

CHRISMON TREES

This year is the twentieth anniversary of the use of the first Chrismon tree as part of the appointments of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. The custom has spread as rapidly and as widely as any innovation in worship of which I know. Several churches in Durham have been struck with the beauty of the tree in Duke Memorial in 1975 and 1976 and in turn this year will have their own trees.

The green of the tree is a symbol of everlasting life in Jesus Christ, in Whose honour the tree is erected. The white lights, tiny and a myriad of them, remind us of Him Who said, "I am the Light of the world." The ornaments are made of white and gold, symbols of purity and great value. To my knowledge, these ornaments are never sold but are always hand-made by members of the congregation or home where the tree is. They follow classic Christian symbols and each has a meaning which it is supposed to convey. The tree is for long-period-lookers who will take the time to study what is wrapped up in each symbol. A quick glance is impressive; a long-time study is down right astounding in terms of what is expressed through devout and skilled hand craftsmanship.

Chrismon trees and Christmas trees are not competitive but complementary. So, in our Fellowship Hall is a lovely Christmas tree along with the beautiful traditional decorations. These are also expressions of the joy of the season into which we are entering. Add to these the Advent wreaths all over the buildings and in our homes. One gets the impression that with joy and with preparation, we come to the days of Christmas.

What are the particular family customs in your homes? If you would like to share some of them with others, with or without attribution, give me a note or a telephone call within the next two days. Our publication schedule is moved up greatly because of time out for the office staff.

Whatever we do, let us do it all to God's glory and with joy and thanksgiving. These are indeed blessed days!

- - Ed Smith

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- The warmth of friendship....
- The nourishment of good food....
- The happy laughter of children....
- The creative sharing of youth....
- The joys of being together....

....these are what you'll miss if you're not here for our CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP DINNER on December 11th. We'll begin with a Covered Dish Dinner at 5:45 (bring several of your favorite dishes to share), and we'll end about 8:30 p. m. FOR RIDES, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

There will be the familiar, the old and also new carols sung by adult and children's choirs on December 18 at 4:00 p. m. There will be many carols for congregational singing to bring the Christmas warmth and love to each heart. Make this a special event by your participation and bring some neighbors and friends with you. A reception by UMW in the Fellowship Hall will follow.

MUSIC for the December 11 morning worship service will include special vocal and instrumental numbers for the advent season. Olive Jenkins, harpist, and Douglas Kent, 'cellist, will be featured artists.

SUNDAY, 11 December 1977

Third Sunday in Advent

The Gospel: St. Luke 1:39-56

The Sermon: How Great a Promise

Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. Dan Edwards

TOWER BELLS: On occasion, in lieu of being played prior to the worship service, J. V. Hoyle plays the tower bells as we are coming to Sunday School. This is done to respond to the request of members of the congregation. On Sunday and through the days of the week, the playing of the bells is one way in which witness is made to our faith and our place in the community. A word of appreciation is in order to Mr. Hoyle for climbing the lengthy flights of stairs and exposing himself to extremes of cold and heat, according to the season. All of us are indebted to him.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: The newsletter for the week of 18 December and the Orders of Service for 18 and 25 December will be printed early in order to permit completion of vacation periods to staff members. Material for the 18 December edition of the newsletter should be in the office by 10 a. m., Thursday, 8 December. Material for the Orders of Service should be in the office by 10 a. m. Monday, 12 December. Your cooperation and assistance will be greatly appreciated.

DEATHS: The congregation and pastors express their love and sympathy to the family of J. Henry Barton, 2321 Club Blvd., who died Wednesday, 30 November 1977 and to the family of Mrs. W. M. (Mary) Ervin, 2017 Cornwallis Rd., who died Friday, December 2, 1977

IN MEMORIAM

J. Henry Barton, 30 November 1977  
Mrs. W. M. (Mary) Ervin, 2 December 1977

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"



THE BULLETIN  
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INVITATION: Members of United Methodist Women are cordially invited to tea on Sunday, December 11, from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon at the home of Mrs. W. T. Coman, 217 Pineview Road.

USE OF FALL FESTIVAL FUNDS: All suggestions for the allotment of the Fall Festival Funds should be in by January 1, 1978. 45% will be for Foreign Missions; 45% for Local Missions, and 10% for Duke Memorial. Please give requests to Pat Coman or Louise Ervin.

<p>Add to your Advent Calendar CHURCHWIDE CAROLLING - December 20 Watch for more details!</p>
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ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 4 December 1977  
Church School.....318  
Morning Worship.....351

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Due each week	\$ 3,802.41
Received last Sunday	4,030.44
Received to date	177,217.00
Needed through last Sunday	186,318.09
Deficit	9,101.09

HOSPITALIZED:

<u>DCGH:</u> Adelaide Truesdale	5105
Jesse Cole	4131
Kitty Copelan	6108
Buster Poythress	5132
<u>DURHAM REHAB CENTER:</u> Bill Fleming	309

MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION:

In loving memory of James M. Heldman by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Mangum  
Mrs. Mary N. Turner, Sarasota, Florida  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. Bissell,  
Spartanburg, S. C.  
Fred A. McNeer, Jr., Charlotte, N. C.  
Mrs. Russell Rogers  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Rogers, Jr.

Music Fund  
In loving memory of Mrs. Irene Cave Alley  
by Mr. and Mrs. Judson Dunning

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 11 - 17, 1977

Sunday	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship and Junior Church
	4:00 p. m.	Confirmation Class
	5:00 p. m.	Carol and Junior Choirs in Sanctuary
	5:45 p. m.	Fellowship supper, Decoration of the Jesse Tree, and Christmas Play
Monday	10:00 a. m.	Circle 10 with Mrs. C. M. Crutchfield, 1711 Kent St.
	12:00 Noon	Circle 9 with Mrs. Tom Cranford, 1023 Southwood Drive
	7:30 p. m.	Circle 4 with Misses Elizabeth and Dorothy Wilson, 2205 Englewood Avenue
Tuesday	6:30 p. m.	Katie Johnson Bible Class Dinner in Fellowship Hall
Thursday	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday	7:30 p. m.	Open Door Class Party at the Ben Mixon Home, 2402 Dawn Tr.

LIBRARY NEWS: CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Many resources related to our celebration of Christmas have been gathered together in the library for your convenience. There are children's books, records, filmstrips, magazines, craft books, and resources for family activities during Advent. When you enter the Library Workroom, look around and you will know immediately where this delightful collection of books and resources has been displayed!

BOOK ADDITIONS have been given to the Library in appreciation of the friendship of Alberta Poe Lane, and in honor of the following persons by Ginger Massey.

Journey, honoring George D. McCoy.  
If You Meet the Buddha on the Road, Kill Him, honoring Dick, Carol, Winday and Sean Lucas.  
New Light of Hope, honoring Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Massey.  
Johnathan Livingston Seagull, honoring Mary G. Clarke.

The book, Jesus of Nazareth, by William Barclay has been presented to The Margaret Faw Cannon Library in memory of James McDaniel Heldman by the children of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence T. Poe, Sr. This book presents a powerful and moving story of the life of Jesus through text and superb illustrations.

The book, North Carolina, a Bicentennial History by William S. Powell has been placed in the library by the H. E. Spence Bible Class in memory of Mr. J. C. Berry. On the Bulletin Board outside the church office are articles from Sunday, Nov. 27 issue of Morning Herald concerning the author and the writing of the book.

We acknowledge with gratitude the gift of Hammond Medallion World Atlas c. 1977. This handsome and resourceful book was given by The Rockwood Garden Club in memory of Dorothy McGhee Aydlett.