

THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER



First Baptist Church, Mount Airy, North Carolina

Volume 3

December 17, 1964

Number 50

W O R S H I P *IS THE HEART OF LIVING*

Worship begins as I close the door to my home. On my way, I pray for my church, for the minister, and for those who worship far and near.

Before I enter the house of God, I pause a moment that I may cast off and leave outside all things and thoughts unbecoming a child of my Heavenly Father: hates, grudges, frettings, worldly cares and sinful thoughts.

The moment I enter the door of this sacred house, I cease all conversation. I come in silence, for great things arise out of quietness and minister to me and to those about me.

As soon as I am seated, I bow my head in prayer. I pray for others as well as myself. I pray for my church and its great causes. I ask God to be near me now.

I join in the singing of hymns and bow my head during the amen. I think about the words of the sermon and let their meaning and spirit go down to the roots of my soul.

As I lay my offering on the plate, I say a prayer of thanks for my money and ask God's blessing on its use here and in the uttermost parts of the earth.

Throughout the service I think of God objectively. As power, peace, strength, love, He is all I need for life as it should be.

I listen as the minister preaches from God's Word, and I seek to apply his message to my life. I pray for him as he preaches.

When the service has ended in Christian friendliness I speak to those whom I know and also to those who are strangers to me.

As I pass through the outer portals I dedicate my life to walk this

THE NEWSLETTER

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Church Office Phone 786-5185

CHURCH STAFF

Lowell F. Sodeman Interim
Minister

Minister of Education

Robert Sutter, Minister of Music

Miss Betsy McGee Secretary

Mrs. Swanson Richards Finan.

Ed. Secy.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Talley

Maintenance



Sunday, December 20

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

6:00 p.m. BTU Snack Supper and
Christmas Social

7:30 p.m. YWA's to go Caroling

Monday, December 21

3:15 p.m. Cub Scouts

7:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack Meeting

Tuesday, December 22

3:30 p.m. Brownie Scouts

3:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

Wednesday, December 23

7:30 p.m. Prayer Service

PLEASE NOTE

The Newsletter will not be publish-
ed the week after Christmas. Any ac-
tivity that you might wish to have an-
nounced for the week of December 27
through January 4 should be given to
the Church Office by Monday morning,
December 21. It will be published in
next week's issue.

LAST WEEK AT A GLANCE

Church Membership	1,049
Resident Membership	734
Sunday School Enrolment	616
Sunday School Attendance	344
Morning Worship	312
Training Union	100
Tithes and Offerings	\$2,273.05
Kindergarten	\$345.00
Lottie Moon Offering	\$940.70
Building Fund	\$110.00
Other Specials	\$159.95
Total Deposit	\$3,828.70
Pledged to Date	\$106,509.00
Offerings Received to Date	\$92,685.30
Weekly Budget Needs	\$2,596.15
Budget Needs to Date	\$129,807.70
Total Deposits to Date	\$113,073.13

EASTSIDE MISSION

Sunday School	27
Morning Worship	18
Offerings	\$12.58

SERVICEMAN OF THE WEEK

This week we remember in our pray-
ers and in our thoughts:

PVT. GEORGE E. OLIVER

RA 14870530

Hq. and Hq. USAG

Fort Riley, Kansas

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Again this year we will remember our
shut-in friends with a Christmas Poin-
settia. On Sunday morning, December
20, immediately following the morning
worship service, the plants will be de-
livered to the homes of our shut-ins.

Special cards have been prepared
and are available in the pew racks in
the Sanctuary. If you would desire to
share in this ministry by sending a
poinsettia in the name of the Church,
please sign one of these cards and
place it in the offering plate during
the worship service or hand it to one
of the ushers.

Lottie Moon Offering

For Foreign Missions

OUR CHURCH GOAL \$ 1,900.00



Music Notes

During the last two weeks of December, there will be no choir rehearsals, as your Minister of Music will be taking his vacation those two weeks. He will leave on December 22 and return on January 5. Choirs will resume with the Junior Boy Choir meeting on January 6 and all other choirs meeting at their regular time after that date.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Total Budget	\$119,000.00
Total Pledged to Date	\$84,552.32
Weekly Budget Needs	\$2,286.70
Weekly Pledge	\$1,626.01
Pledge Cards In	708
Tithers	155
Pledge Cards Out	276



By Baptism:

- (4) Donald Frank Jones
348 Moore Avenue

TRAINING UNION CHRISTMAS SOCIAL HOUR

SUNDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 20

BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

THERE WILL BE CAROLING AND FUN

FOR ALL. PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!!

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A memorial gift has been placed in the Building Fund in memory of Mrs. W. P. Shelton by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse M. Banner.

Also a memorial gift has been given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in memory of Mrs. R. M. Smith by her daughter, Miss Lessie Smith.



Don't Forget To Pick Yours Up!

WHAT: Church Envelopes for every member of our Church and Sunday School Family

WHEN: Anytime between now and Sunday, December 27. (The sooner, the better!)

WHERE: On a table in the Annex of the Sanctuary. They are placed alphabetically in family units. Take all that belong to your family.

YOU CAN SAVE YOUR CHURCH A GREAT DEAL IN POSTAGE
BY SECURING YOURS IMMEDIATELY. PLEASE DO SO!

THANK YOU.

Angels We Have

Heard on High

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Who Wrote the Hymn?

By EDMOND D. KEITH

THE OBSERVANCE of Christmas early became a practice among Christians. Less than two centuries after the birth of Jesus, Clement wrote, "Brethren, keep diligently the Feast days, and truly in the first place the day of Christ's birth." Since any festival calls forth song, it is easy to see how songs about Mary and Joseph, the star, the Babe, the shepherds, and the Wise Men sprang up among the people. And since Christmas is a time of joy, mirth, and gaiety, how natural that, outside the confines of the church, these songs about the birth of Jesus assumed the form of the traditional French carol, known and loved for its joyousness.

In all song literature, there are few things that equal the depth, beauty, and simplicity of the traditional carol. And, of all carols, the French *noëls* are the gayest and most lilting. Particularly happy are the ones with texts which tell of the angels and the shepherds, such as "Angels We Have Heard on High."

This best known of all French carols was first published, text and tune, in 1855. It seems, however, to date from the eighteenth century. Numerous versions of the text evidently stem from the same source. Among the more familiar are "Bright angels we have heard on high," "Bright angel hosts are heard on high," "Hearken all! what holy singing," and "Shepherds in the fields abiding."

In England, they use this old French carol tune with James Montgomery's hymn "Angels from the Glory of the Lord."

America, we generally prefer to sing the tune that has been associated with the text beginning "Les anges dans nos campagnes" since the eighteenth century. In English hymnals, the tune is called *Iris* because it was in the *Sheffield Iris* that Montgomery's hymn was first published. American hymnals list the tune as *GLORIA* or *LES ANGES DANS NOS CAMPAGNES*.

No name, either of author, composer, or translator, can be associated definitely with this carol. First published in France, "Angels We Have Heard on High" appeared with the stanzas written in French and the refrain in Latin.

In *Baptist Hymnal* (1956), the arrangement of the traditional tune to the carol is by Warren M. Angell, the dean of Fine Arts at Oklahoma Baptist University and one of Southern Baptists' best-known musicians. Of the carol, Dean Angell says, "It is one of the loveliest of Christmas songs. Especially is the text of the refrain very lofty and fitting at Christmas time. It has thrilled me since childhood."

Dr. Angell, who was born in Brooklyn, New York, is a graduate of Syracuse University and Teacher's College, Columbia University. He has been on the O.B.U. faculty since 1936. While on leave of absence studying toward the doctorate, he sang in the Fred Waring Glee Club.

Dr. Angell is much in demand for choir clinics and music festivals and is a frequent contributor of articles and music to *THE CHURCH MUSICIAN*. He is the author of three