

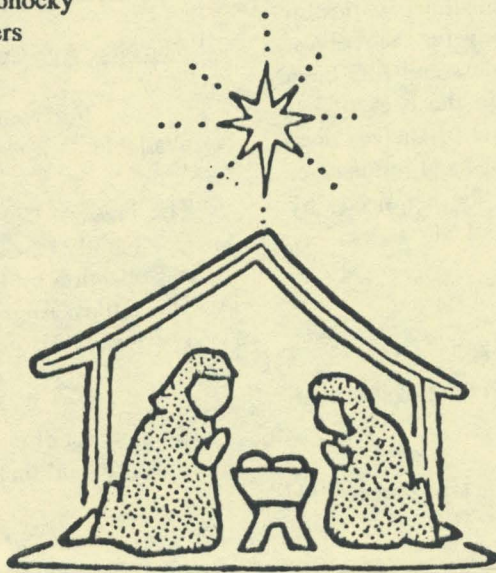
Insights

Duke Memorial United Methodist Church

The Rev. W. Eric Carson
Minister

EDITOR: Lorraine Karmonocky
REPORTERS: Church Members

1 December 90



LET'S GET READY, A SAVIOR'S COMING!!!

Many people go to great lengths to prepare for Christmas, yet fail to appreciate the true meaning of the season. Holidays have a tendency to degenerate. The Season to remember the birth of Christ becomes two weeks of overeating, office parties and a free day to sleep it off. But what would I change? One of the glories of Christmas is that it's not celebrated in a closet. I don't have to protect it from the explosion of human reaction to such Good News. Everybody, not just Christians, celebrate Christmas and I am glad.

I fear if we take all the frenzy out of the preparation for Christmas, we'd lose it, unless -- we change human nature. Substitute a soft mood, withdraw from the world, pray and contemplate God and Christmas would become as little known as Epiphany. Isaiah said, "prepare the way of the Lord". It is my prayer that the special musical celebration of Advent and Christmas will enliven your celebration of Christ's coming and deepen your sense of His presence in your life today.

Advent means "coming". Jesus came to us in flesh at Bethlehem. Jesus comes to us in grace through word and sacrament, and in glory at the day of judgement. Join us in "preparing the way for our Lord".

John Semingson

CARING FOR OTHERS

There's a mouse about the church house;
another in the town. And mice who
creep around, see and learn what some
would never tell. Though the good
things people do are things that should be
shared.

RUTH JONES is a remarkable friend to people at
Coble Health Care Center. She provides small necessities for
the people at Coble who can no longer shop for themselves.
She regularly makes her rounds, takes orders and fills them
from her unique store which is located on the back of her
bathroom door. The store is a simple row of shelves deep
enough for bars of soap, packets of tissues, hand lotions etc.
The simple store was custom made just for her needs by
another good samaritan, **TOM COBLE**. I am sad to say
however, there was no cheese!

THANK YOU!

Agnes Stephenson has made a contribution to the elevator fund
in memory of Lina Williamson.

Virginia Clark has given a contribution to the tape ministry in
honor of Stephanie Clark.

Many, many thanks to the following people who helped in the
planning, donating, preparation and clean-up for the reception
after the Thanksgiving Service:

Betty & Chick Craig	Pat Coman
Tom Langford	Melissa Carson
Mary Hix	Ellen Dozier
Jean Bagley	Alice Walker
Laura Brock	Lula Cates

Also, for the many who baked and brought delicious cakes,
cookies, nuts and mints.

LIBRARY NOTES

Did you miss a church service and want to hear a
sermon or the children singing? In the

church library there are two tapes for each Sunday of the last
three months. Just sign your name and the date of the tape
you have taken.

Also, you may purchase a tape, call Sarah McCracken
at 489-2421. You just need to replace the tape with a new
tape,, but let her know.

Thanks to Sara for her work on this project and to
Jim Martindale for making the tapes each week for our sh
ins.

The following new books are now available at the
church library:

Talking To Your Child About God by David Heller

Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect by Richard H. Schneider

The New Age Cult by Walter Martin given by Alan Whanger.

For your Christmas reading the following books are
available:

The Trees of Christmas,
Our Family Christmas Book,
A Collection by Pearl S. Buck,
The Littlest Angel (excellent), and
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (good family reading).

Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Hoyle gave the library their
complete set of encyclopedia Americana. We are grateful and
expect to find them very useful.

Grace Cooper

RECYCLE

Congratulations!! The receptacles were filled
during the first week of our project. The following are
new items that you may bring and fill our containers: tin
cans, colored plastic jugs,
(ie detergent jugs), aluminum cans; as well as our regular
items of plastic milk jugs and soda bottles. Be sure
to rinse all containers and remove lids. Volunteers are needed
to take materials to recycle centers on Sundays, from 1:00-
2:00 p.m. Please call the office at 683-3467, Elizabeth
Bookhout 286-9738, or Tom Coble 286-2697.



SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a wonderful time of year to help those who are less fortunate. The Volunteer Center of Greater Durham have sent suggestions to help brighten the holidays for those in need.

An 87-year-old, named Robert, retired last year to take care of his wife who has Alzheimer's. He would like flannel pajamas for her and T-shirts for himself. Please help someone like Robert.

Also, six local agencies are collecting food and financial contributions to help feed the disadvantaged, elderly or handicap. They are: Coalition for Battered Women, Community Kitchen, Department of Social Services, Durham County Mission Society, Meals on Wheels, and Operation Breakthrough.

Adopt a resident from the Murdoch Center by buying a mentally retarded person between the ages of 6 to 85 a "Cottage Gift" such as batteries, pinball games or recliner.

At John Umstead Hospital and half-way homes there is "Operation Santa Claus". Friendly people are needed to canvas stores for items to be given to clients.

The Orange-Durham Coalition for Battered Women is collecting items for a wish list everything from toilet tissue to strollers.

If you or your group would like to brighten someone's Christmas call the Volunteer Center of Greater Durham at 688-8977.

Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring special Christmas Cards. For each donation of \$5.00 minimum, they will send a Christmas Card to the person(s) of your choice notifying them that a gift has been made to Habitat in their honor. Forms are available in the office.

BOWLING TOURNAMENT ASSISTANTS

Volunteers are needed to help Durham Special Olympics host its tournament on December 6th from 8:30am to 1:30 p.m. Call 688-8977 and join in the fun.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Jerry Mailey, one of our members has been sent to "Operation Desert Shield" in Saudi Arabia. Please send him sour balls, popcorn, packages of gatorade, letters and cards and above all prayers. His address is:

LTC Jerry C. Mailey 555-70-5643
ARCENT SPT CMD (PROV)
Contracting Office
APO New York 09616

If there is anyone else you know that would like to receive mail from home please call the office at 683-3467.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Circle 8 -- You're Great!

Many thanks to the Circle 8 volunteers who visited some of our home-bound members. Betty Craig said, "They had such a good time they wanted to do it again". Jeanne Bagley had the 3rd and 4th grade classes make small Thanksgiving baskets to take on their visit. Our hats off to all 3rd and 4th graders, and teachers who brightened the day for the home-bound.

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

Childcare Provided

Babysitters will be provided for young children on all Advent and Christmas programs including White Christmas, Dec. 9, and the three Wednesday night programs -- Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19th.

Learning of Christ at Christmas

Children will learn especially about the happiness that giving brings in the White Christmas program when they bring a toy to give to an underprivileged child.

Children will enjoy giving of themselves when we go caroling and take fruit baskets to our lovely home-bound people on Dec. 19th. If you'd like, you may leave your littlest ones at church. The home-bound love young ones! To me, this is one of the best parts of Christmas--caroling at special homes. People look forward to it so much.

Ann

Duke Memorial United Methodist Church

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DECEMBER 4-15TH CALENDAR

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|----------|---------------|--|
| Dec. 4, | 12:00-2:00pm | Study Group |
| TUES. | 12:30pm | Lillie Duke Christmas Party |
| Dec. 5, | 9:15am | Parents' Morning Out |
| WED. | 10:00am | Service Group |
| | 12:00-12:45am | Advent Devotional &
Lunch \$3.00, Bradshaw Rm. |
| | 5:30-7:30pm | Dinner & Program, \$2.00-
\$12.00, Whitford Hall |
| | 6:30-7:30pm | Carol Choir/Wesley Singers
Rehearsal, Whitford Hall |
| | 7:30-9:00pm | Bethany Bells |
| Dec. 6, | 6:30pm | Sanctuary Choir |
| THURS. | | |
| Dec. 7, | 6:30pm | District Ministers Christmas
Party, Whitford Hall |
| FRI. | | |
| Dec. 8, | 3:00-5:00pm | Wesley Singers, Whitford Hall |
| SAT. | 4:00-5:00pm | Carol Choir, Whitford Hall |
| Dec. 9, | 3:00pm | Wesley Singers to arrive
for program |
| SUN. | 3:30pm | Carol Choir to arrive
for program |
| | 4:00-5:30pm | White Christmas Program,
Whitford Hall |
| Dec. 10, | 9:15am | Parents' Morning Out |
| MON. | 12:00noon | Circle 9, covered dish |
| | 7:30pm | Celebration Singers,
Bradshaw Room |
| | | Insights News Due |
| Dec. 11, | 12:00-2:00pm | Study Group |
| TUES. | 7:30pm | Inter-Neighborhood
Council, Open Door Room |
| Dec. 12, | 9:15am | Parents' Morning Out |
| WED. | 10:00am | Service Group |
| | 12:00-12:45pm | Advent Devotional &
Lunch \$3.00, Bradshaw |
| | 5:30-7:30pm | Dinner & Program, \$2.00-
\$12.00, Whitford Hall |
| | 7:30pm | Bethany Bells |
| Dec. 13, | 7:00pm | Sanctuary Choir |
| THURS. | | |
| Dec. 15, | 11:00-1:00pm | Sanctuary Choir/Brass
rehearsal, sanctuary |
| SAT. | | Wesley Class Christmas
Party |