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95-Year-Old Still Strong Supporter of Education News Clipping

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95-Year-Old Still Strong Supporter of Education

For more than 50 years, Mrs. Mae Cline Stroup has been investing in Christian education at home and around the world. Her interest in the education of young people has not diminished with age.

Mrs. Stroup, who is 95, recently paid for the refurbishing of the parlor of Stroup Dorm at Gardner-Webb College. The dorm, a women's residence hall constructed in 1960, is named in her honor.

Knowing of her interest in the project, President Chris White visited Mrs. Stroup in her Shelby home, taking with him swatches of fabric and asking her advice on fabric selection. Says White, "Being able to rely on Mrs. Stroup's wisdom and good taste through the years has been an asset to Gardner-Webb."

Mrs. Stroup checked on the progress of the refurbishing while on campus for a meeting of the Heritage Club. The Club is comprised of individuals who have made gifts designated for endowment or have included the college in their wills or estate plans.

Her interest in the college goes back to 1933 when Mrs. Stroup was elected to its board of trustees, the first woman to occupy this position at any North Carolina Baptist college.

"In past years she served in almost every leadership capacity on the Gardner-Webb board of trustees and was on the presidential search commit-



Mrs. Mae Cline Stroup

tees for the three presidents prior to me. In short, she is quite a lady," said White.

Other institutions have benefited from both her largess and her leadership. She has served on the boards of trustees of Mars Hill College and Wake Forest University and once had the distinction of being the only woman to serve as a trustee of three Baptist colleges.

A world traveler, Mrs. Stroup in 1943 provided for the building and opening of a high school and Bible institute in Carolinia, Brazil, after she discovered the educational needs existing there.

Reflecting on her long life, she adds, "I'm so fortunate that I've been able to help folks all my life. And I'll continue to do that."