

## **HELEN'S CHURCHES and JEWELS OF WISDOM**

While Mother was the organist for 40 years, her love of people and witnessing to God was profound and evident every Sunday morning before and after church. She arrived early to welcome and visit with both members and visitors alike. Given the knowledge and understanding she had of the Lutheran doctrine and fundamentals, it was a shock to many to find out that she was not a member. **Helen's Jewels Of Wisdom** -- Mother made it clear that she was a Baptist. She also said she did not believe in having the organist a member of the same church because what would happen if the minister and organist had disagreements.

After Mother "retired" as organist at the Lutheran Church, she and Daddy returned to their church - First Baptist, Knoxville. Although they came to special services and organ concerts over the years, Mother wondered if they had been gone so long they would not know anyone. However, it did not take them long to settle right in because they were home. They got reacquainted with neighbors, class mates they had not seen since high school, long time acquaintances and, of course, made many new friends.

Mother loved people and her day was complete when she talked with family and friends. Every day she witnessed her faith in God. I recall on several occasions my dad saying he asked the ministers at the Baptist and Lutheran churches, in a joking way, if they would consider letting church out 30 minutes early at least once a month. He commented he thought that would give Helen enough time to get around and visit with everyone. Of course, Mother was not around or within hearing distance when Daddy said this!