

# Attic Antics

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### ABOUT THE COVER

Noel, Noel, Merry Christmas to each and to all! As our cover reminds us, we are approaching what to everybody, we're sure, is the happiest time of the whole year -- celebration of the birth of our Savior. If this group of George Matthis members doesn't happen to carol each of you at Christmas, know that in the hearts of each of us, carols are sung and wishes for a happier than ever Christmas are for all.

The editors and the George Matthis Class now wish Bob Blake, our artist, and his family a very, very Merry Christmas. And thanks again to Bob for another year of wonderful covers for our Attic Antics.

### NEW OFFICERS

As we go to press we don't know what will be the suggestions from the Nominating Committee, but we feel sure it will be a grand slate of officers for 1954. Ed Higgins heads the committee with Grace Shaw and Paul Kimes working with him.

### DEY DCOOD IT!

The Bluest of the Blues, Paul Kimes

### DE WHITES AM DONE WHUPPED DE BLUES!

Congratulations to "Pappy" and his cohorts. Having been "Capsi" of the last winning team, I here and now give the reins to the new "Capsi", and am at his command. It was a grand contest and without a doubt, the best team won. It was fun, and I'm sure that we enjoyed the competition it afforded.

As to the Pay Off! Mamie Hampton, bless her big heart, has volunteered to be the "Head Knocker" at this affair. When she calls on you to do your bit (and she had better) don't offer any answer except that you will do whatever she asks. If we all help it will be a lot of fun. Don't let her down. The date is set for the eleventh. The place will be the G. M. C. classroom.

Keep this date open and plan to be on hand that night. The more the Merry-er-ier!

From The George Matthis Class President  
Frances Jarman

The past nine months have been the most pleasant ones I have known. Being President of the George Matthis Class is a privilege and a pleasure, for we have continued to grow in every way.

I recall seven years ago, when our class sported ten to twelve members, and it is possible for several of us "old timers" to remember the Sundays when FIVE was a big number present.

Certainly there are many who should be singled out for their hard work. Paul Kimes has always done more than his part, and his BLUE team worked very hard during the entire two terms of the contest. Fappy Frank's team of WHITE members strutted their stuff the last three months, and should be praised for their hard work also.

Never has a class had a more efficient Secretary and Treasurer than Maude Betts! You should just look over the books to know the magnificent work she has done in keeping our affairs straight. No easy task this!

There is a team, better known as Stan and Dot, the Colvins, who as editors of "Attic Antics" has faced a real ordeal each month in getting articles in on time, finding typists, "cranks" and others to help publish our church paper.

Kay Bell and her group, readying for each party have provided truly excellent social activities which have been well attended. And, at this writing, Mayme Hampton is excitedly getting her group ready for our big Banquet.

We thank Forrest Callahan, our "EX", who travelled to Durham from Winston Salem many times to teach our class so well. We too, are really proud to know that two other members of the George Matthis Class were excellent teachers. To Ed Higgins and Frank Jarman, our thanks for helping us so well at such a crucial period.

To us comes so many good things;;The Reverend Mr. Walter Benjamin better known to us as "WALT", is now teaching us and is doing a splendid job. Our deepest thanks to our "newcomer" who has become one of us so quickly.

Bill McLeod, our Vice President, has ever been ready to take over in my absence, to work in so many various ways....no wonder we progressed!

And even though the year end finds us temporarily out of a money making project, this was not the fault of the chairman, Jack Crumpacker. Jack worked, and still has many excellent ideas. Perhaps the facts concerning such projects will soon be cleared away, and Jack's ideas will truly be put to work.

I could name each one of you....Tyree, Yvonne, Elizabeth Gerritsen, and on down the line, for every member, down to our newest one has contributed his share. My deepest thanks to you.

Statistics are considered boring fare...but not when they concern the growth of our class, the attendance and our projects.

We have a total enrollment of 63 ACTIVE members (these have attended Class within the past four Sundays), with six whose names went off this week, for non-attendance. We sincerely hope these six will soon be back at class. Perhaps it was illness or pressure of business that has kept them away...but to :Richard Barnes, Clara Hobbs, Alice Shoaf, Allen Ward, Ann Ward, and Mary Woods we hope they will soon be back.

During the past 9 months, 16 new members joined our class, and 5 old members returned.

The Johnsons, Douglas and Lois have moved to Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, and we are sorry to learn that by the first of the year, Bill and Saxon Thrash will also move. During the year we lost another active couple, Bob and Helen Bell moved to Hickory. There will always be fond memories of these warm, friendly people in our hearts.

In April of this year, our attendance was 129 members, 11 visitors. May (with five Sundays) we had attendance of 200, 11 visitors; June began our drop, with vacations getting underway. We had 146 present, 10 visitors; July we faced with a low of 135 present, 9 guests; August, (another 5 Sunday month, found us with 145 members attending and 18 visitors; September brought 156 members in with 8 guests; October found 174 present in their places and 19 visitors; and our past month November, sporting five Sundays and the best attendance per Sunday brought the monthly total to 274 present and 25½ guests! Sunday, November 22, had 51 members present the record high of this year. But once about five years ago, and again seven years ago, our class had 52 members as the all time record attendance. PLEASE LET US TRY TO BETTER THIS RECORD FOR THE REMAINDER OF DECEMBER. Let's TOP 60! Or better still, get the 63 members, and the SIX whose names were taken off the roll, making a perfect attendance of 69 present! CAN DO!

We sent a total of \$85.76 to Barium Springs; Started with \$100.99 on April 1st...gave \$55.00 to the N.C. Council of Churches for Migratory Workers Fund; presented the Church Building Fund with a check of \$50.00; we spent the total of \$298.01 and have a bank account of \$144.45. Our December party will place a sizeable dent in this, and too, we have the Fund for the County Home to come from this total, but as to date, all bills are paid, and we are solvent!

I did not total these facts for us to claim credit, to brag, but you members should know every thing our class does, how every penny is spent, in order that we can be a smooth working organization.

In closing, I have every confidence in the Nominating Committee spearheaded by Ed Higgins, and with Grace Shaw and Paul Kimes, I know the new officers will be more than capable, and that our class next year will show even greater growth. We are looking forward to the Banquet and election, and I hope everyone will be there.

I cannot take leave without thanking Mr. Bennett. He has always been ready to help in every way, even to digging out Christmas Decorations, playing games, teaching us two excellent lessons. But most of all, I wish to thank him for the great spiritual guidance he has given each one of us, for through his leadership we can more truly follow God's plan to make our Church grow and act as a shining light to others.

PARTY TIME AGAIN

Frank Jarman

It looks like it's time to participate in another prize winning party. But this time it's going to be different, for the whites were on the winning end of the George Matthis Class contest, and it's up to the blues to do the honors.

We look back on the weeks gone by and recall the close scrutiny of both sides as members were checked and double checked, week after week. It is not too difficult to recall how team members kept telephones busy each Saturday night, reminding each other that ten points went a long way toward building that score on the blackboard. The moments of anxiety that were spent when visitors entered the room and were watched closely until, at last, a seat was taken on this side or that with a resulting five points to be added. Yes, and the star performance, that of adding a new member to the roster and chalking up a solid twenty five points. It was all a lot of fun and helped build that fellowship for which the George Matthis Class is noted.

Anticipation, fun, fellowship, ...yes, it was all of that and more too, for the contest just closed, helped us build our attendance and our membership. Helped us to realize that it's not so hard to get up Sunday morning and take our rightful place in God's house. That it's not too hard to approach a visitor and extend him the hand of Christian fellowship and invite him to participate in the activities of the class. That it's not too hard to follow through with visitors and suggest that they become a part of your Sunday School and your Church...making it their Sunday School and their Church. That it's not too hard to dial a few numbers now and then and check up on absentees and ask about the reason for their absence.

contd.

So, the contest is over and we're going to have a big Christmas party. Winners and losers, alike, will participate fully in this get together and a great big time will be had by all. There will be plenty of fried chicken and all the fixings ....There will be Christmas Carols and the decorating of the tree...there will be a report of the nominating committee and the election of officers....there will be more George Matthis fellowship.

And when the party is over we will all have a better understanding of the Christian way of living. We will all look forward to another Sunday and of months of Sundays when we can return week after week to meet together, talk together and hear the Word of God as it is revealed as a guide to better living.

Yes, we had a contest and the whites came out on top. But remember, the blues carried the honors the first time and it all adds up to an even score. But no matter which side was victorious these contests have done much to build our class and to make us all feel very close to each other, to our class, and most important of all, to God.

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GEORGE MATTHIS' CHRISTMAS AT THE COUNTY HOME---Lawrence McLeod

In the George Matthis Class we are looking forward to the Third Sunday in December, for on this day we have our meeting at the County Home located on the Roxboro Road. There we meet in the auditorium for our class lesson, songs and service. The people living at the Home meet with us in the service of worship. They take part in the singing and also enjoy the lesson.

Those of our class who have attended the meetings at the Home in the years past can attest to the real joy and pleasure these people have when we go there. It makes you feel that you have been a party to doing a real Christian Service. I am sure each one goes away feeling the better for having attended.

Our able teacher Rev. Mr. Walter Bengiman will be our teacher on this occasion.

So on December 20, at 9:30 A.M. the George Matthis Class meets with the folks at the County Home for a most helpful and interesting lesson.

EVERYONE BE SURE TO BE THERE, WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS

Lib Gerritson

Nursery -- Attendance in this department has been very good, with a few new members. Everyone is looking forward to the time when the Sunday School rooms will be completed so that there will be room to separate the children into two age groups.

Kindergarten -- There are 26 on roll in the Kindergarten Department with an average attendance of 15 or 16 each Sunday. They report no new members.

Primary -- This department reports a very urgent need for two teachers. Anyone who is interested is asked to contact Mrs. J. C. Petrea or Mr. P. P. Phillips. The attendance in the Primary Department has been very good, with an average of 35 pupils out of a possible 40.

They report having gotten together a Thanksgiving box for a family over the holidays.

Junior -- This department has been studying the unit called "The Story of the Bible" tracing how the Bible was written from earliest times down to the latest translation. This unit of study was summarized in a film strip, which was shown on Sunday, Nov. 29th. Thanksgiving offerings, in this department, will be used to buy a bushel basket of oranges for Barium Springs.

Pioneer -- Attendance has been very good, both at Sunday School and at the night meetings.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dorsey have been doing a wonderful work with this group of young people. About six weeks ago, the group with Mr. and Mrs. Dorsey, went on a hay ride in the country. They are now working up a Christmas party for an underprivileged boy and girl. The boys in this group are making a model airplane for a present for the little boy, and the girls are dressing a doll for the little girl. They are also getting up as much money as they can for warm clothing for these children.

Young People -- Mr. Bennett and Mr. Benjamin have been working with the Young People's Department and attendance has been good both at Sunday School and at the night meetings.

On Saturday night, November 14th, this group also enjoyed a hayride.

Their Sunday evening meetings are usually held at the homes of various members. Mr. Bennett has been going over some of the points of his sermons, after which they have a general discussion.

GEORGE MATTHIS CLASS PARTY

Mayme Hampton

We are real sorry for all members of the George Matthis Class who weren't fortunate enough to be present at the last class party.

Only a few members got there, but those few really had a "dilly" of a time. The games that Bert and Lib Gerritson introduced produced more laughs and limbered more muscles than we had had in many moons.

Those that did know how and we that did not know how shared equally in the fun of "Folk Dancing", at the moment that is, -- we're not speaking for the sore muscles next day.

You members that like to eat should have been there with the rest of us that also like to eat. More apples, popcorn, peanuts, cakes, etc. than even the George Matthis Class could eat. Sure was good.

The flower arrangements by Flora Woods were lovely and all of us really do appreciate all the time Kay Fell, Tyree Woods, and Julia Suite spent making the party the success it was, and each one of the members that were fortunate enough to be present at the party, missed you absentees and truly hope that you will make a greater effort to be present at our next class party coming up on December 11 -- 'tis a Christmas party, too, so everyone plan to be there.

THE GATHERING TOGETHER OF GROUP THREE Mary Lou Carr (Minister's Aid))

When one tries a new adventure, whether it be baking a cake, taking on a life companion, or getting a new project started in the church, one is anxious as to the final result.

A move has been begun here in Trinity Avenue Church whereby we may get to know each other better by being assigned to a small or community group.

Each group is sponsored by an Elder belonging in that group, and by the Minister's Aid from the Women of the Church. Mr. O. D. Kirkland, Sr. is the Elder for Group #3.

On Friday evening, November 20, 1953, our first meeting was held for Group 3 at the Cupboard. Tables were set up in a private room, but each guest went "down the line" selecting and paying for his or her own dinner. The Committee decided that would be the easiest and the cheapest way of doing it. The group also expressed its satisfaction at this plan.

The meeting was most informal; short talks being made by each church officer present and by two new members.-- Mr. Bennett gave us a pep talk and asked for closer cooperation and a deeper spirit of unity and fellowship.-- just what the group idea intends to promote.

Out of a possible attendance of 115, there were 51 present. Each one expressed their appreciation for such a meeting. A suggestion was made that it be more than just a once a year affair, so after the other three groups shall have met at some future date, consideration will be given to this idea.

Those not present were sorely missed and we feel that they also missed something in being absent. Names of the absentees were given to those present with the hope of personal contact for each and every member in the group.

As stated in the beginning, we were anxious as to the outcome, but after seeing the enthusiasm of this group, the committee feels well repaid and looks forward to the other three. We hope those groups will respond as well.



WORKERS CONFERENCE

Hildur Blake

An inspirational and informative conference for all church school workers was held November 23, 1953, 8 P. M. at the church under the direction of Mr. P. P. Phillips and Mr. J. C. Petrea. Mr. Walter Benjamin gave a short inspiring devotional using the story of Jesus putting the child in the center of the disciples. Workers were refreshed and newly challenged to faithfully carry on the teaching program of our church school by this devotional. Mr. Bennett then gave his first lesson of the book, "An Introduction to Child Study" by Benson. All workers, parents, and those interested in understanding children in order to lead them in the Christian faith and to a knowledge of that faith, are cordially invited to attend these lessons at the Workers Conferences. Watch for the date of the next one -- then come -- for inspiration -- for information!

INTRICATE, DELICATE AND MOST BEAUTIFUL ETCHINGS BY PROPHETS OF OLD

"You, oh Bethlehem who are little to be among  
the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the  
strength of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall  
be great to the ends of the earth  
He shall be peace."

Micah 5: 2, 4.

To us a child is born,  
to us a Son is given;  
and the government will be upon his shoulder,  
and his name will be called  
"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".  
Of the increase of his government  
and of peace there will be no end  
upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom,  
to establish it, and to up hold it  
with justice and righteousness  
from this time forth and for evermore.

Isaiah 9: 6,7.