

REPORT - ASSISTANT IN MINISTRY  
(Children's Ministry and Membership Care)  
Dec. 4, 1989 - March 20, 1990

Children's Ministry

The Christmas Play, "Listen to Christmas," was enjoyed by all. It was the Christmas story, and involved about 24 helpers and 80 children, including both children's choirs. I wrote letters to and called every child in the church to make sure everyone who wanted a part had one.

We encouraged the children to participate in the Christmas caroling evening and visits to shut-ins and taught them several carols.

The new four-year old Sunday School class with teachers Houston Blair and Cheryl-Conrad Blair, is going well. Kay Peters is the new Resources Coordinator (buys supplies for Sunday School supply closet). I have been busy getting substitute teachers- to help Martha Thumm, every Sunday since Christmas, to take Jeanne Robbins' place (her husband had heart surgery) and Robin Dean's place.

I sent a newsletter to the teachers to let them know about Robin Langford's baby, Mr. Metcalf's and Mr. Robbins' illnesses.

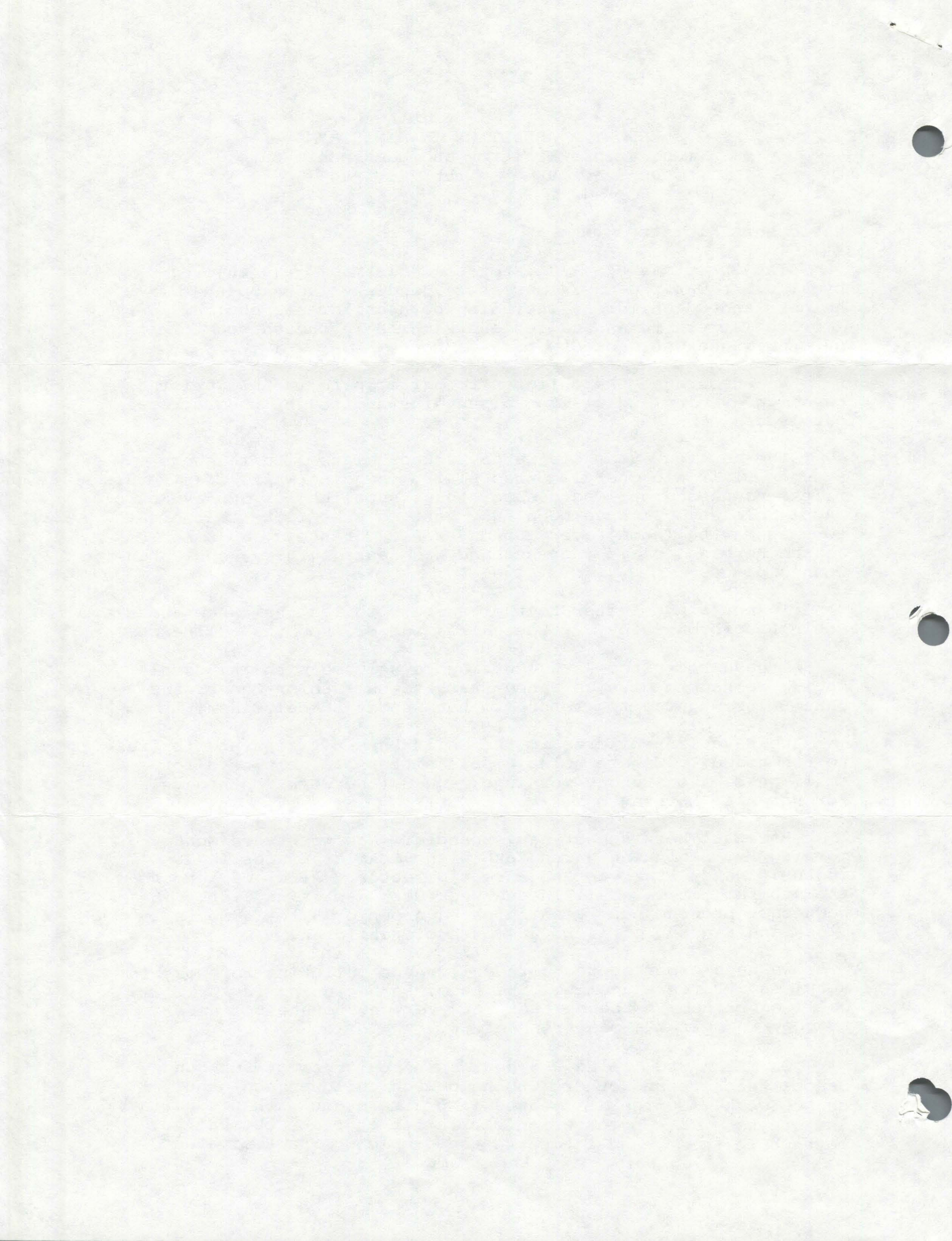
I have recruited Kathy Cutting to help me with the Carol Choir; we had to give up Nancy Stark to the Junior Choir, and Jane Bilski wanted to return to her Sunday School Class.

We have 126 children in the Children's Division now (babies to 6th grade). We are using 6 paid sitters to help care for small ones--4 on Sunday mornings, and 3 (one works both days) for Parents' Morning Out.

Parents' Morning Out has expanded. Now we have a Monday morning PMO beginning March 26th with 9 children ages 14-36 months. Nancy Stark is the Parent Director. After we announced the program, it was full in one week with a waiting list. The Wednesday program has 17 children, a group of 3 to 14-month olds, and a group of 14 to 36-month old children.

We have experimented with children's bulletins for worship services. Parents seem to like them, so beginning in April, we'll have them in the narthex for everyone to use. I have to copy them from a master sheet.

On March 3rd, I led a 3-hour spiritual retreat for Sunday School teachers and others who help with children and other church work. George Eli led us in praise music with his guitar and prayer. This preparation took a lot of time, but was very worthwhile to me, and I hope to the people who participated.



*I just noticed I left out the Square Dance, which took lots of hours to coordinate.*

I am recruiting leaders and teachers for Vacation Bible School, Music and Drama Camp (both of which will be July 9-13), and Day Camp, which will be in August for rising 3rd - 6th graders.

#### Membership Care

During the Christmas season, I ordered and picked up all the church fruit baskets, ordered the baskets for the Spence Class, and delivered or arranged to have delivered 53 fruit baskets. We also gave away sachets, poinsettias, and decorations made by the 3rd and 4th grade class.

I helped Marge coordinate the Christmas caroling evening and delivery of fruit baskets, getting the lists and directions for getting to the houses. I made a list of elderly people I thought could come to the Christmas Eve lunch.

I hand-wrote thank-you notes on Christmas cards to all the Visitation Team.

From December 4th to January 23rd, I made 67 visits to shut-ins, and the Visitation Team reported 115 visits. Beginning in February, I have been trying to spend more time praying for direction, recruiting, and coordinating volunteers to visit. My original title was Coordinator of Membership Care.

As a result, we have 8 new visitors: Judy Walling, who takes large-print books to shut-ins, Susan Teer who goes with me every week to visit, Linda and Bill Wilson who have taken photographs of 8 shut-ins for the directory, Tommy Shore, Mary Head, Charlotte Corbin, and Polly Robinson. (Also at Administrative Board, Chic Craig said he'd take pictures one day, Mildred Teer said she'd write notes, and three other men said they'd visit once.

From January 23rd to March 20th, I made 44 visits and the Visitation Team made 158. This reflects my efforts to coordinate and encourage more visitation by members. (Also I was sick one week; I worked, but could not visit older people.

Reverend Carson will dedicate the Visitation Team in worship on Sunday, April 1st, to let the congregation know that these fine people are doing a wonderful ministry in Jesus' name. I will send out letters soon. Also I plan to have a coffee for the members of the Visitation Team in April and include some training, sharing, and refreshments.

The children's program has helped the Visitation Team by making Christmas decorations, Valentines, and St. Patrick's Day favors for us to take to older folks. Circle 8 also fixed boxes of cookies for us to deliver.



To show the caring for others in our church, one of our shut-ins who died after Christmas, Corinne Langley, had her casket and funeral paid for by Winston Montgomery. Also the now-disbanded Mrs. R. N. Wilson class paid for her grave marker and the flowers on her casket. The church had already paid for new shoes and underwear in the fall, and I had taken her shopping to purchase the clothes. Church members had given her clothes, and Mary Ruth Greenfield had altered them for her.

There are lots of wonderful surprises in store for those who are doing the Lord's work!

*Ann Stallings*

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March 20, 1990

