Attic Antics

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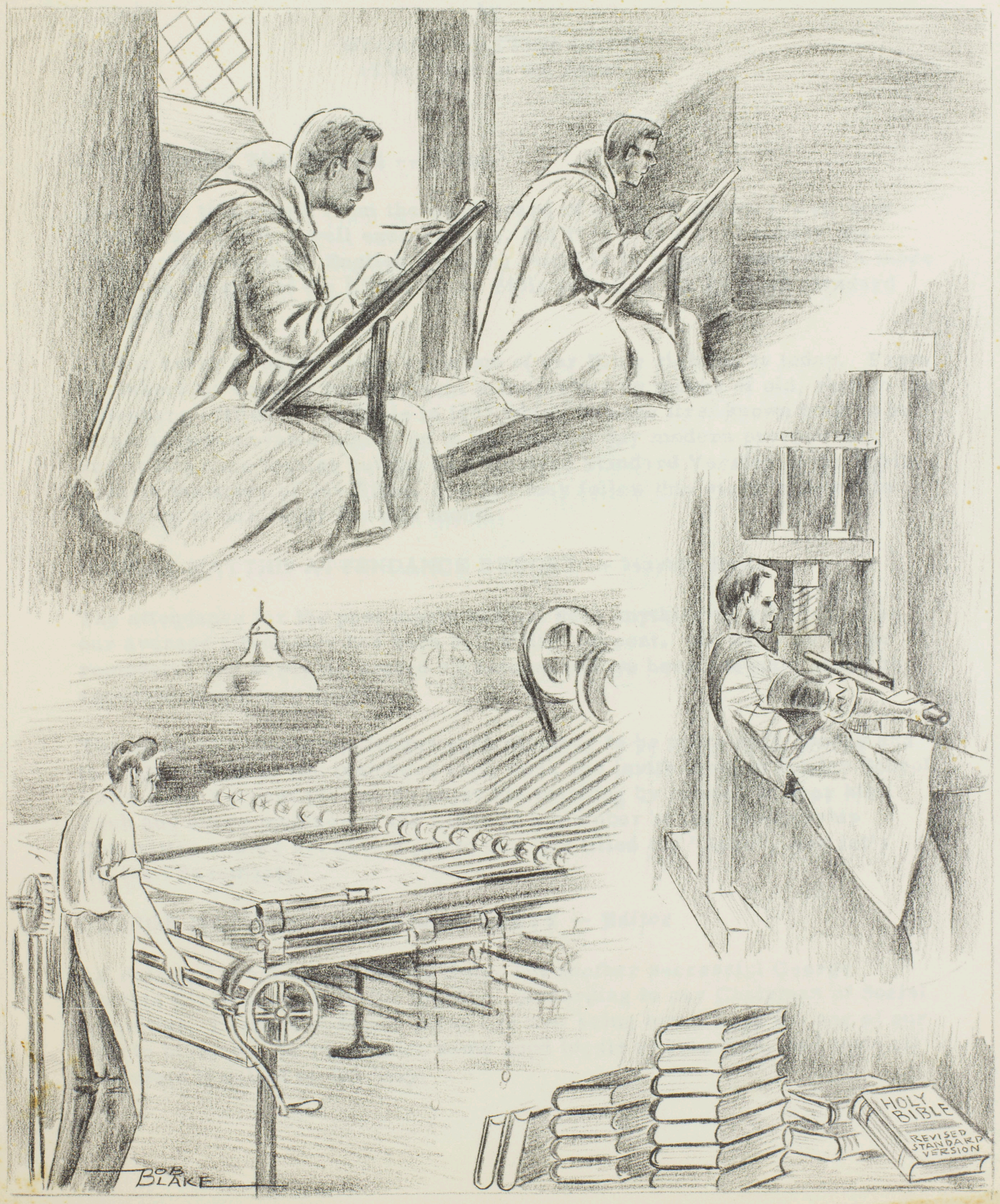

A T T I C A N T I C S

Vol. VI, No. 12, October 1952
Published at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church
Durham, North Carolina
by
GEORGE MATTHIS CLASS
(The Class in the Attic)

CONCERNING THE COVER -- Editor

Our cover this month from the work board of our well known artist, Bob Blake, is not only a well executed one, but it is also a very timely one. This month the whole English speaking world is to be presented with a more accurate version of the Bible. This Bible is called the Revised Standard Version.

On our cover is depicted the evolution of our Bible right up to today. From the laborious copying from ancient manuscripts by monks of old, then to the Gutenberg edition of the Bible in 1455 which was the first known book to be printed from movable types, up to the present day modern presses that are at this time turning out the new Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Such is the story of our Bible, and you may follow this story in detail by referring to our cover for this month.

GEORGE MATTHIS ATTENDANCE REPORT -- Mayton Betts

The attendance for the past month has not been anything to write about as our average attendance has been below fifty percent. We are now in our remodeled and newly decorated classroom and we have adequate space to accommodate every member.

The class as a whole challenges each member to be there each Sunday and to contact at least two members each week and invite them to Sunday School. Let's show Forrest that we do enjoy his teaching by coming to hear him. Each and every member of the Class is a member of the Membership Committee and we all have a job to do. We filled the "Attic", now let's fill the "Basement."

GEORGE MATTHIS CLASS PLANS PARTY -- Editor

All details are not known at this time, but another successful George Matthis Class party is in the making. According to our Chairman of Social Activities, Frances Jarman, plans are now being formulated for one of our best in history. Be ready with some good ideals of your own, and let's all cooperate if called on for help.

GEORGE MATTHIS CLASS LOSES TEACHER -- Paul Kimes

Everyone knows that the George Matthis Class is most fortunate, or was most fortunate in having two teachers. Although we hate to lose a teacher, we are glad that he is going to take over a group that needs and will appreciate his teaching and instruction. We feel the loss of who could it be but Charlie Vail? We are glad that we can share our good fortune with another class, the Young Adult Class. Our everpresent Forrest Callahan has a double duty to perform. He is teacher and editor as well. Good luck and God's blessing on Charlie in his new undertaking. May his new class grow in number, and wisdom in Christian fellowship and service to God and His Church.

GEORGE MATTHIS CLASS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS -- Sara Harrison

Mrs. Burt Gerritsen, 2301 Prince Street and Mrs. Fairfax Montague, 826 Louise Circle, are our new members. We are mighty glad to welcome them to our class.

NEWS FROM HALLIE POPE CLASS -- Mary Lou Carr

The Hallie Pope Class refuses to be denied recognition in this publication, and even though for two months we have been promising to "start off with a bang" our expected explosion did not coincide with publication date of this paper. Give us until next month for further and complete details.

REPORT FROM GEORGE WATTS CLASS -- Fuller Walker

Luther Barbour, one of our faithful teachers, was recently presented a scroll by our class for over thirty years of teaching in our Sunday School. The presentation was made by Buck Kirkland at the opening exercises of our Sunday School. Luther got a very nice and long write up in the Durham Sun and from the looks of the expression on their faces, he and Buck were very much pleased. We are proud to have such a man in our church.

We celebrated our new classroom Friday night, October 10th, by cooking a Benjamin donated by Oscar Bowden which was enjoyed by all. The supper was served by wives of Sunday School members. There were thirty-two present, all ate hardy of Oscar's Benjamin supper.

George Watts Class had a very busy month. Well we are finally in our new classroom, and it is a nice one, too. We are really going to enjoy such a nice environment. The walls are of soft green color which will be easy on the eyes, and the ceiling has sound absorbing material, thereby reducing interference from outside, also keeps one's voice from bouncing around and our teachers and speakers will be much easier to listen to. Two modern folding doors have been installed to allow larger quarters when opened. With such a nice place to meet and good teachers, our attendance should climb and climb. Thanks to Russell Barringer for such a good job.

Well, Lin Collins is back home after right much travelling over the country. He had a little hard luck down east (in the vicinity of Morehead) on a recent trip. He ate some bad food and was ill for two days. He says the weather is rough and cold up in the mountains, too.

Speaking of the sick, Claude Goswick is home and back on the job after a stay in the hospital. Rosa Lee Beavers, the wife of our secretary, Irvin Beavers, is back at home after an operation. We are glad to know that these people are doing so well.

NEW CLASS FORMED IN "ATTIC" -- Charlie Vail

New occupants have moved into the "Attic" classroom. Small in numbers but strong in enthusiasm, the members of the YOUNG ADULTS CLASS have taken it over and have accepted Dr. Henry's challenge to build up a membership that will eventually overflow the room.

I considered it both a privilege and a challenge to accept Dr. Henry's invitation to teach this group, for it is in many ways the most important class of the Adult Department. From this class will come many of our Deacons, Elders, and other church leaders of tomorrow. Into it should go many of the young men and women of college and early career age, as well as the young married couples who wish to attend a class together and yet feel themselves to be too young for the George Matthis Class. I have found those who are in it to be alert and interested, always ready to pitch into the discussions with ideas of their own

At present we are temporarily digressing from the International lessons in order to re-examine and to re-evaluate our basic religious concepts. Through this process we hope to replace any immature concepts that may have remained with us from childhood with a mature Christian philosophy that can serve as a basis for adult living in the modern world.

If you know of anyone between the ages of 18 and 30 who does not already have a Sunday School affiliation, we'd appreciate your sending him up to our "Attic" on Sunday mornings. We'll know what to do with him from there.

NEWS OF THE DEPARTMENTS -- Helen Kraybill

Nursery - Mrs. Rambeau. New members for the past month include Betsy Anderson, Joe Brown, and Eric George. Mrs. Rambeau and Mrs. Blanchard attended the training school held in Raleigh on October 7th.

Beginners - Mrs. Bussell. The boys and girls have just finished a unit titled "Learning and Growing" during which they compared their own physical growth to that of Jesus. The nine who were promoted were measured to record their growth during their years in the department. Little books with their records and pictures were given to each child promoted. Flowers were brought to welcome back Mr. Bennett on his first Sunday after vacation.

There were so many that some were taken to four sick people. Nine new members were received from the Nursery.

Primary - Mrs. Petrea. Sara Maloney is now a regular teacher in the department and has the first grade class. Seventeen were promoted and nine new members received on Rally Day. Three girls of the department received New Testaments for learning the Catechism. They are Patty Wilson, Donna Kimes, and Doris Petrea. One teacher attended training school in Raleigh. Mrs. Paul Gamble, Department Superintendent at First Church, visited last Sunday for an exchange of ideas and methods.

Juniors - Mr. Blake. On Rally Day fourteen were promoted and seventeen new members received. Mary Ellen Estill is a new member as teacher of one of the 4th grade classes. Lasty Sunday a reception was held for new comers and parents in the department. About 35 persons attended. Carol Kimes received a new testament for learning the Catechism.

Pioneers - Mrs. Vail. Fourteen new members received on Rally Day. The topic of study for several Sundays has been "God Speaking Through the Bible." Everyone in the department wants to say thank you to Mrs. Parks for her fine job as the summer superintendent. Mrs. Setzer has joined the department as a regular teacher.

Young People - Mrs. Hassell. The regular teacher has been away for the past three Sundays. The first Sunday the class met with Charlie Vail's Young Adults. Helen Kraybill was substitute teacher for the other sessions.

Adults - Dr. Henry Carr. The George Watts Class had a supper on Friday night. It is hoped that more of the 120 men on the church membership that should be in this class can be interested in becoming active. In the same way there are couples that should fit into the George Matthis class or others who might be active in the other adult classes. Our efforts will be to bring every possible adult into Sunday School so that they may be a real part of the church and enjoy being informed and active thereby helping both the church and the individual. The entire adult department is to share and take part in a Home Coming in the near future with Lawrence Dixon of Brevard as guest speaker.

OBSERVATIONS - Preson P. Phillips, Supt.

In the Bible we are told to "Be still and know that I am God," and we go so hard and so fast in our daily lives that we frequently forget to do this. I think that often the Lord takes things in his own hands and makes us stop whether we want to or not -- and so it was his will that I spend sixteen days in bed at Duke Hospital last month, with instructions from the doctor to be still, and with plenty of time to think about my relationship to our Father in Heaven.

I want to again thank all of my friends for the flowers, cards, visits, and other expressions of their regard for me, but most of all for the prayers on my behalf, I feel sure that all of these helped in my speedy recovery.

With plenty of time on my hands at the hospital I made an attempt to "take stock" of my efforts as a child of God. I think this is what he wanted me to do -- and discovered that even though I had been a member of a church for more than 50 years, had taught and worked in a Sunday School for most of this period, and had been an Elder in the Presbyterian Church for more than 25 years--judged by God's standards, I would still have no reason to expect to hear God say to me "Well done thou good and faithful servant".

God tells us that we must first surrender our lives to him--and that then a christian must "Grow in Grace." In order to do this we must first know what God requires of us--and this we learn from study of the Bible, or get it second hand from some teacher. Next we must ask God for strength to do his will - not once a week - but daily - because no human being - in his own strength can resist the wiles of the devil. Finally, we must grow in grace by telling others about our wonderful Saviour and the salvation he offers to sinners.

The Sunday School will give you a place to study the Bible and learn God's will for your life. Fifteen or twenty minutes spent in prayer each day before God's throne will provide the necessary strength to enable you to live a Christian life - but to really grow in grace, you must not only be willing but anxious to tell others about the love of Jesus Christ.

May we all start out our new Sunday School year resolved that we will grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ - so that we can be sure that some day we will hear our Father say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." I, personally covet the constant prayers of all God's children, that I may have wisdon to know God's will, and strength to do it.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH - Mrs. C. C. White, Jr.

On Monday, September 15th, at 12:00 noon, the Women of the Church met in the Ladies Parlor with 37 members and two visitors present. A delicious luncheon prepared and served by Circle #3, Mrs. Charles Knott, Chairman, was enjoyed by all. The business session followed.

Mrs. A. L. Foster, President, called the meeting to order. Rev. William C. Bennett, presented the devotional message from the 6th chapter of Deuteronomy. Mrs. Bruce Umstead, Chairman of Religious Education, was in charge of the program. She introduced Dr. Thomas A. Schafer, Professor in the Graduate Department of Religion at Duke University, who spoke on "The Function of Higher Christian Education."

FROM THE MINISTER: For October

Two important events for the whole Church occur during this month. The first is the long-awaited publication of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. You will remember that some time ago the New Testament section of this translation appeared and many of you already have that much of it. Now the Old Testament is also ready, and it is being bound either separately or with the New Testament in one volume, and you can purchase it either way at the local book-sellers. Some 91 men have worked since around 1937 on this monumental task. You will find it a faithful translation in readable and understandable American English. Though you will never put aside your King James of 1611, you will find refreshment and new enlightenment here. For your own good and that of your family, there is no better investment in books.

The second event of the month is an annual one, WORLD-WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY, to be celebrated this coming Sunday morning here in our Church. As this day dawns around the earth, Christians will gather to celebrate the Lord's Last Supper with his disciples. It is a moment when we feel our unity with God in Christ, and so our unity as a worshiping congregation and our oneness with all Christians everywhere who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Unlike other denominations who hold Communion more frequently, Presbyterians observe the Sacrament only quarterly. Therefore, it is of the greatest importance that you make an honest effort to be present with the members of your family. Explain to your children the significance of the Day and of the Sacrament itself, what it can mean to all of us.

Communion cards are being mailed out early this week. Be certain to bring yours with you and place it in the offering plate that the Church may keep an accurate record of Communion attendance. If you should not receive one, call the Church office between nine and one before Saturday that we may correct our mailing list. Every communing member of the Church should be on this role. If you should forget yours on Sunday, then use another card in the pew to let us know of your presence as an active participant.

Members will be received into the Church on this day, October 5, and also on the following Sunday. If you know of others who want to unite with the Church at this time, please call the office or the Minister at home.

The doors of our Church are open doors.... to all who sincerely wish it as their Church home.

AN APPEAL TO ALL CHURCH MEMBERS - Editor

Tuesday, November 4, marks a very important date in the future of our country. As many of you know this is Election Day. It has been stated before that we have no desire to see Church and State united, nor do we wish to see political strife within the confines of the Church. We are, however, extremely concerned over the selection of the right type of men and women to fill our public offices. What type could be better qualified than those with a proven record of Christian living?

It has often been stated that politics have become too corrupt for decent people to participate. If this be true, then we have only ourselves to blame. It is our opinion, that it is our Christian duty to take an active interest in affairs of state. It is not only a privilege to be able to vote, but it is a responsibility that we must not shirk if we are to remain a free people.

NEWS REPORTER - Tessie Woods

There is an old saying that Mohammed couldn't get the mountain to come to him so he went to the mountain. Well, the G-M Class pulled a switch on the old story last week. The "Attick" went to the basement last Sunday. The surroundings are a bit bare but it is the understanding of this reporter that the latest appointments will be added to the newly redecorated room in the very near future. The "drapery" committee has completed its job and now there is a need for a "Furnishing" committee to get to work and spruce up the place.

Congratulations to Elaine and Forrest Callahan, Baby Girl, Gaylor Forrest, born September 16, 1952. Baby weighed in at 8 lbs. 1 oz. Another boy for Margaret and William McLeod born October 9, 1952.

We were sorry to learn of the departure of Willie and Jean Kyser to Asheville. Our prayers go with them and our wishes for a complete recovery for Willie who has been quite ill.

Wha hoppen to all the peeples wut uster be in the cheers evry Sunday mo'nin in the Gawge Mattis klas??? No kiddin', where are y'all. Time was when our attendance averaged between 40 and 50 per Sunday. For the last few weeks between 20 and 30. Is it too much football on Saturday afternoon. Too much on Saturday night ??? Or are our feelings hurt by the "young adult" class. We have the best teacher in the Trinity Ave. Sunday School. Good fellowship with wonderful guys and gals. A nice warm room for our class and yet our attendance has dropped. Let's take stock of ourselves and examine our own loyalty. Ask yourself these questions: Have I been going to Sunday School REGULARLY?? How can I serve Christ at home on Sunday morning ?? See you next Sunday.

CHUCKLE BOX - Editor

For more definitions along the same lines we have been publishing in past issues we find the following.

Classical Music - Music you can't whistle and wouldn't if you could.

Clever Girl - One who knows how to refuse a kiss without being deprived of it.

Coal - A purchase which goes not only to the buyer, but to the cellar.

College-bred - A four year loaf, made with father's dough.

Things are really tough all over. It has been noted in the news that a preacher in a distant community has opened a barber shop in the parsonage. What a golden opportunity, a sharp razor in hand, to convince a man he should attend church more regularly.

JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP - Marian Kimes

At the regular Sunday night meeting of the Junior Fellowship, October 12th, the following officers were electdd.

President - Roger Blanchard
Vice-President - Helen Vail
Secretary - Bobby King
Assistant Secretary - Judy Jarman
Treasurer - David Simpson
Assistant Treasurer - Rebecca Petrea

The Junior Fellowship will have a Halloween Party on Friday, October 24th, in the basement of the church from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. There will be games and refreshments. This is to be a costume party.

(Editors Note. This month "Attic Antics" is about two weeks late going to press. Due to the excitement of your editor becoming a father for the second time, also his extended out of town trips for the past month, it has been suggested that these are merely escapes from the responsibilities and clamor of the nursery, some of our news may be stale. Forgive us, we shall attempt to be on time in the future).

Many thanks to Helen Compton for typing the entire issue.