

Attic Antics

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BOB BLAKE

A T T I C A N T I C S

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Durham, North Carolina

by

George Matthis Class
(The Class formerly in the Attic)

CONCERNING THE COVER - Bob Blake, Artist

This time, in Durham's Centennial year, we pay homage with grateful acknowledgment, to the past generations for the Christian heritage handed down to us here at Trinity Avenue.

Our cover symbolizes the Christian influence the founding fathers had in establishing churches which are carrying on the Lord's Work today.

DURHAM PRESBYTERIAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL A SUCCESS - Edward S. Kraybill, Dean of the School

In spite of numerous conflicting functions, including rehearsals for the Durham Centurama, the recent Durham Presbyterian Leadership School was considered successful in a number of respects.

As the second attempt at what is expected to be an annual affair, the school this year experienced an attendance which far surpassed that of last year. A total of 116 different persons from the six participating Durham churches attended at least one session of the School. Trinity Avenue, the host institution, was represented by 39 different persons.

Among the persons in attendance there was considerable enthusiasm expressed regarding the nature of the three courses available and the excellent manner in which all of the material was presented. Moreover, many persons enjoyed the opportunity of meeting fellow Durham Presbyterians, and there developed very quickly a high degree of group spirit.

Trinity Avenue was represented on the Board of Administration of the School by Rev. Bennett, Mrs. P. M. Bussell, Edward K. Kraybill, Preson P. Phillips, Charles R. Vail, and L. R. Shaw. Rev. Bennett also served as Chairman of the committee which planned a

(Continued)

short worship service for each night, and he personally lead the worship service the first night of the school. Mrs. B. C. Bennett and Mrs. Henry Carr contributed their talents to the School by playing the piano during the worship service. Leo Shaw performed triple service by serving also as Treasurer of the School and as Chairman of the local committee on arrangements. Charlie Vail doubled by adding local publicity to his duties. J. C. Petrea was the Registrar for Tinity Avenue and Mrs. Bruce Umstead was Chairman of the Committee on Registration.

The School was in session two hours each night, for five nights, April 20-24. Dr. Price H. Gwynn, Jr., of Flora Macdonald College, taught "The Purpose and Program of the Church"; Dr. Thomas A. Schafer, of Duke Divinity School, taught "Selective Bible Study: The Revelation", and Mrs. Edward A. Schettler, of Knoxville, taught "Ways of Teaching."

SEVENTH GRADE OF PIONEERS HAD A PARTY - Jane Shaw

Miss Castle's seventh grade of Pioneers had a party Saturday, April 18th. The group met at the Church at 5:00 and was taken out to Mr. Barringers' farm by Miss Castle, Mr. and Mrs. Kimes, and Mr. and Mrs. Shaw. We played softball and then we had a picnic supper. We started back for the Church at 8:00 o'clock. Everyone had a wonderful time.

JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP HAS ANNUAL PICNIC - Rebecca Petrea

On Saturday April 25 the Junior Fellowship, Mr. and Mrs. Kimes, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dorsey, James Martin, and Carol Kimes went to Crabtree State Park on a picnic.

All 22 of us piled in cars at 11:00 at the Church. At the park we ate hot dogs, hamburgers, and all the trimmings until we couldn't eat any more.

After lunch the boys with Mr. Martin, Mr. Dorsey, and Mr. Kimes, played ball while the girls with Mrs. Kimes and Mrs. Dorsey played games.

At 4:00 we came back and we all agreed that we had had a wonderful time, and that we all were looking forward to next year's picnic.

GEORGE MATTHIS TEACHERS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY:

May 3 - Forrest Callahan May 17 - Ed Higgins
May 10 - J. Frank Jarman May 24 - Mr. Bennett
May 31 - Forrest Callahan

FROM THE MINISTER... For May

"A Mother's Prayer"

Father in Heaven, make me wise,
So that my gaze may never meet
A question in my children's eyes,
God keep me always kind and sweet,

And patient, too, before their need;
Let each vexation know its place,
Let gentleness be all my creed,
Let laughter live upon my face!

A mother's day is very long,
There are so many things to do!
But never let me lose my song
Before the hardest day is through.

This coming Sunday is Mothers' Day. It is most appropriate that our special offering on this day should go to the Presbyterian Home for the Aged at High Point, N.C.. If by the time you read this, you have not already made your offering, be certain to mail it in to the Church office marked for the Home.

It is also a fitting day in which the Memorial to Mrs. Oldham is to be presented to the Church. A loyal member of our congregation for many years, she was most interested in the Home at High Point, and it was through her direct influence that the first offering was received here in this Church which helped make the start of this Home possible. Because of her insight into the need and her enthusiasm, our Church gained a lasting interest in the work.

Mrs. L. C. Oldham was born in Wilmington December 8, 1876, the daughter of the late Alex and Anne Oldham. She was a charter member of the North Carolina State Nursing Association. She was a charter member of the Durham Parent-Teacher Association. She was active in child welfare. She was president of the Women of this Church and was active in Presbytery and Synod work. She was a woman of great Christian grace and Christ-like bearing, possessing a staunch faith and a deep concern for the welfare of others. Her interest in the Church was true and honest without the slightest element of pretense or self-seeking. To know her was to have one's faith strengthened.

TRINITY AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Durham, North Carolina

April 30, 1953

Dear Fellow Parents:

The Session and the Diaconate of the Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church have authorized the Committee on Religious Education to establish a Weekday Cooperative Nursery School beginning in September 1953. The experience of other churches which have established such programs indicates that the spiritual life of the church has been significantly enriched through such an extension of its program into the weekdays.

The purpose of the School will be to meet a community need for pre-school educational facilities at a price that more families can afford, to provide children with a wholesome atmosphere for constructive play and learning under thoughtful supervision, and to inculcate Christian principles through the new opportunities that the School will present.

The School will be self-supporting as to staff, equipment, and supplies. First preference in enrollment will, of course, go to children from our church, although any vacancies in the quota will be available to friends of the church according to the date of application.

Details of the program follow:

- a. For children, age 3 and 4 years.
- b. Meetings either 2 or 3 morning per week, 9:00 - 12:00.
- c. Monthly fee approximately \$5.00 for 2 mornings per week or \$6.00 for 3 mornings per week.
- d. Directed by one paid, trained teacher, with mothers assisting in rotation (about once each month per mother).
- e. Detailed planning in the hands of a committee of mothers under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gurney Blanchard. The Committee on Religious Education functions in the capacity of a Education.

If you are interested in the possibility of enrolling your child or children, please write or telephone immediately to:

Mrs. Gurney R. Blanchard, Jr.
904 Monmouth Avenue
Durham, N. C.
(Telephone: 4-8392)

You will not be committed in any way by indicating your interest at the present time.

Yours very truly,

Charles R. Vail, Chairman,
Committee on Religious Education.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.... Frances Jarman

Just as President Eisenhower did, I feel humble and ask God's Guidance during this coming year, that our class may grow and prosper in doing His work at Trinity Avenue.

Committees must be appointed, and this year I feel that with these staunch and energetic members, we are certain to carry on in the established tradition of The George Matthis Class, that we will have one of the best years ever.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Frank Jarman, Chairman; L. R. Shaw; E. K. Kraybill; Helen Higgins.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: Kay Bell, chairman; Elizabeth Gerritsen; Julia Suitt; Tyree Woods.

PROJECTS COMMITTEE: Bill McLeod, Chairman; Jack Crumpacker; Vivian Walker; Paul Kimes.

WELCOME COMMITTEE: Ed Higgins, Chairman; H. W. Zinger.

ATTIC ANTICS: Dorothy and Stan Colvin, Co-Editors; Kenneth Compton.

The Membership Committee has a tremendous job, but plans are laid to improve the board system and to revise the roll, let's all do our part by making sure that we are present EVERY Sunday.

Kay Bell already has her Fellowship Committee working, with plans for a party this month of May. Needless to say, everyone is eager to see Kay's group get to work, we know the value of fellowship through social functions in the church.

Bill, our Veep, has for several years been in charge of many excellent projects for our class, and we know that he will soon have some new ideas ready for us.

A suggestion to Ed Higgins and his committee...how about our class buying some nice stationery and see that each visitor gets a note from us, expressing our thanks for being with us? How about a welcome for those new-members-to-be-someday...namely, G.M. Class Babies, too, for someone tells me the stork works pretty steadily on our payroll.

Dot and Stan and Kenneth need your help. It is no easy job to get a paper out each month, but you will enjoy every moment spent as a "crank", "licker" or "sticker", so PLEASE come down and help when you are asked.

We have many excellent members who for one reason or another, have drifted away from Trinity Avenue and our Class. There are others who should be approached and asked to visit with us... there are some who just can't come and whose names should be removed (for the time being) from our roll. Soooo...let's have a knock-down drag out good feud...the old Reds and the Blues sort of thing! Contest will begin Sunday, May 17th AND RUN THROUGH SUNDAY, July 26th.

Maude B etts is working on the roll list at present and Sunday May 10th will be the date sides will be chosen! Captain of the REDS, Frank Jarman, Captain of the BLUES, Paul Kimes! There will be ribbons to denote which is which, you will be informed as to your color, get in there and work for your team...as the losing team will have to give a picnic for the winners with the most points. There will be equal sides and a point grading system; 10 POINTS FOR EACH MEMBER PRESENT EACH SUNDAY; 25 POINTS FOR EACH OLD MEMBER RETURNED TO CLASS; 25 POINTS FOR EACH NEW MEMBER: 5 POINTS FOR EACH VISITOR. Score cards will be kept up to date and accurate, get on the winning team, and watch our class grow and grow! Let's show some action! In fact, let's have so many present each Sunday that we can easily drown out the George Watts' Class Coffee Clatch Noise, without even trying!

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT..... Preson P. Phillips, Gen. Supt.

The Junior Department is under the capable direction of Robert L. Blake - although most of us realize that Hilda - his very efficient wife does most of the work and really keeps things going - The two together have made this one of the most interesting and proficient departments of the Sunday School - and Hilda is perfectly willing that Bob have all the credit and visa versa.

The Junior Department occupies our "Junior Chapel" and uses four of the class rooms on the second floor of our new building. The teachers are exceptionally well prepared for guiding the religious thinking of this age group - and include Mrs. R. N. Barringer, Mrs. Kenneth Compton, Dr. Mary Ellen Estill, and of course Bob and Hilda. Mary Lou Carr is in charge of the music - With this array of capable Christians -you can understand why this department is really accomplishing things for the Lord.

But we were going to talk about Bob - whose full name is Robert Lincoln Blake. Bob was born in Pleasantville, N. J., and spent most of his boyhood in a small quaker town. Both of his parents were sincere Christians, and he was brought up in a home where Christ was known and loved. His mother today is a consecrated, experienced Christian whose influence is felt not only by her children but with all who come in contact with her.

When Bob was eight years old he gave his heart to the Lord - and at the age of ten renewed this committment and led two friends to be Christians. He feels that the influence of his Sunday School teacher during this period was an especially good influence on his Christian Life. Bob moved to Pennsylvania when of High School Age, and began teaching a Sunday School Class when he was 19 years old - and except for war years has taught in Sunday Schools throughout his entire life.

After graduating from High School, he worked as a fashion artist and photographer in Philadelphia, and attended night school, the Philadelphia Graphic Sketch Club. It took a war to bring Bob to Durham - because he was inducted into Civilian Public Service and stationed at Duke Hospital - where he got started in his Medical Art. He is now instructor of Medical Illustration in the Duke Medical School.

One of the most important events in Bob's life was, of course, his marriage in 1940 to Hilda who had completed her training as a Nurse at the time of the wedding, although Hilda and Bob had known each other during their high school days. There two children, Robin who is 8 and Janice who is 6 will always be found in Sunday School, Church, and at Prayer Meeting with their parents.

Bob and Hilda were drawn into Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church through the George Matthis Class, and the poor fellow has been almost worked to death making signs for the superintendent, illustrating "Attic Antics", making special certificates for special events, and many other things too numerous to mention - he just does not know how to say "NO". With all of this he still finds time to prepare "Chalk Talks" for the Junior Department, and to do the many other things required of a Superintendent of the Department. If you are a member of the church, and should have to spend some time in Duke Hospital, be sure to let Bob know that you are there - he will hang one or two of his beautiful pictures in your room and even cut your hair during his lunch hour - and Hilda will read the Bible to you - she does it so beautifully - in the Master's name.

Trinity Avenue is very fortunate to have this splendidly staffed department working to bring our Juniors to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ - we hope that the parents are offering encouragement and help. The home must work with the Church School to really accomplish results that will be pleasing to the Master.

DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.....Preson P. Phillips

Our daily vacation Bible School will be held from June 8 to June 19th so that it will not interfere with too many plans for vacations. This year we are very fortunate to have Ann Noell in charge - she is now in training at Assembly's Training School, but will work for us during the summer months. Mrs. Petrea has been busy trying to get together some teachers and helpers - and from the "out of city" excuses she has collected she is beginning to wonder if Durham will not be a rather deserted place. If you will be in Durham from June 8th to June 19th, and are willing to help in the Daily Vacation Bible School - will you please see or call Mrs. J. C. Petrea. There will be four departments in the school - Kindergarten - Primary - Junior and Pioneer - ages 4 to 14.

GEORGE MATTHIS PARTY

Get your baby sitters early! Get them all lined up for the big party taking place Saturday night May 30 at 7:00 o'clock in the downstairs Assembly Room. All the George Matthis teaching members are cordially invited and urged to join the fellowship. It's a covered dish supper with dessert and drinks furnished. Kay Bell, Heading the committee in charge, promise heap big SURPRISES, so don't miss the big event!!!!!!!!!!!!!! REMEMBER, Saturday May 30 at 7:00. Everyone plan to and do attend.

BULLETIN !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Frank Jarman announces that from henceforth and forever more his team of the George Matthis big contest about to begin MUST and WILL be known as the WHITES instead of Reds ----- no Communists, no influence, no doubts ----- Reds are now WHITES!!

HEARD OVER OUR PARTY LINE * A. Gossip

Soory to hear that Richard Barnes' mother has been feeling bad -- that's why Ruby Clair and Dick have been absent, visiting Mom in Greensboro ... Glad to meet Kay Bell's sister, Mrs. Roy Piner of Wilmington, here is wishing her son a speedy recovery. They tell me Forrest is getting love letters... well, letters, anyway, up in Winston from a Durham gal. Wonder who and why ????? Ed and Helen Higgins were both so pooped after a week of Centennial Celebrations and performances that Ed termed it "Centennial Weak". Did you know that Helen is about to graduate as a Nurses Aide? Congratulations, gal! Stan Colvin's Mother and Dad from Wolcott, N. Y. came down for the Centennial --- Pop with a beard, and Mom with a bonnet.... Sorry Elia Jones has been out of town and even visiting other churches --- here's hoping she will still find the path now to the basement and the George Matthis Class. Marian Kimes' mother from Chattanooga has been visiting her recently. Marian tells us she will be gone a great deal of this summer as her sister in dear old Tennessee is being married in June. Will miss Marian.... Incidentally, did you know that Marian and Frances Jarman were both born in Chattanooga and just one day apart??? Frances won't admit that Marian is one day younger! Called Faculty Apartments trying to get in touch with Elizabeth Mossis, and they say there is no one by that name registered there! Who can solve this puzzler????? Ed Shoaf's mother was in Durham recently visiting and enjoying those grandchildren of hers.... Agnes Skillen can now rest easy --- her recital came over very, very well, I hear That's quite some worker, Agnes, and ain't we proud of her,

too!!!! Hilda Tucker promises to give us a ~~xx~~
little of her outside activities and come to
Sunday School more often. Seems as if a body
can't pick up a paper these days without reading
of her being on another committee. Good worker, so
get to work in the class, too, please Ty
and Tess will soon have another shall I
say "houseWARMING" ? or would Ty prefer not to use
that word, as it was powerful WARM furing the fire!
. J. D. Shields takes every week end to visit
folks in Carthage. Will somebody please point all
signs reading "Carthage" across the street, and
heading towards our class, and perhaps he'll make i
over one Sunday then Thank goodness Irene
and Jim found where we are now meeting, now will
somebody write Jim a post card so he'll know to come
back???. Sorry to hear Shaw Stephenson has been
traveling of late. Hope he will return to Durham soon
to stay, and that the youngster will soon be old
enough for Trinity Ave. herself so that Ossie may be
with us again Joe Bell sure is going to look
differant when that beard comes off Kay has
threatened to pull it out, hair by hair with the
tweezers!! Glad Forrest and Elaine were back in
town Centennial week end.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This month ATTIC ANTICS is in the hands of new editors who have tried to bring you the church news and want to do better as each month comes around. Any suggestions and all news that should be in the paper are wanted. Give them to Stan or Dot Colvin, or phone us at 5-5198. Thanks.