

Hull

Helped

Church

Warren Hull, master of ceremonies of the Strike It Rich show in the 1950's, and who died Sept. 14, helped in the restoration of St. Luke's Church.

Miss Elizabeth Jordan, who with her sisters was instrumental in saving the old church, related Hull's part in the effort this week.

Hull was asked in 1954 by Henry Mason Day, then president of the Restoration, to put St. Luke's Church on his program. Hull consented and Nov. 24, 1954 was set for the presentation.

Day invited the late A. E. S. Stephens, then lieutenant governor of Virginia; John S. Martin, vice president of the Restoration; and Miss Jordan, its secretary, to appear with Hull.

Hull introduced the Smithfield delegation to the show's audience, showed several enlarged pictures of St. Luke's and explained its deplorable condition, Miss Jordan recalls. Stephens and Martin spoke of its history and made pleas for donations for its restoration.

Miss Jordan had taken the first Bible used in St. Luke's from 1632 until the American Revolution, when it was taken out and placed for safe keeping in the home of William Hodsdon. (The church was closed during the Revolution, Miss Jordan says.)

Following the Strike It Rich program, more than 3,000 letters were received from every state in the Union, Mexico and Canada, most with \$1, but with everything from 7 cents to \$100. (A small boy sent 7 cents glued to a piece of cardboard with a note: "Sorry I can't send more. I had 10 cents but had to pay 3 cents for a stamp." Miss Jordan called it the "most precious gift of all.")

During the early 1960's, Hull was in Norfolk and was the guest speaker for one of the St. Luke's Pilgrimages.