**St. Matthew AME Church, Detroit**

**Earlie Mae Poole WMS**

The Earlie Mae Poole Women's Missionary Society was

established in the early 1930s, about one year after the congregation moved to the current location. The society was in need of a identity and decided to name the society after a very faithful member, Florene Hughely.

The society had several presidents through the years, including Mrs. Annie Cruse and Mrs. Carrie Hayes Gaskins. But always there to fill the gap when others were reluctant to serve as President was Mrs. Earlie Mae Poole, who later became the society's longest serving President. She was active on theConnectional and District levels, faithfully representing the societyat Annual Conference, Conference, District of Connectional meeting when others could not attend.

She recruited, trained and mentored many young women for service in the V/MS on all levels.

This missionary society was involved with mission projects in Canada, with rural church children and migrant workers. The sick and shut-in of the church were always remembered.

In October 1995, the Missionary Society of St. Matthew voted and it was approved by Rev. Eddie Robinson that this society would change its name to the Earlie Mae Poole Women's Missionary Society.

The Society has one District Officer, Mrs. Jacqueline Robinson, who currently serves as Promotion and Missionary Education Director and Editor of the B-Newsletter. Mrs. Robinson was recruited, trained and mentored by Mrs. Poole.