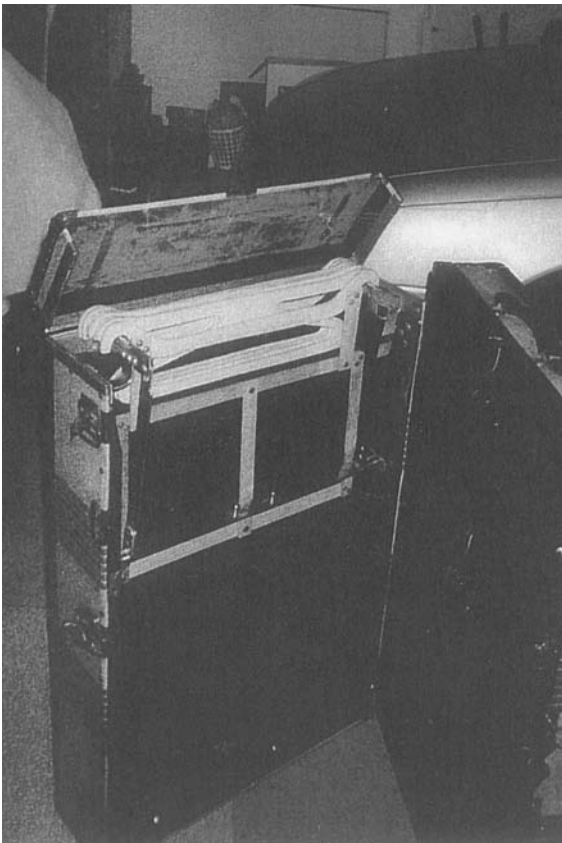
The Burrall Symphony remains one of the high points of my 78 plus years. As a French horn player, who was not a music major, it was a dream come true to study with Edward A. Murphy, the conductor, who was also the principal horn with the St. Louis Symphony. My love of classical music performed by a symphony was nurtured by the two years spent with the Burrall Symphony at Stephens.

Georgia Clark Harmeyer 1946

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I found the weekly ritual of holding Vespers a very comforting and stabilizing influence during my first year away from home. I shall never forget the scary news about the sudden death of President Franklin Roosevelt. It was a shocking event for us and a special Vesper service was called to help ease our worry and concerns. These services were held by Paul Weaver, head of Religion and Philosophy who played a prominent part in our spiritual life and hosted evening sessions and small gatherings of students in his home. Mr. Weaver was one of many Professors who were totally committed to giving the best quality of teaching that made Stephens such a nurturing college.

It was customary in the 1940's to use large wardrobe trunks when you traveled by train. My mother saw to it that my name and the town I was from were stamped at the top. She kept it for years following and I used it well after I was married to store items in. The trunk made it to Indianapolis and as time passed on an idea came



to me and I felt it belonged in the current Fashion Department Costume Research Library. Stephens received it with open arms and pointed out it would be a valuable resource and teaching tool for the History of Costume, Design, Marketing and Management, Art and Drawing Classes. It will be placed on display in the newly renovated Lela Raney Wood Hall, just across from Hatcher Hall where I lived when I was on campus. Small world---and now my trunk has gone back to college!

Harriet Schneider Holdgrafer 1946  
(see photo of the trunk)

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During my years at Stephens, Paul Weaver frequently quoted Charles H. Gabriel's "My Evening Prayer" poem. I have found the words to be very helpful in the many years since leaving Columbia. (60 years that is!)

Vespers was unforgettable to me... and Burrall class, too!

Marcia Mullin Green 1946

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My claim to fame at Stephens was to have been the first married student enrolled. That was while my WWII husband of two months had been sent overseas for two years, and my Stephens experience fulfilled an emotional period with educational opportunity, friendships and the comforting Burrall experience. Those candle lit, calm, spiritual moments have remained in my memory throughout a happy, long marriage and productive life. My rewarding community service has continuously included educational promotion and involvement with local scholarships. Surely that has been influenced by my Stephens' days of long ago. I cherish the memories.

Jean Nelson Phillips 1946

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I have so many memories of walking through the lamp lit campus to Vespers. It was always so quiet and spiritual as we stepped inside the auditorium. I felt that truly I was in His presence. Many happy memories of caring and sharing at Stephens.

Dot Nachard Myers 1946

I enjoyed Burrall Choir and remember singing Handel's Judas Maccabaeus for our oratorio and in taking part in the Sunrise Service at Stephens Lake. I sat close to lone Miller Jones and followed her alto. We also sang at a St. Louis church and one time we were delighted to meet sailors afterwards. Vespers was delightful! Mr. Weaver was very good with his advice on living. I have never known what artistry can happen with a couple of Greek columns, yards of white cloth and the right lighting. Truly, a work of art which was different each week.

Mary Jane Coleman Meeker 1946

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Burrall Choir (with Mary Jane Coleman Meeker) and my organ lessons were important to me during my time at Stephens. I participated in a lot of Burrall activities. One special Vespers service stands out in my mind-the extra one to help us cope with President Franklin Roosevelt's sudden death.

lone Miller Jones 1946

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*Stephens' Christian and University students troop up the auditorium steps to attend Burrall Class.*



“Knowing how to live is an essential art and one with which we are all confronted as soon as we begin to make decisions for ourselves.” These words were taken from **The 1946 Stephensophia** yearbook. In order to solve this problem, the Religion and Philosophy Department organized a varied program of instruction and inspiration, which included Vespers and Burrall Class programs. I shall always remember the beautiful, thought-provoking weekly Vespers services and Sunday Evening Prayer conducted by Dean Paul Weaver. The stress and cares of the day were forgotten once the service began. I have tried to live according to the poem which Dean Weaver delivered at a Vespers service. It is “**My Evening Prayer**” by Charles H. Gabriel from The Best Loved Poems of the American People.

Patricia Hull Fulton 1946

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Vespers was such a peaceful and serene hour after a hectic stressful day. Because of my own deep faith, Vespers reinforced my beliefs.

Madalene Walker Goss 1947

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I have very strong memories of Vespers at Stephens. Dean Paul Weaver was giving Vespers at that time and I wouldn't have missed them. It calmed me, reminded me of why I was at Stephens and helped me to grow up.

He gave me confidence - you knew that he knew what you were feeling and he was there to help. And he did, sometimes with laughter and more often good common sense. I'll never forget the impact this man had on my life.

Janice Carlson Ragsdale 1947

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First year of college, I was very immature, Stephens had very sound rules. Lights out at 10:30 pm. Beds made up. Vespers attendance, mandatory church (of our choice) yes, dress for dinner. I moaned & rolled eyes at all this but...guess what? It did NO harm and in retrospect was excellent training. Later on, as I gained experience in The World out there, I could do my thing.

But these rules, enforced, were safeguards for our being away from home for the first time. I have had too many of my friends who sent daughters to public colleges which allowed liquor in their rooms, refrig even!! for the beer, who simply couldn't handle the freedom & had painful & destructive outcomes which have lasted (the results of..) thruout their young to middle-aged lives.

Yes, we crabbed & complained at Vespers. But guess what, one thing that I remember vividly about Vespers was attending, the simple but lovely arrangement of the white pillars & artful drapery of cloth, the inspiring message. We surely sneered at it at that time but it has stayed with me & helped me in my life. I've doubled my gift to Stephens this year in spite of Fate not granting me much money during these past 20 years as a widow, and thank you for your letter to us all and your loyalty to Our School.

"Ardie" Ardath Aucoin 1947



### **A Burrall Cabinet Member Remembers the Mid-Nineteen Forties**

Before I knew Paul Weaver, Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion, I saw and heard several of his talks and presentations at Evening Vespers. Students responded to his intellect, charm, and sharing of a philosophy of life that drew upon ancient and universal thought and world religions. He knew how to teach and strengthen our spiritual values so that we might address our own and hopefully others needs, fears, hope and desires in the years ahead.

Actually the first time I met him, I was in bed. I was flushed and feverish. I was also thrilled he had gotten my message and actually had come to see me. The circumstances were a bit unusual and I shall share them with you some 63 years later.

I was healthy and energetic when I arrived on campus. I had been at Stephens for less than two weeks (I remember a lot of time standing in line in the rain to register for classes). I unexpectedly came down with bronchial pneumonia. The infirmary knew no way to treat me. I admit to being scared as they sent me by ambulance to Columbia General Hospital. They did call my parents and my advisor, and just as they were taking me away, I heard myself asking them to please call Dr. Weaver who I hadn't even met. It was not that I thought I needed a spiritual blessing or the last rites, but I knew about him from my sister, who was a recent graduate, a former Burrall Cabinet member--and he had been her advisor which was practically like being family.\*

I hadn't expected him to come to see me but he did and not only that he met my father at the depot when he arrived on the good old Wabash Cannonball. And then the following day, the two of them met a medical consultant my father had contacted in St. Louis who managed to procure "the antibiotic miracle cure for pneumonia" that, I was told, had been dispensed only to soldiers and veterans in military tents and hospitals. Thus penicillin, "the new wonder drug," first arrived early in Columbia in September 1945, stashed in a medical Army ice chest, and carried in Paul Weaver's automobile to the hospital emergency entrance. Was this an historic event of some consequence? Ofcourse it was. It saved my life.

Not that I would name either Paul or my father -- both of whom I adored and will always honor-- as saviors but they will always be my heroes.

(The last time I saw Paul Weaver, and his wife Betty, was in 1971 when I visited them at Lake Eire College for Women where he was President.)

\*My genetic big sister was Elizabeth (Libby) Epstein (Barker Gardener), Class of June '45. Her little sister at Stephens was Jean Jordan (Kirkpatrick, Class of '46), a member of Burrall Cabinet, and later the Ambassador to the United Nations). And probably no surprise, Jean Jordan assumed the Big Sister role for me.

Joan Epstein Gill Blank 1947  
Burrall Cabinet  
Love of Scholarship Ideal

Stephens was my best educational experience ever. At that time we had Vespers every Thursday at 5 in the afternoon. Dean Paul Weaver conducted Vespers and always closed with this prayer:

If I have wounded any soul today,  
If I have caused one step to go astray.  
That I myself might walk in my own willful way,  
Dear Lord, forgive.

Forgive the sins I have confessed to thee,  
Forgive the secret sins I do not see.  
That which I know not, teach thou me.  
Help me to live. Amen

Vespers was a very powerful experience.

Elaine Millikan Mathes 1947

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I always felt that Burrall was one phase that contributed to the total education a woman received at Stephens...a rich experience and an opportunity to experience inspiration and a feeling of belonging...without any specific religious affiliation...everyone could enjoy and grow from the experience.

Carolyn Breitmeyer Boone 1947

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Every week I looked forward to Vespers and the wonderful messages of Paul Weaver. It was also a special time to listen to the beautiful music, too. The calm atmosphere helped prepare us for our hectic lives at college. One of my biggest honors was sitting next to President Wood at Vespers. He was such a special person and I cherish that memory. Every Sunday I sang in the choir at the Presbyterian Church.

Louise Edwards Carson 1947

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Vespers, Sunday worship Service and prayer time at Stephens were important to me. I attended regularly and enjoyed the music and messages by Paul Weaver who was a good speaker. I especially remember singing “Day is Dying in the West” and “Heaven is Touching”...The Burrall Services brought students’ closer to their faith. Values were important, too; Everybody lived by the same rules. There was no peer pressure. It was like a sisterhood at Stephens. The focus on the Ten Ideals and standards added interest. Everyone wrote what the Ideal meant to you then a committee chose one person for each Ideal. For the past 50 years, Stephens has had an important role in our family.

Stephens was a pioneer in aviation. My sister, Margaret, took flying lessons and got a job as a ground instructor after graduation. Her six daughters were Stephens’s women, too. Now Margaret’s granddaughter, Janna Smith is in her third year at Stephens. A special memory I have is of the wedding of my niece, Daryl Gebhardt (Margaret’s daughter) to David Forte which was held in the Firestone Baars Chapel on the Stephens campus. Daryl’s five sisters were bridesmaids. A beautiful reception was held in the historic Senior Hall.

Florence (Fay) Taylor Phillips 1947

Sister of Margaret Taylor Gebhardt 1946--mother of 6 Stephens women (Loris Gebhardt Smith, 1976--Dana Gebhardt, 1980--Karen Cristel Gebhardt, 1976--Lamar Gebhardt Dearth, 1982--Daryl Gebhardt Forte, 1987--Joell Gebhardt Doneker, 1988 and granddaughter, Janna Smith, 2009. It’s a family tradition!



### **Remembrances of Burrall**

The Burrall program at Stephens was the beginning of my life-time spiritual journey; although at the time I didn’t realize it. Like so many things that Stephens gave me, this was probably one of the most important beginnings.

The Burrall program on Sundays was wonderful--beautiful music, conducted by Ed Murphy, the red headed rascal that we all loved, and messages that were inspiring and uplifting. While I

went to the Episcopal Church most of the time, complete with hat, gloves and high heels, Burrall was much more interesting, as well as opening up new ideas of religion. Besides, many times there were boys from MU there which enhanced the hour!

The Vespers program on Sunday nights was the beginning of what we now know as a spiritual awakening. Going to the old auditorium, with dim lighting, quiet, and Paul Weaver's wonderful messages, it was the end of a full week and the beginning of a new one which was comforting and inspiring. Paul Weaver had great charisma and seemed to sense the feeling of the girls on campus and their particular needs. He addressed the problems of young girls in such a way that seemed to speak to each one of us, like he knew what we were thinking. It gave us a wonderful sense of the fact we were in charge of our lives and could do anything we set out to do. All this with spiritual overtones about life's journey. It was a message about life that we did not get at a formal church service, but engendered in us a feeling that God was with us all the way. I shall always be grateful for this wonderful gift.

Marjo Langrell Price 1947

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Sixty years later, I still have fond memories of how helpful Vespers was in orienting this small town girl to college life at Stephens College. Paul Weaver always seemed to be a mind reader of what was the latest disturbance on our mind. He had the answers, whether it was homesickness, exams, etc. Mr. Weaver pointed us in the right direction, spiritually and emotionally.

Elaine Disosway King 1947

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It was my second week as a "Susie" at Stephens College. I had picked up my Vespers attendance card behind Mrs. Anderson's desk in South Hall and here I was in the darkened auditorium listening to another student playing softly on the lighted piano. I found a seat and tears began to follow paths down my cheeks. I was so homesick and miserable.

I had graduated from a small country consolidated school in Adams County, Indiana. I felt so alone. The light was lowered on

the pianist and was now directed on Dean Paul Weaver.

Through my tears, I heard him speak to students, like me, who were feeling as I. He spoke of a “room-o,” being homesick and missing parents and friends. He also spoke, not in the narrow sense of a religious service, but with the feeling of deep appreciation for the Stephens Ideals and Stephens values.

While listening to his comforting words, I glanced slowly at the girl next to me and I saw tears on her cheeks also. I wasn’t alone with my thoughts. We sang “Day is Dying in the West.” As I returned to South Hall, I knew I could overcome my feeling of loneliness.

For two years, weekly Vespers gave to me a great feeling of tranquility and appreciation of the truly wonderful school I had chosen to attend. During my second year, I was a representative to the Student Activity Board and was happy to have a Burrall Project helping to serve student meals at the Catholic grade school and High School. Because of the Stephens Ideals (especially Service, Appreciation of the Beautiful and Courtesy) I feel I have contributed to my family, my church and my community.

Sara Sink Briggs 1948

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There was wonderful music during the Burrall Vespers programs. I remember the Van Cliburn concert and meeting him afterwards.

Beverly Graves Hintz 1948

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*Vespers*

Vespers was one of the highlights of my time at Stephens. My friends and I looked forward to it and we all went together. We could meditate about whatever was on our mind. Dean Paul Weaver did a remarkable job of reaching the students with his weekly messages. I was so impressed with the Evening Prayer group and the outstanding job everyone did with their presentations. It always helped to have a good prayer. Stephens superlative approach to encouraging good values created a nice environment. I think of Stephens as a happy time.

Pamela Stoddard Appleby 1948  
Service Ideal  
(Mother of Anne Appleby 1981)

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Memories of Burrall...I especially remember one Sunday when the topic of the Burrall class had to do with making choices (decisions) and how hard it is when both choices sound good, desirable... that it's easier to choose between "Is it good or bad." I often think how true that is whether it's a life changing decision or minor one. Attendance was taken but we didn't mind. I recall we wore hats and gloves.

My first year, about 20 of us lived upstairs at President Wood's home and usually went to Burrall class together. A highlight was when the actress, Jean Arthur, came to visit and stayed upstairs with us. But then we were so noisy that after a few weeks, she moved to a hotel. I was part of the group that arrived at school on the Stephens Special train which ran from St. Louis to Columbia.

Marydell Saunders Dilworth 1948

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I recall my years at Stephens as some of my most enjoyable. I had moved all my life (three high schools in three different states) so I felt I had found a "home" at Stephens. It was a new experience for me to enter into student government and to participate in the Burrall program. Evening Prayer was especially important - being able to attend a worship service on campus with classmates and taking "time out" to share our thoughts, concerns and prayers was a significant source of spiritual growth.

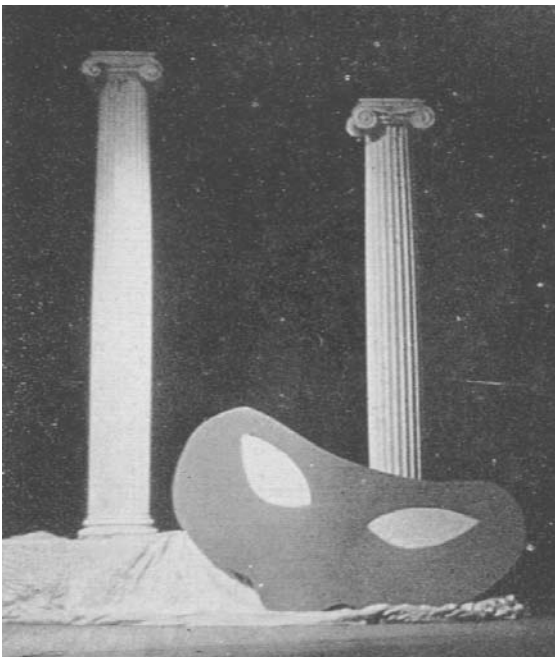
Getting to know President and Mrs. Rainey personally was another very meaningful experience. They were such fine people and instilled lasting standards and values in all who knew them.

It was an honor to be chosen as one of the Ten Ideals (Courtesy). It made a lasting impact on my life as I tried to keep its meaning in my life as well as recognizing the values represented in all the Ideals. I think the new "up to date" version of the Ideals is so perfect for the current generation.

In addition to having some inspiring instructors, one of the most important and lasting areas of influence during the time I spent at Stephens have been the life-long friendships that were formed. My hope is that Stephens will continue to have as lasting and as positive an influence on all students as it has had for me.

Veronica (Ronnie) Martin Cox 1949  
Courtesy Ideal

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I attended Burrall Vespers at Stephens in 1948-49 and the First Baptist Church. I was in Mrs. Jessie Burrall Eubank's apartment with other students a number of times. She had small groups over to her place for prayers and socializing. I was intrigued with her many interests. I think the main thing I learned from Mrs. Eubank was belief in a communication with others by way of the spirit or via a sort of energy which we may call psychic - or whatever one wants to use to describe the mysterious (and sometimes not so mysterious) communication that happens between people - people in the same room, or miles apart, or people no longer living. It can be called intuition or dream or "a feeling" and we don't honor that experience. But Jessie Burrall Eubank did.

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Frances Webb Burch 1949

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I have two sets of memories about the Burrall Program, one as a student participating in Vespers and Evening Prayer, and later as a teacher in the Religion department who also somehow fell heir to directing the Burrall Community Service Projects. When I was a student, it was a different world than it is now. There was a great receptiveness on campus to opportunities for reflection and exploring questions of a spiritual nature. Campus life was busy and hectic and most of us loved the chance to enter a quiet place where we heard carefully prepared talks on questions we were concerned about. Dean Weaver was expert at creating an atmosphere for meditation and prayer. These “times apart” were a very important aspect of my two years at Stephens.

When I returned to Stephens to teach after graduating from Vanderbilt Divinity School, I had no idea that directing the Burrall projects would be part of my job. But it turned out to be a wonderful opportunity to work with students and get to know the community and its needs. Dean Harry Philpott was my boss: Dr. Klair Armstrong, Dr. Bates and Mr. Osborne were valued colleagues. The two Burrall projects that stand out in my memory were our efforts to help the elderly and ill residents of the local “County Home,” and a Christmas gift project for needy children. The “County Home” was a terrible place-dismal, dark and crowded with people who needed much more than the ‘Home’ could provide. A group of Burrall students went to visit, with scrub brushes and paint brushes. We cleaned and painted-visited with the people there-and hopefully made the place a little more livable. The other project involved getting students engaged in the purchase, wrapping and delivering of Christmas gifts to kids who needed help. The students especially loved doing this project and the Burrall meeting room was absolutely stuffed with boxes and packages when the effort was in full swing.

The years at Stephens were a good time in my life. As I look back-I appreciate even more the tremendous and unusual opportunities offered me and my classmates for learning and growth.

Martha Garner Albers 1949  
Four-Fold Girl Ideal  
Director, Burrall Projects, 1954-55

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I attended Vespers every Wednesday. The lighting effects, the music selections, and the sermonettes, poetry or readings were very thought provoking. We were required to sit by ourselves-one seat apart. The auditorium lights were turned very low to create a quiet, peaceful atmosphere.

Jean Steven McVicker Spomer 1949

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Vespers was a quiet time away from a busy schedule. Paul Weaver's messages were always timely.

At Stephens I was a Photography Major and I met my husband, Edgar (Ned), who was Technical Director of Theatre Facilities in the photo lab. After graduation, I joined the faculty as the Public Relations Photographer. My photograph of Eleanor Roosevelt on campus has appeared in Stephens publications.

Edith Perkins Lustig 1949

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Eleanor Roosevelt at Stephens

Vespers was important to me. It was a haven when we were there. Dr. Weaver was able to paint such vivid pictures with words. You could visualize everything. It was an honor to be chosen as an Ideal.

Nancy Schuessler O'Brien 1949  
Forcefulness Ideal

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I am so glad to have the opportunity to add praise for the work of Jessie Burrall Eubank as she served First Baptist Church college students while she was employed at Stephens College. I knew her best from 1947-1950, as a University of Missouri student.

She did such an excellent job of mixing the three colleges; Stephens, Christian College and University. What a perfect time to have all those World War II fellows coming to school on their GI Bills after serving with few females for at least a couple of years. First Baptist housed the Baptist Student Union with students from all over the country.

When Mrs. Eubank stood, with her contagious smile, her positive approach to everything, you knew she cared about you!

We elected student officers and committee chairs, who met with her as a cabinet to plan for the Sunday morning Bible Study (at 9:29 A.M), Sunday worship and evening supper and program and Friday evening parties. I served with Dick Hawkins as co-social chairmen. The church sent us to Green Lake, Wis. ABC Conference Center to Recreation Leaders Lab for training under E. O. Harbin (author of Fun Encyclopedia). How insightful of Mrs. Eubank to involve so many in leadership training. She taught me the word "ecumenical", both literally and in action. We were given a broad and international view as we grew in our religious faith. I have often thought how far-reaching is the influence of Jessie Burrall Eubank as she helped equip lawyers, teachers, doctors, business, political leaders, engineers and parents to make our world a better place.

Barbara Kelley Wyatt

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# 1950's

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Among the many enriching benefits that Stephens offered its young women, I continue to count the Burrall program as its most life-changing legacy. How gutsy for a college to place dead center, right in the maelstrom of student life, its programs dedicated to meditation, reflection, rejuvenation. Such was the poser of Burrall Class, Evening Prayer and Vespers - gifts to last a lifetime.

During that long-ago time, and in a more up close and personal way - my greatest learning curve came from serving on the Burrall Cabinet, the programs' nine-member steering committee. We began as newcomers and near-strangers to one another but by some sort of serendipity coalesced into a community. I believe this growth was nurtured by the intense orientation shared by seniors of the graduating Cabinet., then bolstered by unflagging support from faculty mentors in the Division of Religion and Philosophy headed by Dean Paul Weaver. As our group's sense of common purpose grew, we learned to value disparate opinions; to listen hard; to tap into the campus "pulse" via a well-established network of "intelligence gathering" - always with the aim of helping to design Burrall programs that would speak to student concerns in a timely way. Our weekly planning meetings and occasional retreats were not only demanding, productive, and fun... they not so incidentally evolved into enduring friendships.

How good an education is that?

Ruth Chambers Thornton 1950  
Burrall Cabinet Evaluation Chairman

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What Jessie Burrall began and Paul Weaver refined resulted in a major force for a great number of Stephens students. During my years, it seemed that Burrall was everywhere, an omnipresence that embraced scholarship, spiritual introspection, public service and broadening one's outlook.

Of the many programs operating under the Division of Religion and Philosophy perhaps Vespers epitomized the best of Burrall. This exposure to reflection time and the theme of examining one's life resonated with juniors and seniors. I remember that many wondered how Dean Weaver could fathom the campus mood accurately each week: were we homesick, lovesick, overweight, sleep-deprived, upset with parents, term-paper anxious or totally happy?

These on-target talks delivered in Dean Weaver's singular style were memorable for inspiration and humor as well as insight. He was able to confirm his own inclinations with the aid of a carefully designed intelligence system that drew viewpoints from many students and faculty.

Burrall's reach was awesome, ranging from Evening Prayer, Burrall Class in the immense auditorium on Sunday mornings, discussion groups in each of the halls, symphonies and concerts,

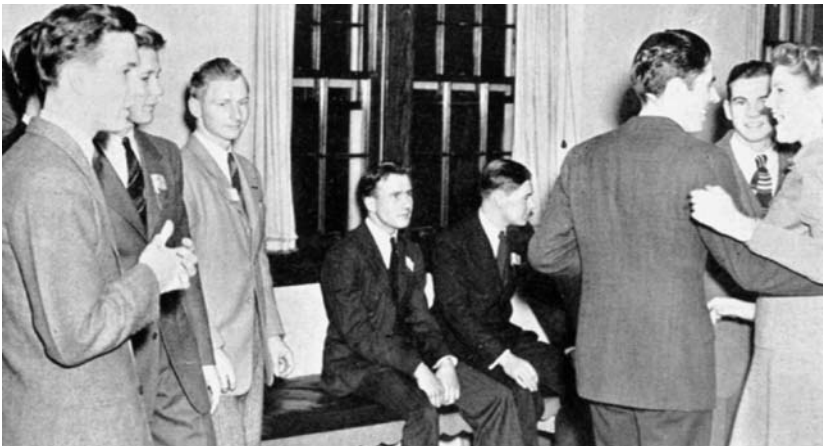


formal dances and small social gatherings... to public service opportunities in Columbia. I have never forgotten participating in Sunday evening services at the State Cancer Hospital. Others may remember providing dinner to 40 young Columbia boys or raising funds for foreign students.

Serving on the Burrall Cabinet allowed each of us to participate in one aspect in particular and to evaluate programs, and to plan. We were in close communication with Dean Weaver and his staff and that was the best part: A. K. Armstrong, Ben Miller, Bob Savage, Curt Larson, Randy Wheeler, Thelma Woods and Barbara Milliken not only taught classes and held responsibility for fine-tuning programs but took personal interest in helping the Cabinet understand its work. Their influence upon us and a multitude of students reflected the essence of Burrall.

Peggy Nicholson Sadtler 1950  
President, Burrall Cabinet

*(Other members: Marie Bertillion, Tootsie Arias, Ruth Chambers, B.J. Edenfield, Donna Newton, Sheila O'Neill, Molly Mcleod and Barbara Sheehe. Friends then, and now)*



The Burrall Cabinet played a large part in the Burrall programs which exerted great influence upon all Stephens students as the central religious function of the college. The cabinet was composed of nine members in 1950 and each had specific areas of control. The Burrall program sponsored many well known speakers from the entire country but we felt that the most outstanding best orator by far, was Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. We, on the cabinet were most fortunate to spend some time with this highly intelligent, charming lady. I believe Ruth Chambers met her upon arrival and as they arrived on campus, Peggy O'Neil and I met her and escorted her to the auditorium. It was a most memorable evening for all of us on the cabinet as well as for the audience for she stayed after her speech and answered many question from the large crowd.

Barbara Sheehe Hanson 1950  
Burrall Cabinet Social Activities Chairman

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### The Standing IDEALS Committee Recollections from the Committee Chair of 1950

The Ten Ideals became a part of the Stephens Burrall Program in 1945 and the Standing Ideals Committee was formed. Dr. W.W. Charters was the founder and first sponsor of the committee. I recall meeting Dr. Charters at a joint gathering of the outgoing committee and the newly appointed members. He seemed very anxious that the campus be informed about how these "ideals"



Burrall Orchestra Practices

should be incorporated into the lives of each student. High standards were important. The committee's job was to get the message across.

The committee was comprised of eleven members who met once a month with the chairman of each hall group to discuss various ways of promoting the Ideals within the different halls and on campus. Our very enthusiastic faculty sponsor was Miss Betty Bebout. We enjoyed each other's company and input. Most of the committee members held other responsible campus positions of leadership, so their contributions were well regarded. Each member had a specific duty of outreach; publicity, organizing and leading informal discussion groups at the different halls, evaluations and research. All in all, our goal was achieved.

My role in this committee was mostly organizing and following through with the details of that leadership. Perhaps, it is of interest to note the 10 Ideals of the late 1940's and early 1950's: Appreciation of the Beautiful-Cheerfulness-Courtesy-Forcefulness-Health-Honesty-Love of Scholarship-Self Discipline-Service & Reverence Toward the Spiritual. I did wonder if some of these were noteworthy. After all, personality goals didn't seem to really fit. Today, if one must have specific targets as goal achievements, the list seems more qualified: Respect-Independence-Support-Sensitivity-Responsibility-Belief-Intelligence-Creativity-Courage & Leadership.



*Christmas Concert*

I have many wonderful memories of Stephens. I was honored to accept the chairmanship of the Standing Ideals Committee because it afforded me the opportunity to meet and work with, not just my committee, but with the outreach contacts attached to this committee. I always felt that my two years at Stephens provided me with a solid background of confidence in making decisions regarding leadership, about taking a stand on important issues that matter and by seeking knowledge. The Ideals are just inspirational highlights but they set the Stephens standard “way of life”.

On a last personal note, I have carried the “ideals” through the years even though I may not have always recognized them as such. They have helped broaden my horizons in a very inspirational way.

Arliss Trosper Coe 1950

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“College Friendship” was my topic at Evening Prayer. It is through friendships that we find satisfaction of the heart and mind. There is in a friendship, a mutual feeling which mere words can not express. With God as our friend, we can learn of Him something of courage and patience, something of tenderness and self-forgetfulness.

Mel Stribling, 1950, spoke about “Our Relationships”. She stated that Oliver Wendall Holmes once made a very interesting observation. He remarked, “that the reason it is hard for two people to understand each other is that there are so many of them. He went on to explain that each individual is really three different people. He is the person as he sees himself, often very unlike the real person; the person as other people see him, also never quite like the basic person; and finally the person as God sees him, or the real person, known only to his Maker.” This illustrates the essence of the three important relationships in our lives.

Jean Fahnstock 1950

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Evening Prayer was very meaningful for me and was probably the beginning of my philosophical/spiritual search for meaning and purpose. I was raised in a family where the belief was that my brother and I should go to various neighbor's churches and when we were old enough we would join whichever group made sense to us. I went regularly to the Sunday evening service and made a presentation in my senior year. The program started me on my search and was something quite serious that continues to this day - as does my search.

I spoke on the topic of "Simplicity", the direct, clear and uncomplicated course of belief and action which springs from uncluttered thinking - thinking with reference to what is going on around us and within us - all of it against the background of a clear and a growing understanding of the place of God in human lives.

Dorothy Chevalier 1950

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I loved going to Evening Prayer. It was a quiet, meaningful time at the end of the weekend before the very busy schedules of the next week began. It was also an opportunity to hear and share the kind of thoughts of friends and other classmates that one rarely had time and opportunity to explore when studying together or playing bridge. I remember being surprised and gratified by some of the meditations which provided new insights into the reader's being. The candle light was lovely.

At Evening Prayer, I spoke about "Adjustment to Life". A belief in God enables us to strengthen our understanding of others. Each day that we live by being loyal to that which we hold as right, we will be climbing another step nearer, to the group, or to Stephens, but what is more important we will have climbed nearer to an adjustment of life as a whole.

Jean Ramey Hutton 1950

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Vespers was very spiritually deepening for me every week! God whispers to us in silence, in beauty and in a few words well spoken. I learned this during Vespers at Stephens (1948-1950).

Carol Shelton Hovde 1950  
Reverence Toward the Spiritual Ideal

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The emphasis on religion with Burrall and its related programs 'sold' my family on Stephens College. The religious part of Burrall was a good fit for college age students at that time and was the one big thing that made Stephens unique. It was very well done. I enjoyed Vespers and all the Burrall Services. Dean Weaver was a good soaker with a knowledge of the students' concerns. I occasionally attended Mrs. Jessie Burrall Eubank's class at the First Baptist Church and enjoyed it.

Ann Wood Harvel 1950  
(sister-Helen Wood Weaver 1954)

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Playing 2nd flute in the Burrall Orchestra was one of the highlights of my years at Stephens College. Roma Ball, who was the flute teacher, played first. My roommate during my senior year, Marjorie Stockton also played flute in the orchestra. We were both "dining room girls" so we shared experiences. The Burrall Orchestra was a full symphony orchestra. For concerts, Mr. Murphy (who played horn in the St. Louis Symphony) would bring the oboist from the Symphony, and possibly other players as needed. We had guest



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

soloists and I played for both “Carmen” and “Madame Butterfly.” We played for Burrall Class, too. Vladimir Horowitz played at Stephens to a full house. Weren’t we lucky? I’m glad to have a reason to draw up these memories.

Jean Smith Campbell 1950

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About Burrall Class--I remember dressing in white, gloves and all, getting to class on time, going with my roommate, enjoying what Dean Weaver had to say, arguing with myself over my unbelief of the Bible, and resting from the 21 hours of credit classes I was enrolled in each semester during 1948-1950. Every Sunday morning, students from Stephens, M.U. and Christian College attended Burrall class in the Stephens Assembly hall to hear Dean Paul Weaver or a guest speaker talk about the problems of religion happening in students’ everyday lives.

Janice (Jan) Moses Durett 1950  
(Sister of Helen Moses Durett 1952)

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Singing during Vespers

I have glorious memories of my time at Stephens - from weekly Vespers gatherings and quartet singing to performing in the chorus for George Bizet's opera, "Carmen" with a professional symphony in Burrall Hall. It was all part of the learning process.

I remember Mr. Umlauf so well - what a talented man he was - and I loved Burrall choir. Everything made a deep impression on me at that stage of my life. Vespers was outstanding with Dean Weaver at the helm!

Eileen Norcross Rauschert 1951

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Dean Weaver had good things to say, but what I remember most was his recurring direction to "Transform your environment." That's a line that has kept coming back to me ever since then and has had a lot to do with my approach to life.

Joyce Allen Clark 1951

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My family and I fled Hungary in the last weeks before the end of the war in 1945. We settled on a farm in Austria near Salzburg. I attended high school in Salzburg. At that time my dad was working for the American Gov. and in that office someone suggested for me to apply for a scholarship in the USA. This is how I received my Burrall scholarship from Stephens College. After a 9 day boat ride and train ride I was greeted by the Burrall representatives and Mr. Armstrong, who welcomed me at the railroad station. Then I was taken to Dean Weaver's and for the first year I lived with the Weaver family. The time was already October, so I had to catch up not only on studies but getting used to a new language. My major was fashion design. And, at the end of second year I received several recognitions in the field. I spent my second year at Columbia hall and have good memories from that time.

Anna von Matyas Chapo 1951  
Burrall Scholar

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## Ancient Memories: The Burrall Program at Stephens

To borrow a word encountered frequently these days, my experience at Stephens College more than half a century ago was holistic. It challenged mind, body, and spirit. In retrospect I think that was the major strength of course work and the entire campus life. The principal dimension of the spiritual component was the Burrall program which reached the diversity of young women assembled on Sunday mornings through many means: quiet reflection, music, challenging talks and the opportunities to explore ideas that would help build satisfying lives. One aspect of the Burrall Program that I enjoyed was Evening Prayer. In fact I remember very little of the details other than it was optional, short [thirty minutes I think] in a small auditorium and involved lovely music. It seemed to bring a restful pause at the end of the day and a time to gather resources for the week ahead.

As a Freshman I took the general Humanities course which also pulled together the great ideas of history, all forms of the arts, architecture, and literature and stretched the muscles of young minds in many directions. It was exciting and matched the Burrall program with opportunities and, yes, requirements, to attend plays, concerts, recitals and visit the campus art gallery or the hallways displaying photographs and subject matter under study. Faculty in all disciplines were accessible, ready for questions and conversations on the issues of the class or the community. Student government offered a different form of involvement and became my first experience as a candidate in elective politics. Friendships were formed through all of this, some of which have lasted a lifetime.



One other dim memory has arisen as I reflect on those years. It may not be accurate. I believe that students nominated for one of the Ten Ideals were asked to write an essay which could roughly be titled a “philosophy of life.” I have no idea what I said in this piece and would probably be astonished at my naiveté were I to read it today. I do know that it required a good bit of soul searching, reference to books that I had used in classes or simply been reading, and a great pile of wadded up typewriter paper. The Burrall Program was simply one aspect of the totality of campus life, but it provided the glue that helped hold together many other things. There is in most young people the inchoate sense that service to others and to society is significant and a life goal, whatever form this might take. I believe that the Burrall Program helped fan this flame for me and many Stephens students.

Carolyn Smith Allen 1951  
Reverence Toward the Spiritual Ideal

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The Senior theme, “Self-Appreciation” I wrote for Evening Prayer in 1950 emphasized that before we can fully appreciate ourselves, we must know that which we would appreciate. We must know ourselves. It is amazing to look back at over fifty years and realize that Burrall gave us such a marvelous chance to think through the importance of understanding self. It is such a vital step and necessary before we can successfully relate to others. I did not realize how much this thinking influenced me later when we wrote the curriculum for Every Child A Winner, which became a national



Barbara Wilcox Thuesen

model. I have always said that Stephens had such a positive impact on my life. This is further proof of that.

Martha Fuller Owens 1951

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Vespers at Stephens was a very special time. The dimness, quietness, and separation from the next “Susie” gave me time to close my eyes and relax with my thoughts. Dean Weaver’s speeches will never be forgotten by me. I remember singing, “Day is Dying in the West”.

Lois Droste Trowbridge 1951

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Vespers was a wonderful program. I loved it and I wouldn’t give anything for that experience. It was very meaningful and helped us get in touch with ourselves.

Margaret Layton Hyman 1951

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### **Lighting Candles**

Almost exactly fifty-five years ago, on January 21, 1951—bringing the Senior Theme at Evening Prayer (“Let Me Have Faith”) on the Stephens College campus—I began with an ancient Chinese proverb: “The world is evil and dark, but do not curse the darkness—light a candle.” I never dreamed then that in the future I would spend much of my adult life living among Chinese and teaching in China.

Re-reading several of the themes, prayers, and remembrance and dedication passages later compiled and published as “The Light of Evening Prayer,” I am struck by their timelessness and their often heartbreaking contemporary pertinence, for our country was at war in 1950-1951 (the Korean Conflict) even as it is today.

Caryl Sue Albin shared these words that night in her Remembrance and Dedication: “May the Light and the Truth of God, of which this candle is a symbol, give confidence and direction to us as we prepare for the future, not only our future, but the future of those who will depend upon us.”

Almost a dozen years later—November 7, 1962—eulogizing Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt—Adlai Stephenson said, “She would rather light candles than curse the darkness and her glow has warmed the world.”

Later still—February 8, 2006—eulogizing Mrs. Coretta Scott King—former president Bill Clinton said that Mrs. King was not a symbol but “a real woman who lived and breathed and got angry and got hurt and had dreams and disappointments.” He then recounted how, just days after her husband had been assassinated in Memphis, Mrs. King went to Memphis to address striking garbage workers, filling in for her husband, because she had had to ask herself and find the answer, “What am I going to do with the rest of my life?”

In the Senior Theme closing prayer, I said, “Our Father who art in heaven, watch over us, guide us. Give us strength to meet our problems and faith to rise above them.” Today, uncertain as ever about the future, we still need strength to meet our problems and faith to rise above them. As Mrs. Roosevelt remarked in 1960, shortly before her death, “You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”

### BURRALL CABINET



Tonia Teasdale, Carolyn Richardson, Rena Lawson, Kay Earlandson, Henix Rader, Judy Strong, Lynne Hough, Chris Nickilas, Jerry Ehlers.

Today, too, we have to ask ourselves and answer the question, “What are we going to do with the rest of our lives?” Will we curse the darkness, or will we light candles? The choice is ours.

June Rose Garrott 1951

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I remember Burrall class. Attendance was required and thank you Stephens for that! My memories are vague and faded now. I see Wednesdays nights-regardless of the weather-always hurrying to be on time. I recall the broad wide steps crowded after the program with University of Missouri “dates” waiting for us. I wonder what they made of this? But, most of all, I think of the outstanding speakers and the one great concept that was instilled in me. We were charged to “be involved in our communities” wherever that would be. We ,as educated women, had a responsibility to contribute to our communities and our worlds. We were called to commit ourselves to this. I admit I was not immediately aware of this but later, in the midst of family, work and community I often reflected on this. I know, I just know, I first learned this at Stephens; on those Wednesdays nights crowded together, dimly realizing that what I was being exposed to was truly special. I often returned to the dorm and called my family in Cincinnati, Ohio to say “guess who I just heard.” I wish I could now remember who some of the speakers were, but I cannot nudge any names into consciousness.

Lois Beglen Shelly 1951

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Vespers, a quiet, meaningful time in a busy week. Dean Weaver tied in his messages with our lives.

Virginia Kammerer Kunkel 1951

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My best memory of Vespers is that students had access to the wisdom of Huston Smith, an authority on Eastern religions.

Sara Shofstall Rau 1951

(daughter of Dr. Welden P. Shofstall, Dean of Administration, Stephens College)

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Evening Prayer meant a great deal to me at Stephens and the experience held over into my adult life. It was a very moral and inspiring time. In my role as chairman, I visited area churches which helped me to better understand other religions. It expanded my view of religions and gave me a good feeling about them. Students were given a chance to give presentations in front of a small group. It was a great learning experience. The Ten Ideals were important as they were interwoven into campus life.

Carol Haines Demaree 1951

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I have such lovely memories of Stephens College and one of my most favorite is that it was a singing campus. As one walked about, girls on their way to classes were singing. I was in the Burrall Choir which was quite large-150 voices including 35 University of Missouri men. It started in 1923 with 40 voices. Mr. Umlauf was our Choir director; we all thought the world of him. I learned so much from my Burrall Choir experience, such beautiful music. We sang each Sunday for the Burrall Community Church Service. I will always treasure the friends in Burrall Choir. I credit Stephens College and Burrall Choir for instilling in me the desire and motivation to continue singing in my own community Choirs for decades and going on to Carnegie Hall in New York City to sing with my daughter, Sally Margaret and our Walla Walla Symphony Chorale. Thank you dear Stephens College-I love you.

Phyllis Hoffmann Mann 1951

I remember attending Vespers (it was required) and I enjoyed it very much. Since I sang in the Burrall Choir I especially liked the music. We sang (135 students) mostly Stephens girls with about 35 M.U. men, at Burrall Class every Sunday morning and at the annual Christmas candlelight Vespers service. The opera "Faust" was presented during my time with the Burrall Choir at Stephens. Stephens was a wonderful school.

Molly Boylan Kenyon 1951

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Vespers was a time of renewing ourselves in the middle of the week. It's wonderful that it was required. I remember the sound system was tops for a large auditorium. The 30 minute Vespers programs were the right length to keep everyone interested. Dean Weaver was a marvelous speaker who knew the right thing to say to college girls.

My Evening Prayer Senior theme, "Positive Intemperance" was about unreserved commitment of one's energies to positive purposes at whatever cost. An example I gave was young men in our armed services who are asked to give unreservedly of what they have for their country and are committed entirely to their country's defense. Intemperance has a place in our lives if we choose to be intemperate with a philanthropic, positive end in view.

I was stunned more than flattered to be chosen as Service Ideal. I hope I represented that Ideal well.

Vi Barringer Harris 1951  
Service Ideal

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I have just reread in the “...Mem’ries”, first edition, some memories that I closely relate to about the Burrall Cabinet and how it administered campus and community activities. I so enjoyed attending informal Burrall gatherings at the home of Dean and Polly Philpott. Those gatherings were always an opportunity for open expressions about college life and the importance of religious influences. Meeting with Dr. Klair Armstrong to make plans for a Sunday night Evening Prayer was memorable, and I cherish having a copy of “The Light of Evening Prayer.” Planning and participating were highlights of my Burrall experiences. Carolyn Smith, a senior in 1951, was a positive influence on this “junior” and I am forever grateful for her encouragement to serve on the Burrall Cabinet.

Jane Burtis Smith 1952  
Burrall Cabinet, Vespers Chairman

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When I was President of Burrall Cabinet, Paul Weaver (1951) and Dr. Harry Philpott (1952) were Deans of Religion and Philosophy. Paul Weaver’s Vespers on Wednesday night were memorable. He inspired every student to be their best. Dean Philpott had an open door that each Susie felt welcome to enter. The Stephens religious programs touched each individual in unimaginable ways. Everyone was motivated in her own search for fulfillment in life. Stephens was certainly important in my life.

Diane Niles Mackie  
President, Burrall Cabinet, 1951-52

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My Opening Prayer on November 26, 1950 at Evening Prayer:

“FAITH”

Our most gracious heavenly Father, we again come before you with heads bowed and hands folded to ask your forgiveness of our sins, and to help us forget and overcome the unworthy desires that sometimes occupy our minds. In the quietness of this lovely campus we pray for the welfare of our fellow men, as well as for ourselves, so that one day we may all meet in heaven and enjoy the blessings that your Fatherly love has offered to those who recognize their need of You.

Dear Lord; because so many people seem to have lost faith in You, and have closed their hearts to You, we are in a situation that might even lead to the final destruction of the earth. If, however, dear Lord, we remember in our prayers to pray for these people that they may come to know You and open their hearts to You, we may again be able to live in a peaceful world.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the privilege of coming here to Stephens, enjoying the friendship of fellow students, increasing our true understanding of life, and renewing our faith in you. Many times, Dear Lord, we are faced with decisions and troubles upon which we could stumble and fall into the pitfalls of catastrophe, if it were not for our faith in Your promise of everlasting life to all who seek it.

As days pass, and the white snow begins to fall, may we remember that we can be purer and whiter than that snow through the death of Jesus on the cross. May we never be tempted by our thirst for popularity to become a traitor to ourselves and to Thee.

We pray in Jesus name. Amen

Marillyn Letnes Baehr 1952



It was an honor to present the opening prayer at Evening Prayer on March 11, 1951.

Dear God,

We have to face many trials and obstacles. We have learned that we cannot have everything that we reach for. We have discovered, too perhaps, that we were really fortunate in failing to gain some of the things that we thought we desired. At times, we have been almost heartbroken over a failure but have come to see that a temporary failure was, after all, one of the best experiences that ever happened to us; that through it we gained something in the understanding of friendship and of ourselves that was our best preparation for our future efforts or helped us to be sympathetic toward others when they meet hardships.

With this new breaking forth of spring, we know that life after all is a creative thing and that hope and beauty lie at the heart of it. As we eagerly watch new bud and flower break through the brown blanket of winter, help us, dear God, to find in ourselves new hope and determination. Help us always to come through any wintry experience of discouragement we may have. Help us to have the confidence that as surely as winter comes, spring is sure to follow.

Stuart Rubey Bourne 1952

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Vespers was unique in the way it blended the arts and spirituality. It was an opportunity to experience inspiration without religious convictions. We were very lucky to have it.

Barbara Dale Carter 1952

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I remember Vespers. The beautiful backdrops and the calm feeling when walking into the auditorium. The message took awhile to sink in but one always knew there was one hour when you could communicate with God and have a direct line.

Janet Reddington Kinder 1952

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I loved Vespers. I've been looking ever since Stephens for something like it as it was one of the most calming, peaceful times in my life. Going back in my mind, I see a darkened stage with lighting over Eula Simmons, a cellist on the Stephens College faculty.

My father, Irwin Umlauf was director of the Burrall Choir. In my memory, Burrall Choir seems always to have been a part of my father's life. I still see some of the MU men who sang in Burrall Choir and they all remember those days with fondness. As if the enticement of meeting all those Stephens girls wasn't enough, my father offered them free voice lessons if they sang in the choir.

My father loved working with Burrall Choir. He viewed it not only as an opportunity to provide excellence in music for Burrall Class but as another teaching opportunity. Among other things, we learned good vocal production, sharpened our sight-reading ability, developed our musical ears and experienced choral singing with a top-notch, dedicated director (yes, I am prejudiced but I stand by that last statement). I remember the Burrall Choir experience as one of the highlights of my college years.

Norma Umlauf Stevens 1952

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Jessie Burrall Eubank

## **The Burrall Cabinet: A Few Reminiscences**

Over the years I have asked a number of Stephens graduates, "What are some of the experiences that you remember most vividly from your days at Stephens?" Invariably the reply is "I really enjoyed vespers." One said, "It was uncanny how the meditations spoke to me personally about problems that had bothered me all week." Another said, "One semester, many of my friends were goofing off, missing due dates on papers, just totally disorganized. And, you know, that week at vespers, Professor Marjorie Carpenter of the Humanities Department was the guest speaker. I still remember the practical guidelines she gave us on how to organize our lives on a daily, weekly and long-term basis. Her advice was so helpful to me then and to tell the truth, I've tried to follow her guidelines in organizing my life ever since.

A third graduate wrote a lengthy note in which she said: "I was so homesick after I arrived on campus that I was tempted to transfer to a university near my hometown. At that week's vespers and the Burrall Sunday service, I found a whole new perspective of college life - both programs dealt with transitions and new beginnings. During the Burrall Sunday service, Dr. Harry Philpott (an exceptionally effective speaker) suggested specific opportunities for outreach such as visiting patients in the Boone County Cancer Center or providing breakfast for hungry paper boys on cold winter mornings. He also challenged us to expand our minds by attending "7:22," a gathering held at a faculty member's home at that hour of the evening to discuss current issues, career options, and moral and spiritual values. I decided to take up his challenge and attend a "7:22" meeting. That was the night that a member of the political science department talked about the need for concerned citizens to run for political office. His words made a lasting impression and later in my life, I ran for the local school board, was elected and made a useful contribution to the schools of my community. Encouraged by this success, I later ran for and was elected to the state legislature. I have no doubt that the challenges of vespers and other Burrall programs focused and guided my life in future years.

When Dr. Harry Philpott came to Stephens as Dean of Religious Life, the Burrall Cabinet members, led by our president Dianne Niles, drove to St. Louis to escort him back to the campus. We had a great sense of purpose in explaining Stephens life to him, as well as making him feel at home. The Philpott family - wife Polly and the children - soon became favorites on the campus. They frequently invited students to their faculty home on campus to indulge our minimal culinary talents. Dr. Philpott, an excellent chef, encouraged students to experiment in his kitchen, providing necessary guidance for our sometimes inept efforts. Polly Philpott, a Yale-trained theologian, was most generous with her talents and spoke often to various student groups. On one occasion, I remember she said that, in selecting a church or synagogue, don't join where you will be best served, but where you are most needed.

My acquaintance with Dr. Philpott and Polly became a life-long friendship that brought us together during his presidency of Auburn University, and later when he served as Trustee of Samford University where I was a faculty member and my husband was the dean of the law school. Before I returned to Stephens for my 50th reunion in 2002, I called Dr. Philpott and asked if he had any special message for his former students. He said, "Tell all my students that I still love 'em."

Polly Franklin Williams, Ph.D. 1952  
Burrall Evaluation Chairman  
Four-Fold Girl, 1952  
The highest honor of the Ten Ideals.

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Vespers and Evening Prayer were near and dear to my heart because my dad, Klair Armstrong began Evening Prayer back in the 1940's while a faculty member in the Religion and Philosophy Department at Stephens.

Vespers was always a welcomed respite from a hectic day - a time for meditation before "meditation" was a buzzword. Slipping

quietly into that big, dark auditorium with soft lighting focused on a simple, but beautiful display created almost instantly a soothing, reflective state of mind. No single Vespers stands out in my mind, but I remember needing them all!

My parents were the Burrall foreign student advisors. Every Sunday afternoon, students from both campuses would gather at our home for tea, spirited conversations and a chance to be in an American home.

Stephens had students from several countries all over the globe back in those days, and they enriched campus life as well as becoming ambassadors of good will for America when they returned home. The students from abroad were part of what made Stephens a great college.

Betty Armstrong Drake 1952

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During the atomic scare era, Vespers was a time of reflection, peace, setting values, and recognizing that we were part of something much larger, more complicated than we understood and we couldn't control it. Vespers was a spiritual refuge of quiet and meditation. I remember performing "The Dying Swan" By Michael Fokine for Vespers. I have always viewed my dance work as a God given gift to use - even in church as well as the theatre as a communication tool.

Barbara Wilcox Thuesen 1952

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It is a privilege to share my memories of Vespers. It was a special time of quiet - we sat with an empty seat between each of us so we could truly be alone with God and in our meditation. I looked forward to the space - a time to regroup, let the concerns of the week fade away.

Martha Shelton Love 1952

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As I think back to my Stephens days, there are many fond memories. But the most meaningful was the mid-week evening Vespers Service where we gathered in quiet reverence to honor our maker.

Nell Blaser Gardner 1952

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To enter the darkened auditorium was so very moving, singing “When Day is Done”, what a blessing the hour of meditation became in my life. Just to be able to pause in our hectic campus life and forget the tests, papers due, things to get done for one hour a week and just relax and meditate. There is so much news about the importance of meditation today, we were fortunate enough to learn the basics in college!

How lucky we were to have Dean Weaver and Dean Philpott lead us and to strengthen our religious life. I know my inner soul was enriched by their presence. I truly feel my years at Stephens enhanced my life in so many ways especially in spirituality. My church is a large part of my life now and I believe that Vespers helped me to become the person I am today.

Evening Prayer was very special to me. On January 21, 1951, I gave the opening prayer.

“Let Me Have Faith”

Our Heavenly Father,

In these anxious days, we are faced with the task of making decisions that will affect our future lives. Before this time, we had our families closer at hand to call upon or even to make our decisions for us. We find decision-making hard, but we wish to gain the strength that comes with clear and responsible thinking. We turn to Thee, Our Father, for we need Thy divine guidance to help us to decide and to possess the courage to follow the right path.

We earnestly pray for our fathers, brothers, and loved ones

who may be called upon to make great sacrifices. Keep them safe and give them the strength of mind and body to keep faith with Thee.

We ask Thee also to help those whose decisions will shape the future of our country and the world. Give them the wisdom and the power to do what is best in the interest, not alone of our country but of the world and its people.

Our Father, we wish to have the honesty of mind to recognize that we are far from being what we wish to become. Nevertheless, may this be our goal - to let Thy will be ours and to let our will ever follow Thee. Amen.

Sue Story Lord 1952

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Vespers was a time each week to get away from the demands of daily living to listen to talks by Dean Harry Philpott, to meditate and enjoy well-chosen music. Vespers was simple but highly impressive. One of the highlights of my time at Stephens was working on the Stephensophia. I was honored to be chosen as literary editor -(JoEllen). It was a thrill to be elected President of Pillsbury Hall. I had many happy times in the Blue Room, singing and visiting with my friends -(Mary Lou). We have fond memories of the train trips to Stephens from California and returning home for the holidays. That's the way we traveled during the 1950's. Stephens was an exceptional maturing experience.

JoEllen Coate Meier 1952  
Mary Lou Coate Noyes 1954  
Barbara Coate Russell 1955

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When I attended Stephens I enjoyed the Burrall program, especially Vespers. Dean Weaver and Dean Philpott always had meaningful messages. The quiet time was my time for reflection and I looked forward to it every week. Music was an important part of Vespers when I was a student and again at the Reunion 2005 Vespers in the lovely chapel. I always find the music very uplifting.

Caroline Ziegler Delaney 1952

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Evening Prayer was a special opportunity for us to get together each week to share our faith. The candle was lighted as a symbol of our earnest prayers for the welfare of our friends and loved ones, at home, abroad, and all over the world. When I gave the Remembrance and Dedication, I said, "Those of us, especially who are students from other countries, where the destruction of war has brought much suffering and need, are not able to find words with which to express our happiness and thankfulness over the privilege it is to spend a college year in the freedom and kindness, which is found in the atmosphere of this campus. I hope that no matter how far our roads my take us, may never forget the candle lighted at Evening Prayer. It stands for God--and for His

love for us. It stands for the light to understanding. It stands for the will to love instead of hate. It stands for confidence instead of fear.”

Bodil Bruus-Jensen 1952  
Burrall Scholar

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Wednesday Vespers were a special time in the week that offered a pause in our busy lives. We sat every other seat, lights were low creating a quiet atmosphere. A musical interlude, and then, memorable words from Dr. Weaver. He was so very special. Our spirits were renewed.

A once-in-a-lifetime evening was when Arturo Rubenstein gave a concert and I, along with others, ushered (in long dresses). When Mr. Rubenstein sat down at the piano, he waited to begin until there was absolute silence. So many wonderful memories of Stephens--especially Stop Days!

Sabra A. Carl 1952

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I remember Burrall vespers class. Attendance was required and thank you Stephens for that! I see Wednesday nights-regardless of the weather-always hurrying to be on time. I recall the broad wide steps crowded after the program with University of Missouri “dates” waiting for us. I wonder what they made of this? But, most of all, I think of the outstanding speakers and the one great concept that was instilled in me. We were charged to “be involved in our communities”-whatever that would be. We, as educated women, had a responsibility to contribute to our communities and our worlds. We were called to commit ourselves to this. I admit I was not immediately aware of this but later, in the midst of family, work and community I often reflected on this. I know-I just know-I first learned this at Stephens; on those Wednesday nights crowded together, dimly realizing that what I was being exposed to was truly special. I often returned to the dorm and called my family in Cincinnati, Ohio to say “guess who I just heard speak at Vespers.”

Lois Beglen Shelly 1953


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I have been traveling, just returned from Dubai and I am behind. However, if not too late I will just ditto your suggestion that Burrall, Vespers, Evening Prayer, Concert Chorus were such a important part of what made Stephens special. The values permeated the way girls treated each other. My father said he had never seen such genuinely kind and polite young ladies. We were on the "honor" system at test taking time. This could not have worked without the atmosphere created by the above programs.

Having been President of Fielding Smith Hall gave me the opportunity for leadership that has served me in many of my endeavors since leaving Stephens. My most treasured friendships were those made at Stephens. The close relationships with the faculty were also such a privilege. There are no words to express what my Stephens experience meant to me.

Joyce Chatham Bukaty 1953

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I always looked forward to Vespers. It gave me a time to reflect on my week and just be silent for a while in the midst of all the busyness of college. I also attended the Burrall Services on Sunday, sang in the Burrall choir and went to the Sunday night gatherings at professor's homes. My family did not attend church, so the Burrall program made a real impact on my life.

Lucy Hudson Reuter 1953

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Vespers was a special quiet, inspirational time and I was moved by it. Vespers was important to me. I enjoyed singing in the Burrall Choir. Music was an integral part of my years at Stephens. I loved anything with music. I also have good memories of Evening Prayer.

Sharon Moore Cumming 1953

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In 1951-53, we had Vespers on Wednesday night. From Sunday night, Evening Prayer where we had a speaker to Wednesday night, Vespers was a time I looked forward to as my time to reflect on who I was - what was going on inside of me at the time and what I hoped to accomplish in the next few days for my

personal growth. These two services were an important part of my Stephens experience. And I always remember the Ten Ideals.

Natalie Rosenberg Frager 1953

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In the 1950's, Vespers at Stephens College was what meditation meant to later generations. For young women who were new to introspection, every Wednesday or Thursday evening at 7 o'clock forced them to sit alone, relax and enjoy interpretations of student and faculty artistic endeavors, to ruminate, to THINK. It was an opportunity to review what that week at college had meant to them, to formulate goals, to pray, to grieve, to be with themselves, their inner selves, exclusively. For me Vespers was an exercise of immeasurable value to the rest of my life.

Stephens was not the beginning of my spiritual life, but it was the beginning of a thoughtful spiritual journey. At Stephens, I got involved on a Burrall committee and met Dr. Harry Philpott, the Dean of Religious Life. He became a huge inspiration to me, and I subsequently discovered that the emerging me loved the helping life. I then served as president of Burrall Cabinet for the '52-'53 school year. The classes and the open relations we had with the teachers made learning invigorating, but it was the power of the Burrall program that I remember long after leaving Stephens. And most of all I remember Vespers teaching me that without the discipline of quiet, the soul cannot speak. The experience of these activities has stayed with me always and provided courage and inspiration many times.

A statement heard at Stephens during my time was "Educate a man and you educate a person. Educate a woman and you educate a family."

Dorothy Figel Buckner 1953  
Burrall Cabinet President 1952-53

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I sang in the Burrall Choir at Stephens. Mr. Umlauf was the director and also my voice teacher. On White Sunday, all the Stephens girls dressed in white for church. I attended the First Baptist Church services where I have been a member since high school. I remember Mrs. Jessie Burrall Eubank. She taught Sunday School at the First Baptist Church.

Barbara Barton Toalson 1953

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On February 28, 1954, my Senior Theme at Evening Prayer was STICK-TO-IT-IVE-NESS. I learned the value of stick-to-it-ive-ness from my grandmother. When she was seven years old she was pushed down the school-house steps, and as a result became crippled for life. For the next five years, my grandmother was confined to a wheelchair. She did not let that stop her from educating herself at home; she also read nearly all the classics, taught herself to play the piano beautifully and composed her own music. My grandmother was determined to get the very most she could from life, and despite her tremendous handicap, I can honestly say she achieved her goals. My grandmother had stick-to-it-ive-ness.

Every completed task we have really worked hard to accomplish, in the right direction, makes the next one that much easier. We must do many little, supposedly insignificant things, to accomplish just one big thing. This gives us patience when we need it most. Christ didn't run away from difficult circumstances. How easy it would have been for him to leave Jerusalem, but he stood fast to his principles. He had committed himself. Stick-to-it-ive-ness.

Della (Sistie) Chapman Moffitt 1954  
Cheerfulness Ideal

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How very special the Vespers services were to me and continue to be in my heart and memories. And those Sunday Evening Prayer meetings in the rain, or the chill to be warmed by a very special service of God to worship in our own individual spiritual way and with candles! But always, I was surrounded by the friends I loved and cherished at a spiritual moment.

Dottie Runkel Rakouska 1954

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Vespers always moved me. It was a quiet time to reflect and to reestablish thinking in order to reaffirm our goals.

Ingeborg Tittel Jackson 1954

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The most important thing to me about Vespers was the time to make me think without a lot of noise.

Lanier Jenkins McCrary 1954

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This is a voice from the class of 1954. Yet, when I think of Wednesday evenings and Vespers at Stephens, it resounds in my memory with a closeness and clarity which transcends the passage of years. I looked forward to that weekly time of quiet, reflective experience. With friends, classmates and other Stephens Susies, entering the dimly lit auditorium (The Chapel was built later) we sat quietly, gathering peace and inspiration from the music performed by a student or faculty member, and listening to words of reflection - focusing on the meaning of life - and our lives.

Stephens College was a rich experience on many levels. Vespers was an opportunity to learn, or enhance our spiritual awareness of things, measured not by grades but of greater importance - as harbored also in the Ten Ideals.

My spiritual journey continues and is an integral part of my life - personally and professionally. Vespers was neither my first, nor my last, contact with the "greater meaning of life" but Vespers definitely remains a cornerstone of enduring and enabling import for me.

Further Reflections ....

Recently, I received a letter from Marge Phillippe Kelley, President Classic Classes who wrote to her "sister" Classic Classes alumnae, "My time at Stephens made a tremendous impact on my life.... It helped shape who I am and what I have become... (I) am grateful to Stephens for providing the great memories that I

have.” This is exactly what I, and countless other Susies, know to be true for us, too. As a member of the Classic Class of 1954, my years at Stephens have only become more significant with the span of years. Stephens College has contributed to my steadfast adherence to the principles of the Ten Ideals. Stephens centered us with an awareness of the importance of anchoring our lives, with the “lessons” we learned attending Burrall and Vespers. In so many ways Stephens’ holistic approach to education has long placed our alma mater in a vanguard position. As we celebrate our 175th Anniversary let us join in acknowledging all Stephens has meant to us; while at the same time, fully aware that the heritage we helped bring about will continue to enrich future alumnae who come after us. Thank you Stephens for the past, for the present, and forward into the future.

Helen J Butler 1954

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After a bit of thought about my days at Stephens and the effect it has had on my life, I am aware some of the uniqueness of Stephens was also in the religious programs there. Stephens originally attracted me to her campus with the thought that a girl could do or be anything she wanted to be! This was not widely held during the 1950’s but it was a belief my dad firmly held and passed on to my sister (who also went to Stephens) and me.

It was not until I was in my second year at Stephens that I realized everyone in this country did not have the same Christian beliefs that I did. What a revelation! But the ritual we had of attending Vespers and Sunday services was an important part of discipline and extension of my personal beliefs. It was also a time for reflection.

College students for the most part, spend little time in church or going to religious services. By compulsory attendance at Stephens, it continued what I had grown up with and gave me a balance at this exciting time in my life. I am grateful for the many fine men and women who headed up these programs when I attended Stephens. I remember being especially pleased when asked to give the prayer for the weekly evening prayer then. I felt it was indeed an honor to participate.

Helen Wood Weaver 1954

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I loved the Vespers stage setting with the special lighting. It was so artistically done. The sermonic was good. Dean Philpot related well with young women. Sitting with a seat apart helped me to think and have a chance to pull my thoughts together.

Joan Miller Hahn 1955

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Vespers meant a lot to me in years to come. I often remember back to my years at Stephens and vespers is always one of my fondest remembrance. I remember the beautiful music, especially the cello. I think I remember the dance, the lighting was so pretty and the flow of materials and colors. The brief talks were inspiring. It was like a time to catch a breath of fresh air and reflect on God.

I was in Laura Stephens Hall and I had wonderful roommate and suite mates. What great memories.

Bobbie Byrd Britt 1955

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As I look back, my strongest recollections of Stephens College days is that it was a “singing campus” around the Stephens Lake bonfires and on campus. They gave us printed sheets to help us learn the spirited songs (reminiscent of “the Student Prince” movie of that time) Vespers was also very meaningful. More on that will follow.

Stephens was special! From the beginning to the end! City Alumnae Clubs had mixers to begin the special bonds of friendship between new entering freshmen. By the time a train, with a separate Stephens car came to carry us away, we were looking forward to spending the next year with new found friends. (Now, fifty years later, I am still in touch with two of those old train friends, and 7 others!) In St. Louis at Union Station, all the various cars joined to form one train to Columbia.

In those days, what a reflection of future ladies we must have been, in our suits, heels, and hats! At that time, we no doubt complained??

Vespers was mandatory. We entered a darkened auditorium with

attendance cards in hand to occupy every other seat in order to isolate ourselves in our own reverie, looking to the stage for signs or clues of what was to come. One outstanding memory is of a piece of fluttering green silk or chiffon, blowing gracefully as the backdrop. A harp was waiting off center stage. The program consisted of a prayer, a related, as I recall, philosophical talk or spiritual reading, and a classical selection of music played solo or with a small group (no more than 3) of musicians. Seems we left there once a week with a provoking thought for the day (night). That was a strong tradition then.

When we least expect it, or on a snowy day there were Stop Days (no classes), called by our college President. On those days we had a special, never changing, menu. Was it “hot crossed buns”, sausage and baked beans?

Most of us approved, supported and respected the Honor System, and appreciated the values that were taught to us there. Among them were the Ten Ideals, which were set before us as goals for character development that would serve us for the rest of our lives, and have.

Stephens was special because they professed to take an interest in the individual, and identity unique in comparison to larger institutions. That was their claim to fame, among many others. And they drew students from all over these United States and some foreign countries. It was a wonderful experience and such a good way to prepare for our future lives.

Patti Wright Strati 1955

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The Burrall program was a comfort and though I went to churches in town and particularly to the Catholic Church with my roommate, though I was and am a Methodist; there was something familiar and serene about joining in a campus service. I count the Burrall program as helping me grow in my journey to adulthood.

Mary Lee Rebsamen Marcom 1956

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My talk at Evening Prayer was titled, "The Light of One Candle." It's about the importance of using our talents. "The light of the Lord's love is the light of our lives. This one talent is the Lord's gift to us all. All of our talents are entrusted to us to be used." The entire presentation was published in the Evening Prayer book. I was so very pleased to receive the Appreciation of the Beautiful Ideal.

Jeannene Thompson Booher 1956  
Appreciation of the Beautiful Ideal

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Vespers was a time in the evening that I stopped everything and walked across campus to find a seat in a very quiet, often times dark space, to experience a form of spirituality through a verbal presentation, a voice presentation or a movement presentation. I always left feeling the strength to do whatever needed to be done next.

The Burrall program was an off campus activity that I looked forward to. Once a week, I took a cab (paid for by the college) to a grade school north of town and was the assistant Brownie leader to a group of second grade girls. We meet for a couple of hours learning the songs, working on badges and enjoying one and other. The other activity I did at least once a semester, was going by bus to the State Mental Hospital in Fulton, where we spent time visiting with the patients. Both of these choices I made then have had an effect on who I am today and how I interact with those around me.

Sara Jane Johnson 1956

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In response to a call for memories for the 175th edition, I'm writing to say that Burrall Vespers was extremely important to me in my development at Stephens. Going there, being a part of quiet, of the candle-lit ceremony, grounded me and challenged me to think deeply about who I was spiritually. It also was reassuring to know that the college I was attending thought this important.

I was chosen as one of the Ten Ideals (Love of Scholarship) in 1955. That was an honor I've always cherished; being chosen spurred me to further my scholarship and love of learning to an even deeper degree than before.

Jo (Garot) McDougall 1955

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In the days of 1954-56, when Stephens was a Junior College, Vespers were a required part of campus life. At 7:00 p.m. half the campus converged at the auditorium on Wednesday and Thursday evenings (Juniors one night, Seniors the other). For a half hour there was quiet, peace, inspiration, support and the integration of the spiritual into our lives. I don't remember any specific message from Dr. Philpott, but I remember finding his messages valuable week after week. I remember recognizing the care he took to speak beyond denomination, beyond sect, beyond religion to that universal depth in each of us.

In Vespers Stephens taught me that faith was important enough to be "required." There was a moderate rebellion among the student body, and regular verbalized complaints – we were college girls, after all. But a seed was planted in me that has led me into my own explorations of spiritual depth as an adult, the opportunities to teach Bible and spiritual growth classes for much of my adult life, and a conviction that "vespers" are a required part of my week.

I visited campus for the first time in over 50 years last fall on another trip to Missouri, and am so encouraged by the spirit I felt there and the revitalization that is obvious. Bless President Libby and all of her team of staff and volunteers (yourself included) for making this happen at such a special school that had a major impact on my life.

Wanda Gae Roberson Stefansson 1956

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Vespers was a peaceful, quiet time. There was such calmness in the auditorium. I believe today and as a "Stephens Susie" prayer is the best preparation for our daily lives.

Marjorie Yock Willingham 1956

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During my time at Stephens 1955-57, the wonderful chapel came into being. It was my good fortune to be on the Burrall Cabinet serving as Vespers Chair. This was a real focal point of our college experience in those years. I loved the White Sunday when

all the students came across campus dressed in white.

Each Sunday evening we gathered at the chapel to hear words of prayer and inspiration. The religious emphasis was certainly strong in those years and Dean Philpott helped bring it alive to us.

These activities had an influence on the rest of my life and contributed to my appreciation of the importance of being an active participant in this world we live in. Many life-long friendships started there. Each time I return to Stephens, I like to visit that special place.

I cherish my book “The Light of Evening Prayer” that was published our year containing the inspirational messages.

Glenda McCormick Jones 1957  
President Class of 1957

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The Vespers at Reunion 2005 brought back a lot of memories. It was such an honor to receive an invitation in 1957 from Dean Harry M. Philpott to participate in the traditional “Recognition Vespers.” It read, “In recognition of your contribution to the success of the total Burrall Program.” It was a candle lighting ceremony and because of the symbolic nature, everything was done to insure its’ effectiveness. We were required to wear white.

Gretchen Bush Kimball 1957

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Little did I know when I was accepted at Stephens that it would not only provide me with an education, but a life-long inspiration!!! From my arrival on campus to graduation day, I sensed a positive influence in every aspect of my life. Both classroom and extra-cirricular activities were informative, structured, helpful experiences. Friendships were sincere, and for women, that in itself is admirable and rewarding!

Guidance abounded in sometimes subtle ways from both faculty and administration, and the premise upon which the college functioned-The Ten Ideals- was ever-present and influential. As a result, this firm foundation influenced decisions in every

phase and aspect of my life. From career choices to marriage to motherhood and on to church, community and volunteer involvement. Subsequently, divorce, career re-entry, remarriage, and current retirement have only strengthened my conviction in my Stephens Ideals as a basis for my life.

To be your best self is to live Stephens every day, and, indeed, I have tried, and thank the principles of the college for the ultimate rewards I have enjoyed.

Bunny Wood Shreffler 1957  
Four-Fold Girl Ideal

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I represented the Ideal of Best Private Citizen, and represented is the significant term here. To this day, I have no idea what that Ideal was supposed to mean. Was I in hiding? Apparently not because I was stopped one day after the Ideals were announced and told in no uncertain terms by someone who had been on the committee that she had not voted for me. Nonetheless, I remember hauling that black dress down to the photography studio to have that picture taken. That black dress was the dress I wore to the one and only Debut I ever attended when my roommate Sue Durham invited me to her “coming out” into Richmond, Virginia society. I was so country that I wore that black dress to Sue’s debut never knowing that, if one wore black to a debut party, that indicated that she herself had “come out” the year before. Me, come out? You can’t see my saddle Oxfords in the picture, but I was wearing them.

Nonetheless, I was pleased to have been chosen to represent one of the ideals. My mother and father were thrilled, as well they should have been, and my grandmother Ora Lee Smith, my father’s mother, probably gave a quiet though lady like well done from her grave. My mother worked her fingers to the bone to get me to Stephens where my grandmother had graduated in 1897. I am equally happy that my daughter Kate graduated from a four-year Stephens College in 1988. Now that men are welcomed to Stephens, Kate’s two boys can set their hopes high, too. Isn’t life interesting? Ideal, wouldn’t you say?

I loved going to vespers, especially after we had the then new real vespers place to go. I loved going back to Stephens for our 50th reunion and having the opportunity to speak in that beautiful place of worship. So much has changed, and so much has stayed the same. I dug out my old copy of Vespers Talks, and that brought the memories tumbling back.

Vespers is a good tradition, and I hope it continues. All of us – especially in these days of uncertainty and hurrying - need a quiet time of reflection, reckoning, and reordering. May Vespers remain a main stay.

Mautrecia (Trecia) Roberts Greene 1957  
(Daughter-Kathryn (Kate) Burton Greene Murphy 1988)  
(Grandmother-Ora Lee Smith 1897)

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As a student at Stephens, I was a member of Concert Chorus and I enjoyed that a great deal. About 200 girls participated; we were chosen on ability to sing, our interest and it helped to have previous experience in choral singing. The annual Christmas concert became a traditional event at Stephens and was appreciated for its inspiring musical and religious qualities. Although we were required to attend Vespers and I probably complained about that but remember appreciating that quiet reflective time. It was thrilling to see the Chapel being built and completed.

Susan Bowers Littlefield 1957

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I think one of my fondest memories of Vespers...at first; I had a hard time accepting the fact. THAT IT WAS REQUIRED, THAT I HAD TO ATTEND...I was a little rebellious, I guess you might say, I thought I knew what was good for me and my “BELIEFS.” After the second Wednesday night, sitting one seat apart in the dark, I was over my earlier thoughts of not wanting to go, actually looked forward to the time to myself to reflect an my life, it seemed each week had what I thought at that time was A MAJOR CRISIS. It seemed as though, Dr. Philpott always spoke on a subject that had something to do with me, it felt, like you were the only one in the room having a conversation with him.

His soothing voice, I can still hear it, when I am trying to sort things out...some how I get the message and the answer. One very sad weekend, one of our Juniors received a call that her mother had been killed. I took on the responsibility of helping her get home. The following Wednesday night, I realized Dr. Philpott was really talking about me and to me. It was startling as I was the topic of that evenings Vesper service, which helped me (and others) to understand that life was not always fair and that God did work in some pretty strange ways. The healing pricess started that night.

Mary Claire Mooney Wolf 1957

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My mother had it in her mind that I should attend Stephens. Her rationale to my father was because I was raised in an all boy family. Whatever the reasoning, I got on that train in 1955 an excited but frightened young lady. I grew up in the rural area of a very small town, (population 1,000 in 1955) and did the usual things that a very conservative church attending family does. In fact, I had never stayed anywhere overnight except with family members. Going away from home to college was nerve wracking to say the least. I was very protected my first 17 years of life and had no idea what world adventures I was about to encounter.

The Stephens College Burrall Program was/is my centering. I was reassured by the consistency and expectations. I loved the Wednesday evening Vespers services. No matter what the difficulties of the week, it forced me to take some time to think, analyze and center myself. Perhaps in the 21st century one would refer to this peace and quiet as 'meditation'. Whatever, it was so valued by myself. Though some of the Susies thought any 'requirement' by any authority was a 'requirement' to be ignored, this Susie loved the idea that there was an administration that thought about the incredible needs of young women trying to figure out their 'life plan' and insisted that they stop the rush for an hour or two a week to self-reflect, . . . to mull over....to quiet oneself in the moment. I shall never forget some of the wonderful speakers that became a part of the program also. They always urged us to hold on to our Ten Ideals, and our family values which world experience might encourage us to abandon. I shall be forever

grateful for the nourishment and strengthening of the Burrall Program at Stephens College.

I was glad I was able to return to Stephens College for the Class of 1957-50th reunion. It was such a thrill to be on campus and walk the old grounds as well as see the renovations and new construction.

Dr. Joan E. Wright, PhD 1957

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The Burrall Program is one of my favorite memories of life at Stephens College. I was a member of Burrall Choir, directed by Mr. Irwin Umlauf, and always looked forward to Vespers, the naming of the Ten Ideals, and many other aspects of this important program. Led and greatly influenced by Dr. Harry Philpott, Dean of Religion at Stephens for many years; this program had a very important impact in developing the character and the spiritual life of the young women who lived, studied, worked and socialized on our campus during the “Burrall Years.” I feel fortunate to have reaped the benefits of such a program, and wish it for all Stephens “Susies.”

Karen (Kay) Kinney Carraway 1957

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At Reunion 2006, I dedicated “Rebecca’s Celebration” Altar Mantle in honor of former Stephens College president, Dr. Patsy Sampson, and in memorial to her daughter, Rebecca, a Stephens graduate. The concept of the altar mantle as you stand at the top of the stairs and as you descend into the chapel enables you to see the horizon of a sunrise and sunset of color that is in our lives. The front panels represent color patterns of your life cycles, appropriate to every season--the reds, oranges, and yellows. The back panel which may be reversed with the front panel is blue, green and purple with gold and silver beaded into a brilliant sun on the surface. The altar mantle has been created and given to all who come to the Stephens College Chapel, a non-denominational chapel--a sanctum of renewal, peace, meditation, inspiration and light.

My 2007 presentation of fiber, “Snow Shield”, symbolizes the shield of a great Snow maiden or goddess. It is my sincere honor to entrust Stephens College with this holy and non-denominational spiritual expression of my artistic soul.

I was an associate senior at Stephens the year Eero Saarinen completed the chapel. My roommate and I watched every day from our Laura Stephens dorm corner window. We saw the chapel rising brick by brick and the glass surrounding the exterior taking shape and color. As Meditation Chairman that year at Laura Stephens I was a speaker at the chapel’s first Vespers. How often I find life completes a circle and my dedication of “Rebecca’s Celebration” and “Snow Shield” in the chapel completed another circle.

Helenn Johnson Rumpel 1957

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Attending Vespers was a wonderful experience when I was a student and again at the Reunion 2007 Vespers. The beautiful Altar Mantle “Rebecca’s Celebration” created by Helenn Johnson Rumpel is unique. As a student, I remember walking to Vespers with my friends, happy and looking forward to the peaceful, quiet atmosphere. Dean Philpott’s messages were always very good.

Janet Eger Erml 1957

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My memories of Wednesday evening Burrall Vespers are very big in my mind. All 1800 of us girls in that large auditorium spaced out in the darkness with extra effective staging for speakers, dancers, solo/group singers, whomever were featured to enhance the Vespers service. We took our IBM punch cards for near perfect attendance and sent them on if we were incapacitated! Very moving memories!

Nancy Smith Allen 1957

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### **The Spirit of Stephens College**

There is something very special about Stephens College that is often referred to as the Spirit of Stephens College. It’s

more than a team spirit or loyalty to an alma mater. To define it is not easy - it isn't something you can visualize or touch. It's what makes Stephens so much more than a short term learning experience. It's what makes Stephens a lifetime experience.

The Spirit is embodied in the memories we share with roommates, suitemates and friends. It is represented by the Ten Ideals: Appreciation of the Beautiful, Cheerfulness, Courtesy, Forcefulness, Health, Honesty, Love of Scholarship, Self-Discipline, Service, and Reverence Toward the Spiritual. It's also present in many of the old songs we used to sing that hardly anyone remembers anymore. Like "Daddy, Get Your Daughter Out of Debt," or "Way Down in Missouri." It's the smile that you can't repress when you meet a total stranger years later and discover that she (or he) went to Stephens. You have a new friend immediately!

Even better, you have lifetime friends who were there when you were in tears over a lost love or feeling like a movie star in a new dress. Our peripheral interests may differ, but our core values - the traits that make us what we are and what we pass on to future generations - remain steadfast.

In April, 2007, I attended my 50th reunion at Stephens. Good grief! Like Tevya in Fiddler on the Roof, "I don't remember growing older!" There were several women there whose names were unfamiliar, but it didn't matter at all that we didn't know each other during our years on campus. We were best friends from the moment we said hello.

I was asked to participate in the Vespers service at reunion, and read the presentation given by our class president, Joan Fleming, at the final Vespers service of 1957. It was titled And Golden Too. Joan talked about the feelings of anticipation of what was ahead and then the realization that the farewells in store could be real farewells. How could we express our feelings when there was so much we wanted to say? She went on to quote, "When the heart is full, the tongue is still." When there are no words, silence is golden.

I knew that if I looked out into the audience of both new and old friends, I wouldn't make it through the reading without breaking down, so I focused on the rafters of the chapel. It had been a real farewell back fifty years ago for many of us who have not seen each other since then. The memories, like silence,

are golden, too, and they are always in my heart...in the Spirit of Stephens College.

Gerri Blaha Bennett 1957

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My favorite memories of the Burrall programs, including Vespers and Evening Prayer, are vivid.

When I was at Stephens, Dr. Harry Philpott was Dean of Religion. Patty Ray (Peterson) Nuss, a good friend of mine and a member of the Burrall cabinet, was chosen in 1958 as the "Four-Fold Girl," the highest honor of the Ten Ideals.

Vespers was very important to me. Memories of it have given me inner strength throughout my later life. My favorite memories of vespers are the playing of the organ and the singing of the choir. To this day, I enjoy listening to my old recording of that beautiful music.

Evening prayer was also a special time for me. I served on the Evening Prayer Council and I still recall that on November 3, 1957, I spoke at Evening Prayer on the topic of "Sins of Omission." I also served as co-editor of the 1958 edition of Light of Evening Prayer. My favorite memory of Evening Prayer is the lighting of the Evening Prayer candle, as it illuminated the stained glass windows in the chapel and inspired the speakers and worshipers alike.

Jo Ann Chamberlin Kierce 1958

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My memories of Stephens are some of the best of my life. Certainly being named a 10 Ideal, Cheerfulness, was the highlight of my two years at SC. I actually don't connect it with my Burrall experience however as I simply saw the Ideals as representing Stephens as a whole. However, I went to Vespers and White Sunday and participated in many of the wonderful offerings of the Burrall program. Stephens was just an amazing place to go to school, and I so look forward to seeing all my friends at our 50th reunion.

Unfortunately, due to a business conference that week, I will not join them until Friday afternoon. I actually live in Columbia and

have had the pleasure of watching the recent rebirth of Stephens. I am also on the planning committee for my class and thus it will be a special pleasure to be at the reunion, no matter when I get there. I am disappointed to miss the Ideal luncheon, however. Thanks for putting the 175th anniversary edition together.

Vivian Eynatten Benedict 1958  
Cheerfulness Ideal

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I thank you for your letter requesting my thoughts on the Burrall Program at Stephens. My, fifty years are a long time to search through my memory!! But I do recall Sunday worship and the good feeling of having a spiritual time with my friends and classmates. I have a very fond memory of White Sunday...with all of us young ladies dressed in white for the services.

As for my thoughts on having been chosen a Ten Ideals Woman. this was truly one of the greatest honors I have ever received. To be selected to represent any of the Ideals was an amazing thing to me. As for my representing the Health Ideal, I would still consider Health an important goal in life. I have maintained the standards of good health in mind, body and spirit; and honestly, I often reflect on that honor bestowed back in 1958.

Marilyn Evans Marks 1958  
Health Ideal

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The Burrall Program, more specifically, Evening Prayer was my "Rock" while attending Stephens. It confirmed as well as expanded my religious foundation. One of the greatest aspects of the program was that my fellow classmates were a part of it as they were the speakers. It was easy to relate to them and what they were saying. Of course, they were on my level. When I was asked to speak I went through all the emotions possible, i.e. was I capable, who would want to listen to me and oh, what an honor. When I took pen to paper the thoughts and words flowed. This was the Lord's influence and guidance. I learned I was better and more capable than I had thought. Now I tell my five grandsons each time I see them, "Remember, you are always better than you think."

Thank you, Burrall Program and Stephens  
Beth Penberthy Parker 1958

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My Burrall Cabinet experience made a profound influence on whom I have become in my life as a wife, mother and Christian, still trying to live a life representative of whom God has designed me to be. It was at Stephens, away from the influence and expectations of my family that I realized that I now had the privilege and responsibility to start the journey of “being my own person.” I had to decide what my faith really meant, if it would really make a difference in who Judy Coday truly was and if so, what was I going to do to be a living testimony to that faith. Burrall Cabinet gave me the opportunity to take an active part in developing my lifestyle, and provided wonderful friends and supportive faculty to share in the journey.

When I left Stephens and entered LSU, Burrall Cabinet, vespers, those spiritual relationships were the elements of higher learning that I missed the most. Eventually I rediscovered these nurturing aspects of campus life, becoming immersed once again in leadership roles in my sorority, student government and the music school, but never again to the depth I found at Stephens.

Throughout my life, I have served in leadership roles associated with our church and community. At each stage of life, these roles build on former experience. The skills stay the same, the people and purpose change and hopefully prayerfully, the faith and character have deepened. This is because of the opportunities offered me

Judith Coday Zollinger  
President, Burrall Cabinet 1958-59  
Four-Fold Girl Ideal

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My first volunteer experience was most difficult for me. I asked to a change (not knowing at all what I was interested in). I was assigned to work at the Fulton Mental Hospital. The Director of Volunteers was Evelyn Berry--a wonderful lady. I corresponded with her until her death. Evelyn provided insight to the issues of mental illness at a time when patients (adults and children) were really just warehoused. It was a terrible place really, but the volunteers were encouraged to give all they could and the rewards were tremendous. I never forgot those years. That experience and the needs I witnessed encouraged me in my career decision. To this day I continue to work with children with mental health

issues and am grateful for the opportunity I had through the Community Service project of the Burrall Program.

Sarah (Sally) Kahn Efremoff 1958

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I attended the Sunday Burrall programs and found them to be very meaningful and a time to be together. We wore hats and gloves as well as hose to this service. Vespers in the chapel was my favorite part of the Burrall program as I found it so peaceful and beautiful. I love Eero Saarinen's design of it. The stained glass doors and windows are beautiful. The chapel is a wonderful asset to the Stephens College campus. I participated in Concert Chorus and many community service projects and activities.

Patricia O'Keefe Hunter 1958

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I spent some time in reflection and then on a hunt to see what I had kept over the 50 years. I found, to my delight the year book from 1958 when I graduated, The Light of Evening Prayer volume that I had the privilege of editing in my senior year, and a copy of "Within The Ivy". I had a nice trip back through memory lane and came away with a renewed appreciation of my two years at Stephens. And, also the wonderment that so much of what was the basis of not only Stephens but other institutions of higher education has eroded. I can't imagine my grandchildren one who is in college and another ready to enter this fall ever following the rules and regulations of a Stephens. Even when I entered the University of Michigan and had much more freedom there were still rules and hours and expectations.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your project. I was a very quiet "Susie" especially the first year. My second year gave me the opportunity to be Senior Sister Chairman in my dorm – Roblee Hall – and then the Evening Prayer participation both on the committee and as a speaker. I still live by the message that I shared with my classmates in November of 1957. And, I can credit that faith and Stephens College plus other opportunities with my survival and successes over the years.

Jody Fruechtenicht Bacon 1958

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My memories of Vespers and Evening Prayer fundamentally rest with where they took place. There is the ghost of Burrall Auditorium - the aged and distinct structure, yet alive in its history: our remembrance of the quiet and reflective time spent at Vespers and the knowledge that we were preceded in that experience by such a long line of Stephens women.

Students so young spoke words of wisdom and depth beyond their years in that lovely place, and later within the stunning modernity of the Saarinen chapel where we started a history anew. It was dedicated in the fall of the year our class arrived and young women are continuing to enjoy its airy simplicity in juxtaposition with the elegant solidity it provides through the organic elements of its design. I remember feeling such solace in that smallish space alone and such warm connection to others as we gathered there, receiving peace and inspiration from its magnificent structure and the extraordinary light coming from its splendid multicolored window onto the single candle lit in its center.

Donna Ensign Marshall 1958

Forcefulness Ideal

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My two years at Stephens went by quickly. I was happy and enjoyed my time there. It was a complete surprise to be chosen as the Courtesy Ideal. I didn't expect it but I was pleased and flattered. At the end of the year pictures were taken of all the Ideals for the yearbook. The Ten Ideals concept is a nice tradition--a positive thing.

Marcia "Marcie" Cooley Blevins 1958

Courtesy Ideal

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My fondest memories of Vespers can be expressed simply as a time of peace. At that juncture in my life, I felt as though the world was my oyster!!! However, once a week, we were brought back to reality with peace, calm and quiet. A kind of spirituality entered my thoughts. Just thinking about the beauty of quiet and about our lives and where we were going...what were our aspirations. It was a very special time every week to be alone with your thoughts and yours alone! Vespers have had a profound effect on my life. It

made me aware that my religion should be of utmost importance in my life, and in fact, I began to attend Mass again on Sunday.

Jean Evans Rich 1958

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Enthusiastically but a little frightened, I boarded a train in Corpus Christi, Texas, in the fall of 1956, wearing brown lizard pumps with matching handbag, a brown hounds-tooth jacket-dress and a small hat, to travel to an unseen destination, Columbia, Missouri. This was the beginning of two very important years of my life -- years filled with new friends, challenging academics, emotional adjustments, and spiritual formation. I am grateful to my mother who researched and found Stephens College and always encouraged me to take full advantage of all the enrichment opportunities there.

A highlight of my years at Stephens was the Burrall Program. My roommate and I faithfully attended Sunday morning worship services, and loved being at the Evening Prayer service in our beautiful, new chapel. It never occurred to us that it interfered with our personal freedom to be required to attend a religious service on Sunday. My first memories relating to Burrall Cabinet are of informal, evening gatherings at Dean Philpott's home. Laughing and talking, the girls who attended felt uniquely important to be invited to the home of this warm and engaging man. Serving as President of the Burrall Cabinet during my sophomore year, helped me to develop skills that have been invaluable throughout my life.

For me, a lasting value of the Burrall Program was the model of service as an outgrowth of faith in God. I remember boarding the bus on Saturday afternoon for trips to a mental health hospital, a home for elderly, or to a children's day care program. This emphasis on 'giving back' has definitely influenced my life. Being a very active participant in my community, serving on boards and committees, I have used the skills and the self-confidence gained at Stephens College. When I was named the Four-Fold Girl I remember my astonishment and feelings of humility at receiving such a great honor. It is a memory that I cherish.

I have enjoyed reliving Stephens' memories as I have attempted to condense two amazing years into a few words. From the vantage point of fifty years, I can clearly see how Stephens College helped set me on my path of life, and I am truly grateful.

Patty Peterson Nuss 1958  
President, Burrall Cabinet  
Four-Fold Girl Ideal

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As the Burrall Abroad Chairman, I loved meeting, knowing and attending events that were planned around the Burrall Scholars - mostly social and quite often in conjunction with "foreign" students at Mizzou. Perhaps that was my main function - to be a friend, and facilitate their transition while attending school in the U.S. I remember several evening social events (with Mizzou of course) that were dances reflecting music of various countries--i.e.the polka, the wonderful Greek dances, and Israeli ones - and we certainly did dance, and dance a lot! One evening some girls did "belly dances" for us. Many of the events involved everyone making and bringing native foods! At Stephens we had one event involving the kitchen staff as we all learned how to make and then got to eat Swiss fondue--the cheese kind. Only once since then have I had any as good-- and it was on our Stephens trip to Europe with Dr. Albert Delmez (French teacher) the summer after graduation. In Switzerland of course!

Anna Henry 1959  
Burrall Abroad Chairman

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# 1960's

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My memories of Stephens are wrapped in my Burrall Cabinet relationships and events. I can recall in an instant the faces of Rena, Toni, Jerry, Faith, Judy, Carolyn, Kay, and Lynne who composed the Burrall Cabinet in 1960.

These women were rich in faith and dedicated to leading thought provoking programs targeted to broaden the spiritual life of our classmates. I remember well the calmness of Vespers, a seat between you and the next person, Dean Hall in a chair on the stage with a terrific set design, and new ideas to absorb. Dr. Armstrong helping student speakers prepare their notes for Evening Prayer was a tradition. Coffee discussions after a gathering give us new and innovative ideas to ponder.

The Chapel was a refuge, clean in line, intimate, and peaceful. This structure quietly helped us focus on the speaker's thoughts and our own. And the speakers included, a student leader, a roommate, a faculty member, a drama student, a writer, and other enraging guests. I truly enjoyed hearing Dr. Arnold play the Chapel organ and listening to the voices from the Chapel Choir.

There is more, of course.....

I had the pleasure of meeting Jesse Burrall Eubank on campus one sunny fall afternoon. After sharing some time and conversation with her, I walked away believing the 1960 Burrall Cabinet reflected her original hopes and goals for this campus organization.

What an honor it was to be a part of this tradition and how it enriched my life with friendship, new thoughts and feelings, commitments, an understanding of differences, and tolerance for many views.

Henix Rader Teegardin 1960  
President Burrall Cabinet

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Vespers was special and I always looked forward to it. I remember singing “O Blest Creator of the night...through every darkness be our guide-Cast all our lonely fears aside.” It was a beautiful hymn that we sang at Vespers. It was a wonderful honor to be chosen as “Reverence toward the Spiritual” Ideal.

Melissa Potter Devereaux 1960

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Going to Stephens gave me direction in my life. For ten prior years, I had dedicated my life to competitive swimming and to the academics. Becoming a member of Burrall Cabinet allowed me the opportunity for new beginnings and a chance to express my religious beliefs in a productive way. I was able to work with a great group and a wonderful advisor, Dr. Hall, as we tried to strengthen the religious life at Stephens. Even more than the wonderfully enlightening Services, we provided outreach programs to meet the needs in the community. I’ll never forget working with the deaf children and their amazing teachers. Then through involvement in the International Club, I met and worked with foreign students at all campuses in Columbia to promote a greater sense of community. Through these experiences I have continued to feel the need to serve both in the Charlotte community and at my church. I am grateful to Stephens for showing me direction in my life and for my life.

Antolia (Tonia) Teasdale Fuller 1960  
Burrall Abroad Chairman  
Health Ideal

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Acknowledging a young person in a positive way, as in the Ten Ideals Award, can only result into more positive. Receiving the Best Private Citizen Award was a definite positive for me, and hopefully I have lived up to it in various ways throughout these past years.

At Stephens, it was said that only after we were gone from there would we find time to reflect upon the growth of mind and spirit which two years had brought us. Oh, how true that was! Reflecting on this award as well as other experiences I had

because of Stephens, gave me new sensitivities, confidence, a host of friendships and an appreciation of life.

To the Ten Ideals Award I say thank-you, thank-you.

Jan Ellis Goff 1960

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## **MEMORIES OF BURRALL**

Reliving in my mind my special association with the Burrall Program at Stephens as president of the Burrall Cabinet in 1960-61, feelings of enrichment, growth, and defining personal values are what personified the program to me. The Burrall Program was wonderful. Under the wise guidance of our advisor, Dean T. William Hall, we touched every aspect of campus life. Now that I am older, I appreciate even more all that Burrall represented.

Reflecting on that year, however, one experience that was unique to that time in history has left an indelible imprint on me. For a brief time, our campus mimicked the social unrest in the nation, particularly the South, and Burrall Cabinet was at the center of it.

As president of Burrall Cabinet, I was approached by members of CORE, the Congress of Racial Equality who asked Burrall Cabinet to assist them in protesting the fact that African Americans (then Blacks) were refused service in restaurants in Columbia, Missouri. CORE was planning a campaign which included literature and peaceful sit-ins in local restaurants. Their request seemed logical to me, but then I was from northern Wisconsin and had not personally experienced living with the unrest between the races.

I presented CORE's request to the rest of the Cabinet at our next meeting, and the members willingly agreed to help. Members of CORE then came to Stephens to meet with us. As the meetings continued, however, support dwindled. Despite a Stephens Life editorial stating, "Hip, Hip, Hooray for Burrall Cabinet," the commitment just was not there. I remember feeling a bit over my head and alone in the effort.

I continued for awhile, though, and took a petition around for classmates to sign which stated we supported the rights of Blacks to be served in local restaurants. I was surprised when many classmates refused to sign it. They were mostly students from southern states who basically said their parents wouldn't allow

them to sign it. They were wonderful young women, caring, hard working – my friends, but they were adamant.

At first I was stunned, and then it became clear. I realized the deep wound embodied in our nation. We had some distance to go before we would become united, active participants in any racial protest. Those of us from the north didn't feel passionate enough, and those from the south felt their passion all too keenly.

While this memory is not a tale of glory about the Burrall Cabinet, it was a monumental moment in Stephens' history. We took some initial steps, experimented with defying discrimination, and a closed door was opened just a crack. Thankfully, Stephens College kept in step with the civil rights movement, and within a few years, there was more than talk on campus; there was full integration.

Carol Anderson Carey 1961  
President, Burrall Cabinet  
Four-Fold Girl Ideal

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The time period I spent on the Burrall Cabinet, I believe, was the beginning of my "adult" spiritual journey. I had been attending Sunday School since I was 3 and church with my parents, but being responsible for taking the lead in planning spiritual services, writing prayers, and finding others to participate led me to a much deeper religious feeling.

I did then, and still do wonder why I was selected for the Burrall cabinet, but I am glad that I was. Perhaps Someone above saw that this was a good journey beginning for me, spiritual now rather than religious. My mother still has the two publications of the Burrall Cabinet on her bookshelf. In this time period, I believe the spiritual education is so important. Although it was important then, but possibly more so now because families seem to be more involved in acquiring material things rather than sharing spiritual assets and ideas with their children, I do hope some program such as the Burrall Cabinet is still a part of Stephens.

Nila Grabowski Haug 1962  
Burrall Cabinet, Worship Chairman

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Sunday evenings around 9 o'clock when I was at Stephens, many students would walk from all directions of the campus toward the Chapel. Inside, each would find a place of quietness to meditate and to listen to the reflections of other students on their religious beliefs and customs, on God, on the meaning of life and on relationships with others. Here students of all faiths and creeds came. This was Evening Prayer.

The Chapel, which was the location of Evening Prayer, was a perfect setting. It was dedicated on November 24, 1956, as the highlight of 11 days of special religious emphasis on campus. According to the information book, "The Stephens College Chapel," Dr. Louise Dudley, Humanities teacher, said at the time of the Chapel dedication, "One is not confined to the four walls and a roof but is led on in imagination to limitless space. It is also a friendly space, almost intimate, and yet it is a place where one can sit in comfort and then find that his mind has gone out to the infinite and he begins to wonder who he is, what he is doing and where he is going." Evening Prayer offered this opportunity. Students selected the participants on the program. Again, students wrote, delivered the parts and learned from each other. Here was a suitemate, a roommate or a close friend talking of her beliefs. Students felt free to explore their deepest thoughts, to share them with others and to gain insight. Evening Prayer was a wonderful opportunity to search and to build through the creative meditations and prayers of students together.

At Stephens, discipline was important--whether it was dressing for dinner or attending required Vespers--and I appreciated it. That training has stayed with me.

Carol Dixon Perry 1962

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So many good memories of Stephens have come back to me. I especially appreciated the individual attention the faculty and staff gave to all of us. In particular, the Ten Ideals gave us standards we could aspire to live by; and they also set personal goals we could strive for both while we were there and throughout our lives. In my own life, these goals, along with the Ten Commandments, have helped me in my relationship with others, particularly in setting an example for my children.

Carol Bowen Ervin 1962  
Appreciation of the Beautiful Ideal.

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I remember my time at Stephens as the best years of my life. I loved everything especially because Stephens was a religion-based college. The required Chapel and Burrall Services were important. Chapel services helped you to know where you fit in the world and where you were going. It was a tremendous surprise and honor to be chosen Reverence toward the Spiritual Ideal. I really appreciated it.

Margaret Butterly 1962  
Reverence toward the Spiritual Ideal

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The non-denominational aspect of Burrall Vespers was a positive for me. That quiet time of the day was special and I looked forward to it. The services in the Auditorium were wonderful and made me think the way I do now. Love to Stephens.

Lois Hurd Reeves 1962

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### **Stephens Reflections**

Stephens was a profoundly important experience for me. The school practiced and lived up to its philosophy and dedication to the development of women.

As a resident of Columbia, before I decided to go to Stephens, I was vehemently opposed to it – living under a general stereotype that Stephens girls were ‘floozyies’ – only interested in being polished and finding a husband! I am not sure what turned me

around, but I do know that when it was time for me to go to college (1960), I was not ready to leave home! I was happily a Town student, and was part of the Towne Hall group of women. (I could drive a car and go home to my own house at night).

I was always impressed with Burrall Hall – the breadth of the program and never found the mandatory attendance offensive. It truly was an essential exposure to multi-cultures and ethnicity that I had not experienced in Columbia and which I craved. I was very pleased to be chosen to present my little talk at Evening prayer – which was so special in the new Saarinan (sp) Chapel. I had various opportunities to read a scripture at the Sunday services as well. All of this contributed to my self-confidence and ‘public’ poise. After Stephens I received my BA from Denison University – a small town co-ed Fraternity/Sorority School. It was quite a shock for me and certainly not Stephens. I tried to clone a little of the Burrall Hall experience and was quite a pest with the Denison Chaplain. (I found him very stuffy and disconnected to the students). One of my major achievements was to bring an Episcopalian Liturgical jazz program for one of Denison’s voluntary Chapel Services. (The Reverend Stanford T. Carmichael – was the minister of the jazz program).

When the idea of running for student government came around, I was drafted by my ‘Townie’ classmates. They virtually wrote my campaign speech, and I was thrilled to be elected. (At that time, the student body was about 1700!) Being a member of the ‘inner’ council was a great opportunity to listen in, react and be part of the group that planned and evaluated programs and campus activities. I’ll always remember the thrill of being able to bring the Kingston Trio to the campus! And Eleanor Roosevelt (am not sure if she was during my tenure or before Stephens – since my parents and I attended numerous cultural events.)

I ended up joining a Sorority (somewhat regrettably), and became “chaplain” of course! My job was to open up each meeting with a poem or something inspirational.

When I was chosen to represent one of the Ten Ideals of Honesty, I was shocked. Was I really honest I thought? When I reviewed the elements of the ideal, I could relate to ‘having courage in

one's own convictions'. I am not a 'noisy' outspoken person, but when I feel strongly about an issue, am able to act on it. Consequently, I received an MSW in Social Work in 1968, still applying and utilizing my Stephens skills and appreciation for multi-cultural experiences and backgrounds of my clients. (I worked for more than 30 years at NYC Municipal Hospitals – primarily Bellevue Hospital Center as well as having a private practice in psychotherapy). While at Denison, during Spring Break of my Senior Year, I went to Atlanta, GA on a week-long voter registration project. We were thrilled to meet Julian Bond and Martin Luther King. I worked for a summer with the American Friends Service Committee as a counselor with a high-school work camp in Pennsylvania and then again in Yugoslavia. (That trip evolved into a year-long trip around the world. – which I think was published in the Stephensonian (?) probably in the early Fall of 1966.

Anyway, as I go on and on, there is indeed so much that my experience at Stephens did that helped shape my life. I think Stephens has a tall order to survive in these troubled times but plays such a fundamental role in nurturing and promoting intelligence and sensitivity, not only with women, but with men too.

Incidentally, when I graduated from Stephens, the marriage percentage was 95% of the student body 2 years after graduation. I waited 14 years and have been married to Christopher Wadsworth for almost 32 years! He is an Architect and we have no children by choice.

Ann Jackson Wadsworth 1962  
Student Government (VP of Education & Culture)  
Honesty Ideal

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In 1961-63 religious attendance was required. While this irritated some, most students still benefited from and enjoyed the weekly vesper service. It was a time when one could be alone with herself, free from pressures of dorm and school to contemplate her life, her future, and her present state. There was a quiet, peaceful atmosphere where she could have privacy and be thankful. Contemporary thought-provoking programs, not sermons were presented; but, the talks occasionally given were relevant

and interesting. It was only 30 minutes, but more was often made and decided in that short time than in months of classroom, teas, or cultural events.

I benefited from Vespers at Stephens and remember it as a highlight of my two years there. A student caught in the web of campus life needs some time to meditate, to weave loose threads into a meaningful pattern.

Marilyn Trostel Pittsenbarger 1963

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I still am not sure of exactly what to write, but I spent last evening looking through my Stephensophia and was entertained by reminiscing through it's pages.

I found the Burrall Choir picture. Sure enough, there I was standing beside this really gorgeous guy from MU. Funny thing is, I had never noticed before now that our names were not listed. It had to have been an oversight. I can't even remember the names of the people that I stood next to; even, the gorgeous guy, which is one of the reasons I joined the choir anyway, guys!! Many of these people had become friends and we at least knew each others names. And of course, there in the center of the first row was Mr. Umlauf.

I very much liked Mr. Umlauf. The music he selected for us allowed us to be challenged. Usually I liked his selections. I considered it a privilege to be a part of the choir because you just didn't join. You had to try out and not everyone got in. Mr. Umlauf took pride in the choir. He was talented himself and he wanted the best you had to give. He liked things to be right, & excellence was definitely one of his credits. I was always amazed at how he seemed to know what we as individuals were made of, and he managed to bring out our very best.

I can remember attending a practice one afternoon when I was late arriving. The choir was already in rehearsal, and I tried to sneak in. All of a sudden, Mr. Umlauf clapped his hands together loudly, and yelled " Don't you try to sneak in here like that"!! I was horrified! I thought he was speaking to me. As it turned out he was alluding to the alto section. When everyone realized what

had happened we all roared with laughter.

I have fond memories for Burrall Choir. It extended my music experience and was loads of fun too.

So many options were available at Stephens. I regret not taking advantage of more of them. But, at least I didn't miss out on Burrall Choir.

Kay Blair Gilmour 1963

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The years spent at Stephens College were some of the best of my 6+ years in higher education. I remember vividly the importance of Martha Biehle(our Dean) and Dorothy Martin (our Social Studies professor) and Leslie Bates - who introduced us to Philosophy. These people, as well as the International Relations curriculum opened my eyes to the world, the needs that exist and helped me choose a professional path. Stephens was ideal for a young person coming from a small southern town community; it allowed me to ease into higher education. I feel I owe Stephens College for a appreciation of lifelong learning and a passion to 'give back'.

Sandra (Sandy) Leibson Rubovits 1964  
Forcefulness Ideal

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I was fortunate enough to be a part of the Vespers program twice through the dance department and of course in 1962 through 1964, that was for Harriet Ann Gray. It was wonderful to be able to participate, but it was a time I looked forward to each week. I think we all did. It was a part of our lives that we very much looked forward to and knew that it was important. The inspiration that you always left with was unbelievable and I can remember sitting up until all hours discussing whatever had been presented. It was a spiritual time.

Also, Evening Prayer was one of the most spiritual experiences that we had. We loved the Chapel. I still do. We come early to reunion to make sure we are all at Vespers together. We are truly sisters and one together. I think we all felt and still do that we are

and try to live the Ten Ideals. I especially feel that when we are together on campus in the chapel. Stephens was one of the greatest experiences of my life and Vespers and Evening Prayer are Stephens. Once a Stephen girl, always a Stephen girl. You never forget how wonderful Stephens is. She always lives within each and every one of us.

Davie Carter Westmoreland 1964

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The first moments of being told I was chosen to be Burrall president stand out in my mind. I didn't even know exactly what Burrall was (though I was familiar with some of the activities that it provided on campus, especially the worship services (at that time we were required to attend Sunday services somewhere). I was shocked when Dean Hall (a warm and wonderful man) and the ex-president told me they wanted me to be Burrall president. I didn't know either one of them very well, had no idea I was being considered for the position and still don't know exactly how I was chosen. Dean Hall talked about the night he came to our dorm for an after hours religious discussion and I was there. He apparently liked my searching questions and that eventually led to me being chosen for the position. I remember blushing when he recounted that night for my memory of it, was coming to the discussion in nightclothes carrying a big stuffed animal!

When Jane the ex-president presented me with the Burrall key that each president had worn around her neck, I was so humbled, but I was sure that I would be the first one to lose that treasured antique. Thankfully, it was still around my neck when it was time for me to turn it over to the next president!

My first cabinet meeting sitting at the head of the cabinet table looking at 12 members, who I did not know and was supposed to lead, was daunting. Dean Hall and associate Dean Hudson helped me through that one as they did my entire presidency. They and their families welcomed us with open arms into their homes and helped us so much.

I remember being so nervous giving my first "sermon" for evening program. Things became easier as the year went on and I was

continually amazed at how wonderful my cabinet was and how much they contributed to the Stephens campus! Burrall was second only to the student government at that time and really took care of a lot of campus activities.

Looking back on it, I wonder how I got through that year without any real leadership training. I now am getting a degree in educational leadership and wish that I could have applied some of the principles that I now know. It's also amazing that at the time, though I had been brought up in a protestant home, I had not accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior (that was to come after another decade of searching) and yet I was president of a twelve cabinet member religious organization! I'd love to go back and be Burrall president again with my same wonderful cabinet and with all my new knowledge, but then I think about it and realize that "the searching me" was probably why I was chosen for a non-sectarian campus religious organization!

Susan Jane Mellor Holtje  
Burrall Cabinet President 1963-1964

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What I remember most about Vespers was the peace and quiet. For a short time once a week, we walked quietly into the auditorium, sat every other seat and just listened. Beautiful music, inspiring words, but mostly time for us to have a few minutes of calm. Some prayed, some were probably thinking of family and home and I'm sure more than a few "dozed off." It was a very peaceful time and looked forward to by many.

Carolyn Skoglund Kutenkuler 1965

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"One Sunday afternoon in the spring of my freshman year (1964!), I was summoned to the office of the Dean of Religion (Dean Hall), and entered a room full of smiling women. To my utter astonishment, I was asked by the out-going Burrall Cabinet officers to join the Cabinet for following year and serve as Campus Chest Chairman. It was a huge honor for me to be recognized by this group and I was walking on air as I left. I was asked to keep the news to myself, however, until the entire group had been contacted. None of us knew one another until we gathered for the

first time, and to my utter delight, I found my suite mate, Cheryl Wright, would be coordinating Chapel services!

I doubt that I distinguished myself as a fund raiser for Campus Chest, but my year on the Burrall Cabinet was the defining experience of my years at Stephens. We attended workshops on philosophy and theology, interacted with amazing speakers (Joe Mathews comes to mind), swapped books, and shared many late night discussions. We grew very close.

The Burrall Cabinet key that we each received remains in my jewelry box; the memories of this watershed experience I carry in my heart.”

Barbara (Guilford) Colvert 1965

*“Wherever you to, go with all your heart.” ~Confucius*

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When I think of Vespers, I think of entering the Auditorium with punch card in hand. When you entered, you had quiet time followed by wonderful, creative programs. Although required, Vespers always provided an opportunity to reflect on how so many people of different backgrounds and religions could join together in a harmonious environment. The music provided a calming effect. I considered Vespers one of the many opportunities that made Stephens a rich environment to learn, grow and become a fuller person.

Mary Josie Cain Blanchard 1967

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As Stephens alumnae, we are connected not only by the institution’s name on our diplomas but also by the culture of our unique College. When I meet with the members of the Alumnae Association Board twice a year, I am always struck by how much we have in common, even though we come from different parts of the country, we range in age from the 20’s to the 70’s. and we have pursued vastly different careers and life paths.

During my two years at Stephens the Ten Ideals were not emphasized, as they were before that time, and as they have been especially emphasized in recent years. Yet they are the culture I am talking about: In our growing-up years at Stephens

we all learned about respect for our own dignity and the dignity of others, embodied in a sense of social justice. That is the first of the current Ten Ideals. We learned the value of creativity, and to love beauty especially in the arts. We also learned to believe in ourselves and other women, and to offer support. These are the units of Stephens culture that I believe especially unite us as alumnae. We have a love of Stephens, too, in appreciation for all that we gained in our years there.

The Alumnae Association Board has a special role in nurturing that connection among alumnae. We are an elected board who serve as ambassadors for all alumnae by helping shape alumnae programs and activities throughout the United States. We provide support and recognition for Stephens clubs in various cities: we help the College identify schools and students who need to know about the benefits of a Stephens education: we find ways to promote Stephens and Stephens alumnae; we encourage giving to the College; and we support Reunions of classes and friends. The AAB also is a central piece in the network of alumnae who are helpful to current students in finding internships and jobs, or learning from alumnae about possible careers.

In Stephens Spirit,  
Patty Burnett 1967  
President  
Stephens College Alumnae Board

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We had Vespers every Friday night. That was the night that we all dressed in white and went to Non-Denominational Services. It was a time when no pants were allowed on campus, and of course, no boys were allowed in dorms. Every evening the girls would come back to the dormitory with their dates, and while saying good-bye and kissing goodnight, the dorm Mother would click the lights to let us know when we had five minutes to be in the dorm. There was also bed check and lights out every night. I remember that I had never felt as though I was a religious or spiritual person prior to coming to Stephens, but going to Vespers brought out a faith and a spirituality in me that has continued into the rest of my adult life. I like ritual and tradition, and it was something that I look back at with fond memories.

Jana Eisenberg Robbins 1967

The Stephens Burrall Scholarship sponsors who, by paying half my tuition fees from September, 1966, through January, 1969, made it possible for me to study in the U.S.A. and in particular here at Stephens College. Without this generous contribution, it would, I am sure, have been impossible for the Institute of International Education, to send me to this expensive, though reputable college.

The knowledge that most peoples, including many Africans, know little about the societies, cultures and issues of Africa has overall had a positive influence on me. It stimulated me to study more and deeper about different aspects of my country and continent. In this process of stimulation, Stephens' encouragement and emphasis on individualism, as expressed in personal projects and independent studies, have been a great help. The college's academic and cultural atmosphere reflected in the provocative and interesting outside speakers, plays, dance series...have all enriched my intellectual experience.

Dr. Mere Nakaterregga-Kisekka 1969  
Burrall Scholar

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Arriving at Stephens that warm day in 1965 was so exciting. For the first time the promise four college years of stability in my life offered peace and calm. Growing up an Army Brat had a great deal of advantages, but roots and security were not among them.

I fell in love with Stephens and spent time with all my new friends, but my desire to reach out to others and truly be part of the community pushed me to become an active participant in the Burrall Volunteer Program. For all four years at Stephens I went every week to various nursing homes in Columbia to visit with the residents. On request I remember singing the old familiar hymns but mostly I wrote letters for them or just chatted and listened to their stories, dreams and fears. This was one of the most rewarding activities I have ever pursued and I still continue to volunteer my time in my current community of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Because of my volunteer activity at Stephens, I was asked to chair the Burrall Volunteer Program, and then my Senior Year, 1969, I was selected President of the Burrall Cabinet. For the first time in my life I realized my peers truly believed in me and I was part of something secure, stable and important. We all have become better people because of the vision of Jesse Burrall.

The years I attended Stephens our nation suffered from civil unrest, racial conflicts and student uprisings throughout the country, but Stephens remained an island of calm. Not because we were an apathetic lot, but because we knew our mission was above the violence and civil disobedience of the times. I attribute my growth in faith and self awareness to the vision of Charles Lake, the Dean of Religious Life. He made sure that Stephens offered all types of personal growth programs and experiences for every young Stephens student. I will always cherish his guidance and friendship.

Paula Warfield Hansbrough 1969  
President Burrall Cabinet

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***~ The first BFA graduating class was in 1964.  
Prior to then, Stephens College offered a two year  
Associates Degree of Arts. The first BA was in  
1969.***

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# 1970's

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In a Sept. 25, 1969, Stephens Life article, "White Sunday now pastel, faculty abolishes IBM religious requirement", Sara Shelnuttt wrote: "On Sept. 4, the faculty unanimously passed a motion to eliminate all required religious attendance following recommendations of the Religious Life Committee of the faculty, the Burrall Cabinet, the Administrative Staff, and the team of three visiting consultants. Some of their observations were; American youth seems to identify worship and church life with the adult generation and, therefore, is indifferent to them and the mood is one of apathy at this point rather than hostility. They (youth) find themselves at home with, and unapologetic about, their intellectual interests in the field of religion."

Sara Shelnuttt 1970

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Some of the activities the Burrall Cabinet worked on during my time at Stephens were: The Vespers Program, Close relationships with Student Government, some of the girls and the Assistant Chaplain attended political gatherings centered around the Viet Nam War and we worked with the Chapel on Sunday to set up for Services. We visited Programs in other States that worked with At Risk Youths and went to Student Leadership Conferences in Colorado. Also, kept up with the Social Beat of the Campus as the times were socially critical. We responded to Social Criticism for the Betterment of the Campus Programs and to the Social Needs of the Foreign Students to acclimate their stay at Stephens. Mr. Freeze, the Foreign Student advisor worked with us. I passed the Burrall key on to the next president.

Stephens College was the most wonderful part of my life. What I learned at Stephens I will never forget. It taught me to be a better person involved in all aspects of life and to broaden my intellectual and spiritual life.

Lucia M Hernandez 1970  
President, Burrall Cabinet 1969-70  
Burrall Abroad Chairman/Burrall Scholar

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When I was at Stephens (1967-1971) Vespers was held in the large auditorium. Ed Gallagher, lighting designer, theatre dept. was in charge of visuals on the stage. The abstract visuals (many times geometric) were achieved through inventive lighting. I believe the “music” was more like tones that changed subtly. One’s psych was affected in a calming and gentle way. The artistry of Vespers was pure and guided one to a truth free from sectarian thought.

By 1970, Vespers had a much smaller audience as attendance was no longer required and was a more potent experience due to the changes. In September of 1970, a friend who had been battling depression committed suicide. Vespers was deeply meaningful to me especially at that time and until my graduation in May of 1971 as I had to process the finality of my dear friend’s death. The peace-giving aspects of Vespers helped me immensely.

#### Susan LoForti 1971



I arrived at Stephens College never having been away from home for any length of time before this venture and I was extremely lonely. I lived in the Searcy House Plan that first year and met another girl, Susan Fox, who was working with a program connected to the Burrall Cabinet that tutored children in need in downtown Columbia. She encouraged me to adopt a child to tutor and that program began my involvement with Burrall.

I was never an intensely religious person but I always felt I was a deeply spiritual person. The times were confusing during this period of history as friends were about to be drafted to Vietnam, students were participating in anti war rallies, and the place and relevance of the traditional religious experience in the world and at Stephens was in question. There was a young new Assistant Dean of Religion, Bill Kirby, involved with the Burrall Cabinet, who was encouraging students to become keepers of the world - to be involved with and care for your fellow man. He called it the “I Thou Experience.” Something about that rang true for me. It was religion on my terms and it was active religion - it made a difference.

For the next four years at Stephens, I remained involved with the many aspects of the Burrall Cabinet. I was no longer lonely. I had a new family and I left Stephens with a deep sense of gratitude and pride for the having had the opportunity to be the President of such an incredible group of engaging, intelligent, challenging, and deeply caring women.

Debra Richards Altenbernd

Burrall Cabinet President 1972

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Although I was never on Burrall Cabinet, I pulled out my 1968 yearbook to reflect on it. In a nutshell, Burrall means people, “The Burrall Cabinet, an integral part of Stephens life, served the campus with opportunities for religious fellowship, service, study and involvement in the Columbia community.” I appreciated the opportunity to hear artists of such fine talent as Tom Cooke. I enjoyed his concert during Vespers at Stephens. Back in 1968 and throughout my time at Stephens, I contributed to the Portfolio magazine. I wrote poetry. The Portfolio was published at intervals throughout the academic year. Included in the magazine were outstanding examples of poetry, art, essays, and photography.

Stephanie Vosberg Howard 1972

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My memories are that Vespers was the time I had to myself, and when living in a dorm, private time is at a premium. I read the book, “Stephens Burrall Mem’ries”, to my two daughters, on Mother’s Day, explaining that these few hours helped me be a better person - which made me a better mom. The collection also reminded me of the lasting friendships I made at Stephens and how special those friendships are to me to this day.

Susan Hill Burns 1974

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Vespers was always inspirational; I attended regularly and looked forward to the soothing music and hearing different speakers who were always interesting. At Stephens, one of my favorite memories is White Sunday and I remember posing for pictures with my friends dressed in white. My more recent memory of my

sister Daryl's wedding on June 24, 1994, in the beautiful Firestone Baars Chapel was a special occasion for the Gebhardt Stephens women to be together. My daughter, Janna Smith, is a student at Stephens now. Our tradition continues.

Loris Gebhardt Smith 1976  
(Daughter of Margaret Taylor Gebhardt 1946)  
(See Fay Taylor Phillips 1947)

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When Joy Katzen-Guthrie (Class of 1980) asked me to participate in Vespers at the 2005 Stephens Reunion, I confessed to her that I had never attended Vespers before. Not that I didn't participate in many other programs in the Chapel, both as a student and as an alumna, it was just that when as a loquacious 18-year-old I was warned that Vespers required silence, I opted out. Joy, wise woman that she is, lured me in by saying that this time I would be required to speak: we agreed that I was qualified to deliver remarks on "Reunion Reminiscing" as my Vespers debut.

I began my talk with a paraphrase of a quote from T.S. Eliot, "**The experience of a reunion is the experience both of a moment and of a lifetime.**" I shared memories from a period of 30 years that included many of the people who had been most important to me during those three decades. All of them had given me the chance to see the world through the eyes of another, teaching me lessons in tolerance. Many had been there for me over and over again and were genuine and lifelong friends. You could say we were growing up together each time we reconnected.

What was most gratifying about my first Vespers experience was how many people took the time to tell me that my speech had resonated with them. Another presenter, one I had never met before, told me, "You gave the speech I wanted to give." Someone I knew casually boosted my spirits saying my words needed to be reprinted and distributed. An alum I had never met before told me she was on the Vespers Board in the mid-1960s when a Vespers program on tolerance that featured dancers in white sheets had polarized the campus.

Someone who was close to my age was spending the weekend with her class as well as with her reuniting mother and she told me that she appreciated my remarks on how those people who had been the mothers of friends I had at Stephens had been good gauges of my illusions of aging. It seems that a Vespers experience can transcend time and space and bring people together. So why did it take me so long to get there?

Janeen Bjork 1978

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During Reunion 2005, I attended Vespers in the Chapel. The music by Mary Ann Tyrrell and Joy Katzen-Guthrie was wonderful. I especially enjoyed Rajah Maples-Wallace singing "Sentimental Journey." But most of all, I was so proud of my mother, Marge Phillippe Kelley, Classics Class President, when she spoke about "The Legacy of Vespers." I will always remember Vespers 2005 as it was a very spiritual experience for me.

Kandice L. Kelley 1979

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# 1980's

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They say you can never return home. Sometimes one returns to a beloved place with a tinge of grief that all seems changed. But there is an energy on the Stephens campus that never dissipates. Returning again for each reunion, I have been renewed by that energy. Returning in 2005, it was again as if I had never left my beloved Stephens. Among the precious moments on this extraordinary campus, I count vespers during my years as a student as well as during reunion over the decades.

As a junior and senior at Stephens, I had the privilege of singing within the Stephens Chamber Choir as we presented music for the vespers service. In my mind, I hear our voices swirling outward and upward within the spaciousness of the chapel. The hymns, the special music we prepared for each service, the opportunity to sing with gifted vocalists and instrumentalists who were members of the music department faculty live within me. During 1980 graduation exercises, I had the honor of presenting original music in the Baccalaureate Vespers Service; it was an extraordinary moment.

As I return for reunions, I feel the flutter of memories, sense the music still singing within that sacred space. In 2000 and 2005, presenting music once again at vespers, I have stepped back to the moments when I was a student, breathing deeply the love and the support that filled my life at Stephens. Perhaps there are places where one can never return — but Stephens is not among them. The extraordinary creativity of Stephens lives endlessly in our hearts and on the campus that we call home.

Joy Katzen-Guthrie 1980

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During my time at Stephens College, there was emphasis on the Ten Ideals with posters throughout the campus and information distributed to the students. I was honored to be chosen as an Ideal. Group Bible studies in the dormitory every week were important to me. The study and discussions of the Bible gave me a spiritual basis that has influenced my life during the past two decades. I am convinced a strong faith carries us through many of life's challenges. When I was at Stephens we did not have a Vespers program although I am certain it would have been beneficial.

Humanities with Dr. Shirky were a wonderful educational experience. His detailed description of the Chapel was so meaningful. I loved learning about the architecture and styles of the buildings on campus. Dr. Shirky's teaching enriched my life and expanded my aesthetic discernment. It was always such a joy to hear the music and the vocal concerts in the Chapel. I especially enjoyed listening to the Velvetones. The organ is spectacular as well.

Of course, the Firestone Baars Chapel will always have a prominent place in my memories of Stephens because on June 25, 1994, I married David Forte there. When I'm on campus with my three little boys and I hear the Chapel bells ring, it reminds me of my wedding. My five sisters were my bridesmaids and it was the first time we were all on campus at the same time. All six of the girls in my family attended Stephens from the 1960's through 1987. We all cherish the learning environment we had. Now my niece, Janna Smith, is a student at Stephens.

Daryl Gebhardt Forte 1987  
(See Florence Taylor Phillips 1947)



# 1990's-

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The Chapel holds a very special place in my heart. It's a place I could go for peace, silence and spirituality in the middle of my academic life at Stephens. I also remember reading about its rich history during my freshman year in Mr. Shrikey's humanities class. I adored, understood and appreciated its architectural greatness. I also remember the beautiful sound and acoustics when our choir used to sing in there. It didn't take much to make a big, beautiful sound in the Chapel. Singing "Sentimental Journey" during Vespers at Reunion 2005 brought back wonderful memories.

Rajah Maples 1997  
Intelligence Ideal

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Since we did not have services during my time at Stephens I don't have any specific memory but I do recall going to the Chapel for thought and meditation. This especially helped me to connect spiritually since I was so far away from my home and family. Even seeing the Chapel was a comfort in many ways.

Silissa Uriarte Smith 1998

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I first attended Vespers during Reunion 2003, when I was a freshman. I went just to help out, I really had no idea what Vespers at Stephens was all about. I passed out candles and helped send the flame around the chapel. When everyone's candle was lit, including mine, I remember feeling suddenly connected to everyone in the room. I realized that I wasn't that different from all the other women - I was doing what they had done, I could because they did. I felt grateful and honored to be a part of the Stephens community. I am continually inspired by Stephens women and am glad that Vespers helped me understand what it means to be a member of that group.

Elfreda West 2005

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*Current times... a response from a current student after reading the 1st edition of Stephens Burrall Mem'ries given to her as a gift from an alum.*

**“It was fantastic reading all the ladies memories. The Burrall book actually helped me in my decision to stay at Stephens.”  
- Jennifer Brady 2011**

Dearest Marge,

What a beautiful message from Miss Brady!

Thank you for taking the time to keep the Stephens Burrall Mem'ries alive. I wish I had had that connection while studying at Stephens. There was never a mere mention of Burrall Mem'ries while I was there-class of '81. I was always fascinated to hear the stories of women who attended the college “in the day”.

Stephens is an experience, not just a college. Every woman walks away feeling she made a contribution to something extremely unique. Whether she feels it on graduation day or years later, it is in her soul and always will be.

It is essential that today's students have the same opportunity regardless of which spiritual leader they honor. Being away from home is very difficult, just look at how the words of the Burrall inspired Miss Brady.

You have done these girls a loving service in providing them with a personal look back at Stephens' history.

Always proud to be a Stephens Woman...

Warmly,

Patricia Trojahn '81

*A message from the president...*

I had not been president of Stephens College very long before I had alumnae ask if we still “had Vespers”. I knew we had discontinued Vespers a while ago, and have learned through conversations with alumnae over the last few years, the very special role that Vespers played in the lives of many Stephens women.

It was a time of safety, a time of silence, a time for reflection, spirituality, music, poetry and song. How fortunate decades of Stephens women benefited by this unique and transforming experience. I am thankful our alumnae continue to develop and sponsor Vespers at Reunion.

Wendy B. Libby, Ph.D

President

Stephens College



Chapel designed by Eero Saarinen

## **THE TEN IDEALS**

“Inherent in the culture at Stephens College is the tradition of the Ten Ideals, which originated in 1921. Each year, ten students whose activities represent the overall ideals of Stephens College are selected as personifications of individual Ideals.

The April 25, 2004 issue of the Columbia Daily Tribune printed an essay based on President Wendy Libby’s inaugural address, “Stephens women: ideal leaders, ideally inspired.” She said, “The Ten Ideals are the time-tested traits that Stephens College seeks to instill in every Stephens woman. It is up to her to make them her own.”

The Ten Ideals are:

**Respect**  
**Courage**  
**Independence**  
**Support**  
**Sensitivity**  
**Responsibility**  
**Belief**  
**Creativity**  
**Intelligence**  
**Leadership**

## Senior Farewell Song

“Though parting calls us,  
fond memories remain  
Our love for Stephens will  
ever be the same.  
We love her friendships  
made both near and far.  
We’ll always remember  
where ever we are,  
The towered halls, the ivy walls,  
the walks that wind so near,  
We love her so!  
Oh, don’t you know these  
things are all so dear!  
Some day we’ll come back  
with mem’ries to tell  
Till then we bid thee,  
dear Stephens farewell.”

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MOTIVATION FOR WOMEN

ISBN 0-9633089-1-2  
\$16.95