

*F. Green*

# Attic Antics

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BOB BLAKE

"THEY THAT ARE WHOLE NEED NOT A PHYSICIAN . . ."

A T T I C    A N T I C S

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by

GEORGE MATTHIS CLASS  
(The Class in the Attic)

PRESENTING OUR COVER PICTURE - Bob Blake

Our sick world, plagued with war, hate, greed, indifference, pride, prejudice, and drunkenness is in desperate need of the Great Physician, but the patient seems to go out of its way to evade treatment.

The Physician depends on us who are Christians to bring to his care those of the world who need Him. As we do this in our everyday life we should not only refrain from adding to the symptoms and making them more pronounced, but do all we can with God's help to reduce or even eliminate some of the ills.

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THE GEORGE MATTHIS CLASS THROUGH THE YEARS - Ann (Toot Toot) Nonymus

The earliest record that we can find of our class dates back to August 23, 1936, when the class was organized with Mrs. H. L. Hassell as teacher, Miss Mary Kirkland (now Mrs. Ashby Fuss and living in Georgia), President; and Mrs. Agnes Goswick, Secretary-Treasurer. This class was named in honor of the Reverend George Matthis, pastor of the church, whose interest in the young adults first brought the class into being.

The class attendance varied a great deal that first year, starting with seven members, dropping out entirely several times, then building to a total of twenty members by the close of the year. At present there are fifty-five members (all listed as active) on the roll. At one time there was one teacher and one pupil, but their great Christian faith inspired others to work for the betterment of the class. During the war years, again the class attendance was greatly cut.

In the beginning, the George Matthis Class met in any place available, finally taking over the antiphonal choir loft, which had poor lighting, a twenty-foot opening into the church proper (no privacy at all), and a graduated floor. Class members banded together, pledged, asked for donations from other members of the church, and today we have handsome hardwood floors, fluorescent lighting, "white board" for better teaching, and (thanks to Bob Blake) handsome paintings.

Class members take a very active part in every phase of church activity. Our membership includes three elders, four deacons, numerous teachers serving in other departments, and officers in the Women of the Church and in the Men of the Church. The George Matthis Class started the Fellowship Suppers, now a regular Wednesday event prior to Prayer Services; members of the class, with the aid of others, still provide the dessert, coffee, and general arrangements for the dinner. For many years we have maintained during the church period a nursery for children from two to six years of age, believing this to be a great service that we could perform for the church. Each year at Thanksgiving and Christmas, baskets and gifts are given to the indigent, and

donations are made to many other worthy causes. The George Matthis Class believes in doing, working now especially toward increasing the building fund.

"Attic Antics," in November, 1946, was a small mimeographed sheet concerning class members, which was published to keep up class interest. Today, in a period of five years, the paper has grown from three pages to a complete church-wide publication, and is mailed each month not only to church members but to many others throughout the Southern Presbyterian Church. From the one editor-typist-mimeographer who ran those first issues, to a class-wide project, this paper has grown, created interest, and informed Trinity Avenue members of all events connected with the church.

As an "off the record" note, the Sunday School enrollment has certainly swelled, seen not only from those who attend our class each week, but a peek at the children's classrooms will reveal no less than forty-seven children whose parents proudly claim, "I belong to the George Matthis Class!" This calls for more statistics (vital?). During the past year seventy-two (72) friendly visitors were welcomed to the "Attic." Class members are informed of how many Sundays they have missed, phone calls are made, and letters are written, thereby keeping the attendance record at a peak. Members absent four consecutive Sundays are automatically marked from the class roll (Sunday School regulations), and after the absentee attends two Sundays consecutively, his name is reentered upon the roll.

Looking at these facts, then at the active, earnest members today, the George Matthis Class will continue to gain in numbers, in activities, and in spiritual growth.

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IMPROVING THE CHURCH NURSERY - Tobe Shaw (President G. M. Class)

Several years ago the George Matthis Class voted to sponsor a nursery during the Sunday morning worship hour for the benefit of the mothers of young children. This was indeed an excellent way to render a real Christian service to our church. As the months and years passed, the members of our class seemed to lose some of the interest and enthusiasm that was shown when the project was first initiated. It thus became increasingly more difficult to get the members of our class to work in the nursery. So, it became apparent that something was needed to awaken and revive interest in this most worthwhile project.

During the past month an every-member canvass has been made to determine just how the class feels about continuing the nursery. Surprisingly enough, at least ninety-five per cent of the ladies in our class plus the mothers who use the nursery want to continue sponsoring the nursery and are willing to work at least one Sunday each quarter. The age limit for the children who stay in the nursery will appear in the bulletin each Sunday.

Now, the men in our class are not asked to work in the nursery but will be asked to help in another way. So, men, take a good look down in your pocketbook and help buy some toys for these girls and boys! More about this phase of the work later - .

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GEORGE MATTHIS CLASS HAS VISITING TEACHERS

Forrest Callahan, our capable teacher, has been on a vacation to parts here and gone for the past while. He wouldn't say how long he spent at Virginia Beach; all he could say was that he stayed XXY dollars worth - a little evasive, my Deah.

During our teacher's absence the class had the pleasure of visiting the George Matthis Class on July 14 and was treated to excellent instruction by Frances Querry on July 21 and R. J. Massengill on July 30 in the "Attic."

~~JULY'S~~ OUTSTANDING SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON - W. L. (Mac) McLeod

All of the lessons for the month of July were very helpful, interesting, and worthy of our study. However, the lesson for July 8, "Christian Living in the Family," has been selected as the outstanding lesson. The memory verse sets the standard for Christian family living, "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32.

The lesson applies to us all in that we are members of a family group. We all share the pleasures and responsibilities of a family, be we parents or children. We see that the Christian family was used in the early days to spread the teachings of the Bible; we see the way of Christian living being handed on from family to family and from generation to generation.

Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, but we learn that he lived in the shelter of a family group. He was a carpenter's son. He had brothers and sisters. Jesus liked to visit in the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha after he began his teachings.

In this lesson it is emphasized that the Christian home is the place where Christian attitudes become instilled in the individual. Of the three chief agencies influencing the developing child (home, Church, and school), authorities generally agree that the home is of prime importance. Practice in the home gives depth of meaning to the teachings of the Church and Sunday School. Principles of Christian living taught through practice in the home prepare the individual to take his place in the world full of courage and unafraid.

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## THE QUESTION OF THE MONTH - Shaw Stephenson

The question of the month, "What effect do you think starting the Educational Building will have on the Building Fund?" was asked the following people and the following replies were received:

**RUSSELL BARRINGER** - "I feel that starting the building will make it much easier to collect pledges and will also induce those who have not pledged to do so. A building program of this kind will require the full support of all members and when the building gets under way, I believe this support will be given."

**MRS. GEORGE C. WHITE** - "I think it will definitely help and will make our people realize that they are going to get the new building. When they realize this, I am of the opinion that they will give more freely and funds necessary can be raised."

**PAUL HARRISON** - "Starting the building will definitely inspire our people to bring pledges up to date, and those who have not pledged will feel more obligated to do so and will respond more freely."

Many others were asked our question of the month and everyone questioned seemed to be generally of the same opinion. In other words, what we need now is action, so let's all get behind the building fund; give Frank Jarman, Russell Barringer, Dr. Henry Carr, and all the others who are doing so much to see that we get the much needed educational building our full support.

(Editor's Comment: We're not surprised at the agreement on this vital question. A year's free subscription to Attic Antics goes to Louise Johnson for submitting the question this month. Please give Attic Antics some suggestions for later issues. Place in the box in the "Attic" or submit through any George Matthis member.)

## RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES AT FONTANA - Preson P. Phillips

The Sunday School Superintendent, having been away from Durham for the last two Sundays, will have to talk about his visit to Fontana Dam in Western North Carolina - not about the dam, which is one of the largest in the world, but about the religious life of Fontana Village; which is located about two miles from the dam. This village, made up of small houses, located all over the hill sides, with paved roads, was built for workmen while the dam was being constructed - and has now been converted into a resort center - the type of place you would hardly expect to find people very much interested in Church and Sunday School. However, it is the home of Rev. Wade C. Smith, who is creator of "The Little Jets" which appear in the Sunday School Times each week with a lesson from the Bible by Rev. Smith.

Rev. Wade C. Smith is pastor of a non-denominational church at Fontana Village, and this church now holds its services in the moving picture theater, and its Sunday School in various rooms in the same building. The services are well attended by permanent residents of the village and by visitors from nearly every state in the nation. On last Sunday, by special request, Rev. Smith gave an illustrated talk on "The Prodigal Son," using his famous "Little Jet" pictures. He very interestingly told us that the prodigal son was not the boy in the New Testament fable - this boy returned to his father - but he was Cain in the Old Testament - the boy who never returned to his father, and who was cast out by God and was never to see God's face again.

On Sunday night Rev. Smith held vesper services on a high hill adjoining the dam and the lake - a portable organ furnished the music, and everyone sang. The service was very impressive - and again was attended by visitors from nearly every state. The visitors were asked to give a verse from the Bible starting with the initial letter of the name of the state they represented - and most of them were able to do this.

It is interesting to know that people love and serve God wherever you travel, and that they will welcome you to serve with them as a brother in Christ. It is hoped that wherever the members of our Sunday School and Church go this summer, they will take time on Sunday for the worship of our Father who provides all the good things of life.

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## THE JULY MEETING OF THE HALLIE POPE CLASS - Mary Lou Carr

On a sultry July evening (the 17th) the Hallie Pope Class met in the fan-cooled living room of Lucille Barbour with Elizabeth Carty as co-hostess. To the rythm of the large electric fan, tongues wagged and business was discussed by the few members present. Upon the meeting's being called to order by the President, Janie Baker, Ruby Kirkland gave a devotional based on a sermon from Peter Marshall's book - these sermons are so down to earth and "good for what ails you" that one can forget any physical discomfort, such as heat, when listening to one being read and discussed. Ruby closed with some apt remarks and the reading of a prayer from the same book.

The business discussion resulted in:

1. The class voting to cooperate with the Sunday School by increasing the class contribution on Sunday mornings; the excess amount to be used for the building fund.

2. Instead of each group promoting a separate project as heretofore, the class as a whole decided to adopt a ten-year-old blind girl to clothe. The little girl is a native of Durham and will enter the State School for the Blind in Raleigh in September. We hope to have her visit the class before she leaves, and we want all of you to meet her.

Following business, the hostesses served a delicious and cooling lime sherbet with cookies and nuts. Some unusual rattling of paper in the rear of the house proved

to be "Luscious Luther" getting assorted candies ready to pass - not content with eating a dignified portion, each member was allowed to wrap up and take home a sufficient quantity. One member, with sparkling brown eyes, whose initials are L. W. actually had a box of emblem candy - hatchet, saw, file, etc. - presumably to take it to her husband - sounds like second childhood to me.

The social hour came to an abrupt close (after the guests had devoured all refreshments) and the class adjourned to pay respects to Uncle John and Aunt Martha, who were celebrating their Golden Wedding that day.

Absent members, be present at the next meeting - you miss fun and we miss you.

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#### NEWS FROM OUR YOUNGER FELLOWS IN THE BASEMENT - Louise Johnson

The folks in the basement have their eyes on the new addition that everyone is talking about these days. They should be interested too; much of this will be classrooms equipped for the children and young folks, and will have surroundings which allow better work and study conditions on Sunday mornings.

The NURSERY, BEGINNERS, and PRIMARY departments are well into this quarter of Sunday School study. All received invitations and many attended the family picnic sponsored by the College and Career Class. Many of the youngsters have had trips, visits, and picnics in their own family circles and we hope that everyone has enjoyed these summer jaunts - the class misses you when you're absent.

The BEGINNERS have had Mrs. T. F. Wolfe of Nashville, Tennessee, as Bible story teller for the summer months. Ann Wolfe is a pupil in the department while they are visiting Mrs. Fred Wolfe on Urban Avenue.

The JUNIORS will have Betty Parks assisting each Sunday while the Bob Blakes are away vacationing.

This Reporter has enjoyed visiting the basement for two months - good luck!

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#### REVEREND BENNETT VACATIONING IN AUGUST

We will miss our "Bill" these Sunday mornings (and everyday) during August, but part of our loss will be the gain of the "homefolks" for he is going to tell them about it at the First Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Georgia, for two services. We that the plans of the Bennett family will "work out" and a wonderful trip will be had by all through the Great Smokies, the home state, and Florida.

Bill has thoughtfully arranged the following strong schedule of supply for our pulpit during his absence:

- August 5 - Dr. Charles McRae, Hampden - Sidney College, Hampden - Sidney, Va.
- August 12 - Dr. Bernard Boyd, Professor of Religion, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C.
- August 19 - The Service will be in charge of the Gideon Bible Society.
- August 26 - Dr. Norman Gibbs, Duke University, Durham, N. C.

## FUN AT CAMP NEW HOPE, THE FAMILY PICNIC - Lucille Petrea

The picnic at New Hope Camp for the families of Trinity Avenue was a real success. We all knew from "Nina's News" what the plans were - now we know the results and they are all good.

The weather was fine, swimming was nice, and games were held for all ages. Bo Harris seemed to be the top man in horseback pitching. Jimmy Martin was both star player and cheering section for the softball game. Mrs. Nan Kirkland proved to be the champion guesser of beans in the jar. The scavenger hunt created much interest and excitement. Everybody was scurrying around asking, "Where is Tossie?" When finally found, everyone who played was declared a winner. The very young children played ball, croquet, relays, and had their own sets in folk games.

Those of you who were present need not be reminded of the abundance of food; there was a grand variety, deliciously prepared, and attractively arranged. Everything was just wonderful.

The evening would not have been complete without the folk games that followed the eating. Vernon Johnson did a swell job in leading this part of the fun.

We missed many of our people but our best guess is that about 300 were there to join in the festivities. Others have estimated from 200 to 300 in attendance.

Congratulations to our Young People and College and Career Class who, with Nina and Mr. Bennett, had everything so well planned and made our second annual church picnic a big success. We are all looking forward to next year for a repeat occasion.

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## MRS. VIRGINIA W. OLDHAM PASSES

Friends of Mrs. Virginia Winifred Oldham were grieved to learn of her passing Saturday, July 28, in Greensboro at the home of her sisters-in-law, Misses Mary and Jane Oldham, where she had been visiting for several weeks. Funeral services were conducted from Hall-Wynne Funeral Chapel in Durham by the Rev. William Crompton Bennett, at 11 o'clock Monday, July 30.

Mrs. Oldham was a member of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church and very active in church work until failing health. She was a charter member of the N. C. Association of Nurses, a charter member of the Durham Parent-Teacher Association, and was active in child welfare activities in Durham.

Born in Wilmington December 8, 1876, Mrs. Oldham came to Durham shortly after her marriage to Luther Clegg Oldham December 26, 1906. She is survived by two sons, George W. Oldham of our George Watts Bible Class and Anderson M. Oldham of Buies Creek; and two grandchildren, Bobby and Anne Oldham, both of Durham. Deepest sympathy is extended the members of the bereaved family.

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## FRANCES QUERRY ACCEPTS POSITION WITH NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Trinity Avenue and especially the George Matthis Bible Class will miss Frances Querry who has been so active with us during her sojourn in Durham. Frances has accepted the position of Director of Program Coordination with the National Council of Churches with headquarters in New York City. After September 1, her address will be 297 Fourth Ave., New York 10, New York.

For a number of years Frances has been Executive Director of the North Carolina

Council of Churches with headquarters at Duke University, traveling extensively in this state directing the affairs of the Council. Recently her pet hobby has been coordinating a program of religious activities for migratory farm laborers. Prior to her work with the N. C. Council of Churches, Frances taught Bible at Durham High School.

During August and prior to going to New York, Frances plans to visit "The Lost Colony" and "The Common Glory" as well as spend some time at her home in Charlotte (1600 Providence Road).

We understand that this new position entails considerable travel. We wish her goodspeed and hope that she finds her way back to Durham. Let Attic Antics be hearing, Frances.

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PLANS FOR PARKING LOT TO REAR OF TRINITY NEARING COMPLETION - Pote Petrea

Plans are complete for finishing approximately seventy-five per cent of our parking lot. When finished, it will accommodate forty-eight cars. The George Watts Bible Class and individuals are financing the grading and surfacing for this project. Grading has already begun. Entrance to the lot will be from Minerva and Gregson with exit entirely on Minerva.

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BRIEF ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

The special collection for Flood Relief under the auspices of the American Red Cross and through appeal of the President will be continued in this church through Sunday, August 5. Containers for contributions will be in the vestibule.

The mother of Mrs. Tess Woods continues ill at her home in Pink Hill. Friends are pulling for her early improvement and eventual recovery.

MRS. ANNIE CARR, MRS. GERTRUDE WHITE, and MRS. J. G. LLOYD represented the women of the Church at a conference in Montreat recently.

VERNON JOHNSON attended the Leadership Conference at Montreat July 9 - 12, and represented the Men of the Church there at their annual conference July 13 - 15.

MRS. AGNES SKILLEN and daughter, MALISSA, are visiting in Pennsylvania. They will be joined later by BOB SKILLEN before returning to Durham. MRS. NORMAN GIBBS will serve as organist for our church during the absence of Mrs. Skillen.

Everyone has been delighted to have JIMMY MARTIN back with us for several days during the latter part of July. Jimmy is in the United States Navy.

MARIAN and PAUL KIMES had a wonderful time visiting Marian's family in Nashville, Tennessee, during July.

The BOB BLAKES are leaving Thursday, Aug. 2, for the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania (to paint a picture for Attic Antics maybe). Later they go to Crescent Beach, S.C.

Several have spoken of the interesting "play backs" FRANCES JARMAN has been picking over WDNC of the interesting places along their Canadian vacation tour.

Congratulations to the JOHN FULTONS of Vance Apartments; its a boy, John Fulton, III; born Thursday morning, July 26.

Noted in HANDS, a publication by the N. C. Ministry to Migrants, that George of this Class had donated \$30.21 to the cause.

\*\*\*\*\* Thanks to all from Attic Jim\*\*\*\*\*