

9-1-2010

Julia Sparks exemplified compassion, competence

Furman University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine>

Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2010) "Julia Sparks exemplified compassion, competence," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 53 : Iss. 2 , Article 29.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol53/iss2/29>

This Article is made available online by Journals, part of the Furman University Scholar Exchange (FUSE). It has been accepted for inclusion in Furman Magazine by an authorized FUSE administrator. For terms of use, please refer to the [FUSE Institutional Repository Guidelines](#). For more information, please contact scholarexchange@furman.edu.

Convention in 1969 and held that position until 1982. During his tenure, 128 new churches were started in the state, church membership grew by 85,000, and donations to the Cooperative Program tripled. He oversaw the planning of the state convention's White Oak Conference Center in Winnsboro and was credited with starting an annual conference on Bible study and preaching that continues each summer at Anderson University. From 1962 to 1969 he was assistant general secretary-treasurer of the state convention, and before that he was state student director in both South Carolina and North Carolina. He also served as executive secretary of the North Carolina Council of Christian Higher Education and held pastorates at churches in South Carolina, Indiana and Alabama.

Margaret Bonham Haynes '41, December 6, Vero Beach, Fla.

Carol Poole White '41, April 16, Sumter, S.C. After graduating from the Duke University School of Nursing, she served on the university hospital's nursing staff.

Jack Tatum Welch '42, April 23, Spartanburg, S.C. He served in World War II as a Naval aviator on the USS Saratoga in the Pacific theater and was active in the Naval Reserves following the war, retiring with the rank of commander. He went on to work as a general manager of PYA Distributing and as a sales manager for Acme Distributing before retiring as a consultant to the Spartanburg County Council. Active in civic affairs, he was president of the Spartanburg Sertoma Club and for three terms was district governor of Sertoma International. He was a charter member and president of the Retired Officers Association and the Sales and Marketing Executive Club and was a member of the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Visitors of the Presbyterian Home in Clinton, S.C., and the Board of Advisors of the Mental Health Association of the

JULIA SPARKS EXEMPLIFIED COMPASSION, COMPETENCE

WHEN JULIA SPARKS retired in 1993 after working at Furman for 39 years, the crowd at her retirement reception was the largest anyone at the time could recall.

The turnout was emblematic of the enormous respect her colleagues on the faculty and staff had for "Ms. Sparks," who spent much of her career overseeing Furman's employee benefits program. When she died June 5 at the age of 81, the university community mourned the passing of a woman who modeled professionalism, competence and compassion.

She joined the university's staff in 1954 as a payroll clerk and cashier, then moved to the new campus in 1958 as business office supervisor and administrative assistant to the assistant business manager. Later she became personnel administrator and manager of the university's

retirement programs, endearing herself to current and retired employees with her unfailing consideration and attention to individual needs. She retired as assistant personnel director.

Moreover, Julia Sparks was passionately devoted to her employer. As her obituary stated, "She was intensely proud of her association with Furman, supporting its academics and athletics. Julia loved the people and the place. She never tired or complained about going to work because Furman was part of her family."

She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, John and Margaret Sparks Bolt '73 of Morgantown, West Va., as well as two grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, two sisters and a brother. Memorials may be made to Furman or to the Alzheimer's Association.

Upper Piedmont and Spartanburg Urban Rehabilitation. He chaired the Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation Board and in 1969 was recipient of a certificate for outstanding contributions to the city.

Martha Sims Carpenter '43, April 19, Greenville. She was active in community affairs and was the first woman elder of both Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Enoree Presbytery. She was a former president and honorary life member of Women of the Church and was an ordained Stephen Minister.

George Milum "Bud" Testerman '44, March 16, Rogersville, Tenn. After service with the U.S. Army in World War II, he owned Testerman Motor Company. He was a charter member and president of the Rogersville Kiwanis Club and was director and chair of First National Bank. He was president of Community Chest, was active in starting the local United Way and was chair of the Hawkins County Republican Party for many years. He served on the boards of Holston Electric and Hawkins County Memorial Hospital.

Beverly Lawrence Vertrees '44, May 27, Ames, Iowa. She taught piano and directed children's and adult choirs for many years. She formed and led a church bell choir for 25 years, accompanied dozens of students at district music contests, and sang with the Heartland Senior Services Songbirds. She also published two mystery novels.

Louise Lively Hendricks '46, March 30, Easley, S.C. She worked with the Pickens County legislative delegation for many years and served on the Pickens County Disabilities and Special Needs Board.

Cynthia Todd Parker '46, May 5, Athens, Ga. She was for a time an instructor at Anderson (S.C.) College (now University). In Athens she worked with the American Cancer Society, serving on the board of directors and as an officer of the organization's auxiliary. She was also involved in campus activities at the University of Georgia, where her husband taught.

Mercer Truett Bridges '47, February 17, Augusta, Ga. His college career was interrupted by World War II, when he entered Navy flight training school and later the officer corps of the U.S. Marines. He was a night fighter pilot in the South Pacific from 1942-45 before returning to the mainland to complete his service as a test pilot in California. After the war he completed his Furman degree and went on to attend graduate school at Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary. He enjoyed a productive musical career in which he performed in television ads, on records and in nightclubs. In 1959 he moved to Augusta and began studying toward a medical degree at the Medical College of Georgia. After graduating in the top tier of his class in 1963, he did an orthopaedic residency and then began clinical practice as a founding member of Orthopaedic Associates of Augusta. He worked in England with Sir John Charnley, the pioneer of hip replacement surgery, and in New York City with specialists at the Hospital for Special Surgery. In recognition of his contributions to his profession,