

SELF-DENIAL -- ANOTHER VIEW

Some of us who really rejoice at the approach of Christmas also cringe at the way we load ourselves with responsibilities. Margaret Thompson, a member of the T. R. Jenkins Sunday School class, Roanoke Rapids First UMC, must be such a person. This class blesses the church there with a booklet of Advent devotions - and as I am on their mailing list, I got my blessing. I think I have never met Margaret Thompson but she had something rather great to say in her page in this booklet and I want to relay it to you.

She must be a home maker. She reflected on the things to be done - fruit cakes to make, shopping trips (Richmond and Raleigh), cookies to make and freeze, windows to wash so candles will show beautifully, rugs need cleaning, guest room needs painting, silver has to be polished, coat closet cleaned out - and what about the Christmas cards lovingly treasured from years past as well as the anticipated influx this year?

"No Lord, not this year. I'm really not going to let these things get me down. I'm going to remember that the Advent season is a time of getting ready for the birth of Christ; not just getting ready for Christmas. Maybe my family will forgive the dirty rugs and the unpolished silver, and rejoice with me in the birth of the Holy Babe, God's precious gift of life to us all."

I suspect somehow that the Thompson home will be made ready physically during the coming days. The reason for that assumption is that Mrs. Thompson by her own statement is getting first things first - and when we do that, the others seem to fall into place. Did not our Lord Jesus tell us that we are to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."? Rather often, we seem to think that if we do all the other things first, the Kingdom will be added. It just doesn't work that way.

The self-denial which we might try this Christmas is just at this point. Let us deny ourselves some of the frantic dash and haste that leaves us all too tired even to listen to the angels sing. It is alright for us to nap during football telecasts, but what if we were to be found sleeping when God was trying to speak to us? There is a story about five young ladies who were labelled "foolish" because they didn't prepare for the obvious. No one aspires to that title!

Self-denial for Jesus' sake! Let's try it this year and bless and be blessed!

-- Ed Smith

POINSETTIAS - Last Call - to share yours with others - on 13 and 20 December in church and then as a gift or for your own home! A check for \$10.92 in the church office not later than 10:00 a. m. Tuesday, 8 December will do it all.

HOLY COMMUNION comes Sunday morning at 9:00 in the sanctuary.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S Christmas program in Whitford Hall at 3:00 Sunday afternoon is one of the lovelier occasions of our church year. All women of the church are invited.

THE JEWISH CONGREGATIONS of Durham have volunteered to serve the meal for the Soup Kitchen and to deliver for Meals on Wheels on Christmas Day, substituting for their Christian co-workers. We appreciate their friendly gesture.

ALL MESSENGER MATERIAL for events through the end of 1981 is due in the Church office by 10:00 a. m., Thursday, 10 December 1981. Your cooperation will be a help to all of us.

PLEDGES for the Pensions Crusade should be considered in your year-end giving. Please make sure that you are up to date for the end of December, which means that you will have paid 32/36s of the pledge. If it is possible to complete your pledge in 1981 in lieu of using the first four months of 1982, so much the better. Your response and faithfulness in this have been exemplary and all of us are grateful for it.

GIFT-WRAPPING at Northgate will benefit Meals on Wheels. 24 congregations in DCIA are supplying workers, including Duke Memorial. Take your gifts to the booth at Northgate for wrapping any Friday evening or Saturday 10 - 6 during Advent.

THE BULLETIN
DUKE MEMORIAL
METHODIST CHURCH (USPS 553-880)
504 West Chapel Hill Street
Durham, N. C. 27701

Second Class Mail
Paid at
Durham, N. C.

Postmaster send address changes to Duke Memorial Methodist
Church, 504 W. Chapel Hill Street, Durham, N. C. 27701

6 DECEMBER 1981 Second Sunday in Advent

The Gospel: St. Luke 1:26-38
The Sermon: Promises, Promises
Acolytes: Melissa and Samantha Sellers
Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel K. Edwards

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will meet Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 p. m. in Whitford Hall. Refreshments will be served by Circles 4 and 7, Elizabeth Wilson and Louise Goodyear, chairmen. The meditation will be given by Helen Upchurch. The musical program will be the Carol and Junior Choirs directed by Jane Lynch.

MANY PEOPLE HELP: When Kentucky Fried Chicken is outdated, it is frozen and can be picked up by volunteers to be delivered to the Soup Kitchen. If you could be on call for this service, call 682-5708.

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 29 November 1981

Church School.....209
Morning Worship.....281

HOSPITALIZED: DCGH

Evelyn Petty 7221
Fitzhugh Gamble 6107
Julian Marshall 6228

TRANSFERRED OUT: Mrs. J. Terry Jones (Anne Robinson) has transferred her membership to Roswell UMC, Roswell, Georgia.

BAPTISM: Katherine Anne, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Haven, Apt. 30-B, 1315 Morreene Road, was baptized last Sunday morning after the worship service. Katie was born at Durham County General Hospital 8 August 1981. She, along with her sister Connie, is enrolled as a preparatory member.

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS: Last Sunday, Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Potter (Phil and Janis) became members of Duke Memorial by transfer of membership, Phil from Woodland, Michigan Church of the Brethren and Janis by transfer from Christ UMC, Louisville, Ky. Phil has a son, Adam, and Janis has two children, Richard Reams II and Katherine Reames. They live at 106 Pawnee Court; their telephone is 477-3570. A call, a note or visit of welcome will be a good deed.

GREAT THANKS from all of us are expressed to the Faith and Arts Committee for a delightful, informative and enjoyable Advent Supper and celebration on 29 November. The program presented covered a large body of data and information in a way that made learning a thoroughly pleasant experience. Supper was modeled on lines of other countries and cultures and their ways of celebration. Thanks - and do something like that again soon!

CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 6 - 12, 1981

Sunday	9:00 a. m.	Holy Communion, Sanctuary
	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	3:00 p. m.	United Methodist Women, Whitford Hall
	5:00 p. m.	UMYF
Tuesday	6:00 p. m.	United Methodist Men's Ladies' Night, Whitford Hall
	7:45 p. m.	Administrative Board, Bradshaw Room
Wednesday	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast, Whitford Hall
	12:10 p. m.	Advent Devotions; Leader: Jean Haddock
Thursday	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday	6:30 p. m.	Durham District Pastors' Spouses Dinner, Whitford Hall
Saturday	8:00 p. m.	Singles Again Christmas Party at the home of Ellen Cox