

Juanita Case Tate

Recipient of the
Dedicated Christian Service Award

Presented by
Salem United Methodist Church
March 8, 2009

Juanita Case Tate was born and grew up in Mayodan North Carolina. Her parents were Will and Irene Martin Case and she had three brothers William, Wallace, and Charles. Juanita became a member of Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Sandy Ridge, N. C. in her youth. She graduated from Mayodan High School and worked in Washington Mills.

John Tate, of Salem Methodist Church and Community, had an Aunt Ila Murray who lived with her family in Mayodan. Juanita was a friend of the Murray daughters. It was through the Murray family that Juanita met John Tate. John and Juanita fell in love, were married in Mayodan Moravian church on March 7th, 1946 and moved to the Salem Community. John and Juanita were devoted to each other and to this church. They were married for 43 years before John's passing on March 4th, 1990. They were dedicated Christians and lived their faith in their church and community. John and Juanita had one daughter, Rebecca Ann Tate, who is married to Phillip Robinson and they live in Colorado but Ann is with us today. Juanita has two grandchildren Allen and Mendy and one great granddaughter, Abigail.

John worked at Smith's Box Company and Juanita worked at Spencer's. After Juanita retired from Spencer's after nearly 25 years and then she went to work at Central Methodist Daycare as a afternoon teacher, working with the three and four-year olds. She was nearly, so I have been told, four-score plus years old when she decided to retire again. On March 17th 1946 Juanita became a member of Salem Methodist Church. For over sixty-two years she has been a valued member of Salem.

Several Sundays after she started attending Salem, she began helping in Sunday school. and quickly became a teacher of the youth. Juanita was to work in the Salem Sunday school program as a teacher, teacher's aide or in the church nursery for approximately thirty-five years, teaching and loving several generations of Salem's Youth.

Juanita, during her years of service at Salem, has been a long time member of the Administrative Board serving in various capacities of leadership. She has been the Historian of the church for over fifteen years, and her dedication and commitment to her work as historian has resulted in a collection of local church history that is extraordinary. Juanita is quick to give credit to Peggie Thomas and Dorothy Gravley for their work in organizing the church history.

Juanita has been an active member of the United Methodist Women for over six-decades and Juanita was also president of the Women's Society of Christian Service, in the 1950's. On today's date, Juanita was also awarded the **United Methodist Women's Service Pin** by the Beth Henderson Circle of the UMW. She has also been an active member of the Salem Prayer Group since her second retirement.

I am told that after John's early retirement for health problems that he was the cook in the Tate home. However, it is also a known fact, that Juanita has become one of the outstanding cooks of Salem and especially for her chocolate pies and pound cakes.

If I were to ask all of you to describe Juanita, I am confident that I would be told the following: Juanita is a true Christian. She's a saint. She loves people, especially children. She has a lot of compassion for people. She has a servant's heart. She wants things done right. She is a hard-worker; and a number of you would wonder aloud, as I do, "What would we have done at Salem without Juanita?"

Juanita has said that since coming to Salem, she never felt treated like she was an outsider. Well the reason that is true is because when she came, she became involved and became one of the folks of the church and community. Juanita, we love and appreciate you and thank God for you.

Prepared by,
Rev. Dennis W. "Bud" Cameron, M. G.