Speer: Mrs. Marshall, how long have you been a member of the Oxford Church Women United?

Marshall: I’ve been a member since 19... , since it was organized really, 1962. We had, before then we started with the World Day of Prayer kind of session that was started by a retired missionary, Mrs. Gayle Beanland. She was interested, she was a Presbyterian, she was interested in the groups getting together because the whites were having their World Day of Prayer and the blacks were having theirs in the Methodist Churches and she wanted the groups to get together. So she kind of brought us together.

Speer: And that was in 19...

Marshall: That was in 19... Now that was in 1957.

Speer: 1957. So the roots go back a long time in Oxford. Is this the only Church Women United chapter that you’ve ever been a member of?

Marshall: Yes.

Speer: You’ve lived in Oxford most of your life?

Marshall: Most of my life.

Speer: Why did you join Church Women United, or maybe you just want to tell me a little about how you got involved in it.

Marshall: Really for, to get a relationship, to get an understanding, to know each other cause we didn’t know each other, we still don’t but we’re working on it, but at that time we didn’t know anything about what their [white] churches were doing when it comes to services and the race relations wasn’t too good at that time you know, coming out of well a lot of things that happened before then. And I just wanted to know more about what they were doing in their churches and try to understand them and become friends.

Speer: What church do you attend?


Speer: Who were the founders, the original members of Oxford’s Church Women United?