Celebrate Christmas in Song

with the Choirs of
Duke Memorial Methodist Church
Sunday December 14
5:00 pm
followed by a light supper in Whitford Hall -

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will meet at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 7, in Whitford Hall. Anne Clark will have the meditation. There will be a program of Christmas carols presented by eight Junior High School age students of Dorothy Kitchen from the Duke University String School. Jane Lynch, our church organist and choir director, has planned the program and will introduce the group.

Mary Hix, chairman of the committee for recognizing outstanding contributions of individuals within our U. M. W., will present four special membership pins and two certificates. The gift to Missions in honor of these individuals will total $200.00.

Refreshments will be served by Circles 4 and 7, Elizabeth Bookhout and Doris Bridges, chairmen.

POINSETTIAS IN THE SANCTUARY on Sundays, 14 and 21 December, will pay honour to or be a lovely memorial of family and friends. They are available for your use after the morning service on 21 December. This year they are priced at $10.40 (tax included). Requests must be in the church office by noon Wednesday, 10 December, in order that a suitable listing in the Order of Service be made. Checks with a clear statement of the persons honoured or memorialized may be placed in the offering plate at any service or mailed to the church office. Thank you.
THE GIFT OF THE GIVER

"All too often the Christmas season becomes the season of the great gift-giving. We are so preoccupied with giving and receiving gifts that we forget the true purpose of a gift.

"On the art of gift-giving, Emerson said, 'Rings and jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only true gift is a portion of thyself.'

"Basically, that is what Christmas is all about. We celebrate the birth of one who teaches us to love and give ourselves to others. The only gift I totally own that I may give is myself. Amazingly, the more I give of myself the larger self I have to give.

"When considering gifts for others we should focus on the giver and the receiver. A gift should hold a little of both in order to accomplish the art of giving. Selecting a gift carries a portion of the giver to the receiver and therefore makes Christmas the season for caring and sharing.

"Making lists helps in selecting gifts. . . . It is easier to select a gift for someone when you have the person in mind. Write down some characteristics and interests of the person. Then write corresponding characteristics and interests of your own. Try to think of these as you plan your gift. The main purpose of the list is to focus your mind on the person. When the person is kept in mind, then selecting a gift falls into place.

"Consider alternative gifts. Consider a gift you can make or a gift of time and services. In this way you give the true gift—a portion of yourself.

"The gift itself is not as important as the caring thoughts behind the gift. Giving the gift should bring you as much pleasure as it does the receiver. If we practice the art of giving it can span across the other 364 days of the year, making Christmas giving sincere.

Give of the heart: love, kindness, tolerance, forgiveness.

Give of the mind: ideas, principles, plans, thoughts.

Give of the spirit: prayer, aspiration, hope, faith.

Give of your words: encouragement, approval, direction.

Give of your life, to a world of growing peace."

Delia Halverson, Accent on Youth, Winter 1980-81, pp. 34-35

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