

# Attic Antics

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PUBLISHED BY THE GEORGE MATTHIS CLASS  
TRINITY AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### ABOUT THE COVER

THANKSGIVING: Once a year we stop to think of all the blessings for which we are grateful to God. We are grateful first for our Church and all that it means to us. We are grateful for the faithful members of our Church who give so willingly and freely that God's word may be spread and made possible to us. This thought prompted our artist, Bob Blake, to depict two of our own George Matthis Class members for whom we are truly grateful. We are inspired to think of the Chorus of the hymn--- "Count your Blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, See what God hath done. Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings, See what God hath done."

### MR. WALTER BENJAMIN \*\*\*\*\* JOINS STAFF:

Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church is very fortunate in now having an assistant to the Pastor in the very capable Mr. Walter W. Benjamin.

Both Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin are natives of Minnesota. Mr. Benjamin was graduated from Hamlin University, at St. Paul and Garrett Theological Seminary at Evanston, Ill. He is now in Graduate School at Duke, working on a Ph. D. in Church History.

Mrs. Benjamin was graduated from the University of Minnesota as a Home Economics Major. They are the proud parents of a 2 month old daughter, Barbara Anne. The Benjamins are now residing at H-3A, University Apts.

### PRIMARY DEPARTMENT ON T V ----- Stan Colvin

Thursday Evening October 29, 1953 the Primary Department under the Supervision of Bob Blake, presented a closed circuit T V program over W D N C T V. Approximately 40 parents and friends witnessed the program and all agreed both the studio and Department did an excellent job.

It depicted a typical Sunday morning opening exercise. The program opened with two hymns by the entire Department, followed by a Prayer by one of the class members. Collection was taken and then a contest between the boys and girls in finding Biblical Verses.

Bob sketched a seaside scene and followed with an excellent moral of how each of us should be more like an artist and try to "paint" our life without mistake, for once made they are difficult to correct.

The program closed with another hymn.

We hope before too long, such programs over WNC will not have to be on a closed circuit, but available to every home.

### ROBERT IRVAN WHITE

Robert Irvan White—born June 26, 1922 in Charlotte, N. C.— born in a Manse (ARP) which his parents were renting at the time. Baptized with water from the River Jordan (the Pastor had just returned from a trip to the Holy Land). The Whites moved to Durham in 1925 and began attending Trinity Ave. Presbyterian Church. Bob joined the Church about 1934. He attended Watts Street School, was graduated from Durham High in 1941. He was a student at Duke one month when drafted in October 1942. Spent 3½ years as a Pharmacy Technician in the Army Medical Department; also did Special Service work (radio, entertainment) in the Army. After discharge, he entered UNC, receiving an AB in Religion in 1951.

His call to the ministry had early beginnings (could being born in a Manse be prophetic?) but was not culminated until his senior year in college while he was having to spend a Winter in Florida because of his health. During his training at Columbia Seminary he has served as Young Peoples Worker at Granada Presbyterian Church in Coral Gables, Florida; as Pastor of Trion Presbyterian Church, Trion, Ga.; as Pastor, this Summer, of the newly organized Venice-Nokons Presbyterian Church in Venice, Florida. He has been asked to return to the Venice Church when he finishes Seminary this coming November, and it is probable that he will do so.

(This is the 3rd of a series of articles under the cooperation of Mr. Bennett, Mrs. L. R. Shaw and parents of the young people whom we write about. These young people of our Church have decided to devote their lives and careers to Christian Education.)

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered on last Sunday to Barbara Anne Barr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Barr, Carolyn Rachel Kirkland and David Joseph Kirkland, children of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. B. Kirkland, Jr. and David Norman Stephenson and Anna Marie Stephenson, children of Mr. and Mrs. Shaw T. Stephenson, and Miss Mary Barbara Briggs, and Miss Carolyn Louise Briggs, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Briggs, Jr.

A DEBT-FREE BUILDING FOR MR. BENNETT

On Sunday, October 3, Mr. Bennett celebrated his Fifth Anniversary as Minister of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church. To make the occasion a memorable one, the George Matthis Bible Class, the Men Bible Class, and a number of our church's members made up a fund of \$1300.00 with which to retire the mortgage on the new Education Building.

Mr. Bennett was made aware of this gesture just before he entered the pulpit on that Sunday morning, and he in turn made the good news known to the congregation.

Realizing that we have just about outgrown the new building, it would be well for us to begin to make plans toward completing the structure. It might take some sacrificing here and there, but that would certainly be worthwhile since we seem to be growing rapidly, and the added facilities would bring about the advancement of God's work in the community our church serves.

The budget committee announced recently that \$1800.00 had been set up in the 1954 budget for the Building Fund. This is a step in the right direction, since everyone who contributes to the general fund of the Church would have a part in the building fund under this arrangement. It wouldn't hurt to go in debt to some extent in order to get the building completed, and it is the belief of a number of our members that if we did borrow the money it wouldn't be too hard to pay it off. Most certainly, it would give us something to be working on and in the opinion of many it would make us work closer together in the months to come.

Members should make their wishes known to the Session and Diaconate, and if there is enough sentiment in favor of going ahead with this effort, machinery would be put in motion to again expand our Church School facilities.

GEORGE MATTHIS ATTENDANCE CONTEST.....Helen Higgins

Oh Boy!! The WHITES are rolling their big brown eyes at the prospects of that luscious turkey(?) dinner which the blues (and I do mean BLUES) will more than likely have to cook and serve around Thanksgiving time. They've almost made out the menu in anticipation of all that fine food.

I can't help but wonder if turn about isn't fair play? Yet, being a member of said BLUE team, I might remind those "droolers" of that old proverb of "A turkey on the plate is worth two in the bush", and we ain't give up yet!

So.....for the WHITES.....keep going! Keep counting those points time and time again...drag in all the visitors you can.....but the BLUES will be working just as hard or more so, and we'll even bring our mothers-in-laws if necessary to make up extra points. Seriously though, this contest has brought back many members to our class who had dropped out. It has shown the new class members how active we are, and through this increased activity, has made us conscious of the GOOD we are accomplishing in furthering the Kingdom of God

HALLIE POPE CLASS.....Emma G. Repass

The Hallie Pope Class met at the Church on the evening of October 19 for a Pay-Off Supper, which was the result of a contest between groups 1 and 3 and 2 and 4 during the summer months, which was occasioned by an effort to stimulate better attendance at the class proposed by the President, Mrs. George White.

Really, the winning of the contest was so close by either side, and the chicken dinner was so wonderful and delicious in each course, that when the blessing box was passed, some of the members on the winning side felt conscience-stricken that they had done so little towards winning, and they contributed extra, which showed honesty and good sportsmanship. Thanks again to those who prepared such a delicious dinner.

The class is no longer considered as a divided group, and we hope we will pull together harder than ever before towards the goal of closer relations, stronger ties, more interest in one another, and more Christian love for all mankind.

We are very happy that Mrs. George Cooper now lives in our midst, and is a member of our class. She gave an inspiring devotion at this meeting. Mrs. Louise Bennett, at the piano, rendered delightful selections, and all enjoyed the fellowship through food, conversation, and song.

We had a guest of honor present at this dinner meeting, Jean Markley, bride-elect, who was presented a gift in crystal. Best wishes for happiness for Jean and Joe.

When the meeting adjourned, a most impressive act was the joining of hands in a huge circle of thirty-seven members, and the singing of Bless Be The Tie That Binds. To the members of long standing at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, the hearing of this hymn always recalls memories of the late George L. Cooper, a former and beloved minister of our church. This hymn was requested by him at the close of his parting sermon at our church just before going to Richmond, Virginia, in 1930 to accept a new pastorate, which pastorate he held until God called him home to Glory in April 1952.

MRS. ELIZABETH F. CALLAHAN

Funeral services for Mrs. Elizabeth Fullerton Callahan of 1002 Eighth Street were held at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church on Sunday, November 1, 1953. Mr. Bennett conducted the services; interment was in Woodlawn Memorial Park.

Active pallbearers were Tyree Woods, J. A. Walker, P. P. Phillips, Dr. Henry Carr, Jr. J. M. Arena, George Kirkland, Sr., R. S. Spears and C. M. Allen.

Honorary pallbearers were Elders and Deacons of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church and members of the Durham City and County Boards of Education.

Mrs. Callahan, a native of West Newton, Pa., was educated in the schools of Pennsylvania, the University of Virginia, University

of North Carolina, and Duke University. She had taught in the City and County schools for the past 25 years.

Surviving are her husband, E. F. Callahan; one son, E. Forrest Callahan of Winston-Salem; two grandchildren; her mother, Mrs. Albert Fullerton of Orange, Virginia; two sisters, Miss Isabella Fullerton of Orange, Virginia, and Mrs. Margaret Thacker of Maryland; two brothers, J. C. Fullerton of Unionville, Virginia, and William Fullerton of Orange, Virginia.

Trinity Avenue will really feel the loss of one so dear to us all as was Mrs. Callahan. A faithful and true Christian, she guided and taught so many of our young people in Church School. All our thoughts and prayers go out to her family at this time.

#### NEW MEMBERS

The George Matthis Class is proud to announce the following new members:

Dick and Faye Fehler  
Ed and Anie Stuart  
Walter Benjamin  
H. L. Troxell  
Barton Haggerty

#### LOYALTY SUNDAY --- Walter Benjamin

"For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also".  
Luke 12;34

You have heard it said that "Money talks!" In a very real sense this is true, for it expresses what its possessors actually are; it reveals the true inwardness of man. Do we not have a reliable index of the interests of men by finding out how they spend their money?

Actually the Bible is more concerned with the possessions and money of men than we realize. All through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, we find references to silver and gold as a vital part of religious dedication, wealth is beautiful, precious, and connotes sacrifice. Aside from personal service, they are doubtless the best gifts that can be offered, for they represent the accumulation of industry, the reward of privation, and an attitude of devotion to the church.

Christian stewardship acknowledges the fact that God's sovereignty is over all spiritual and material talents of men. All that we are and have is ours only in the sense that we are trustees of that which God has given us. We are stewards of the Christian faith, and thus, must not only profit by the life and teachings of Christ but convey them to others. We are stewards of our personal talents and capabilities and should employ them freely in service to our neighbor. Finally, we are stewards of our material possessions and money, which we should both use and distribute for the benefit of all, according to our ability.

May we see that our pledge is more than money, a figure, cash, or a check. It is a holy thing, dedicated to God in his work for the reconciliation of all men. Truly, any member of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church can call his pledge:

My contribution to Christian education  
My investment in a better community  
My gift of gratitude to God  
My vote for a Christian world  
My outreach among nations in the ministry of health and healing  
My obligation to God  
My service to those in sorrow  
My aid to Christian youth  
My expression of faith in the future  
My effort to express my Christian faith

In a most real sense, our money is part of us -- "stored-up human power" --- which reaches out into places we cannot physically go, but it is still part of us, preaching, teaching, and healing.

#### HEAP BIG PARTY

On Friday night November 6 the George Matthis Class had a shindig at the Scout Hut on Guess Road, and what a time of fun, frolic and fellowship was had by all. Just wait until next month to hear all the details ---- it will take that long to get 'em all down on paper.