

THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER



First Baptist Church, Mount Airy, North Carolina

Volume 3

December 23, 1964

Number 51

BEST WISHES FROM YOUR STAFF



Christmas

God so loved...he gave his Son

Mr. Robert F. Sutter
Miss Betsy McGee
Mrs. Swanson Richards

Mrs. James McNeil
Mrs. Melvin Slate
Mrs. Harry Gilbert

Mrs. Ed Daniels
Mrs. Dale Arnold
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Talley

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

LAST WEEK AT A GLANCE

Church Membership	1,050
Resident Membership	735
Sunday School Enrolment	616
Sunday School Attendance	222
Morning Worship	251
Training Union	118
Tithes and Offerings	\$1,375.31
Kindergarten	\$136.50
Lottie Moon Offering	\$115.03
Memorials	\$55.00
Other Specials	\$258.51
Total Deposit	\$1,940.35
Pledged to Date	\$108,639.18
Offerings Received to Date	\$94,060.61
Weekly Budget Needs	\$2,596.15
Budget Needs to Date	\$132,403.85
Total Deposits to Date	\$115,013.48



Opportunities for the Week

Sunday, December 27

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

THERE WILL BE NO ACTIVITIES DURING
THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 28 -- JANUARY 2

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

The church offices will be closed
Wednesday, December 23, through Monday,
December 28, in observance of the
Christmas holidays.

Also no Newsletter will be published
next week.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A memorial gift has been given to
the Hand Bell Choir Fund in memory of
Mr. James S. Bray by Mr. and Mrs. Robert
M. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. James R. Bray.

SERVICEMAN OF THE WEEK

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

EDGAR BARRY PATTERSON AA 772-7948

Disbursing Bldg. #45

NAS

Pensacola, Florida



Newcomers

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard L. Johnson, of
South Franklin Road, announce the birth
of their son, Leonard Lawrence, Jr., on
Tuesday, December 15.

PASTOR'S CLASS FOR CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM

Mr. Sodeman will meet with the candi-
dates for baptism in the Study on Sun-
day mornings, January 10 and January 17
at 10:00 a.m. A baptismal service will
be conducted on Sunday morning, January
24.



Wedding Bells

By Baptism:

(5) Eddie Daniel

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John
R. Harris (nee: Virginia Mickey Short)
who were married on Tuesday, November

Dearest Church Family:

As chairman of your Music Committee, I feel I must express to you our feeling of pride and most of all our appreciation for the lovely worship service Mr. and Mrs. Sutter presented last Sunday evening, December 13.

The program was representative of careful planning and many hours of diligent practice by everyone. The music was new and delightful. The narration by Mr. Sodeman, whom we have all come to know and love, made it all the more beautiful. The children seem to take great pleasure and delight in their presentation.

We wonder if you realize what an opportunity in musical education is being provided for the children from Primary through Young People. Since there is very little music in the school, how much greater the opportunity. You have voted and approved this ministry of music. Why not send your children. It is there, and only for the taking. We need to swell our choirs to capacity. We must grow and advance or become stagnant and nothing. Music is such a vital part of worship, else why do angels sing, "Glory to God in the highest."

Never could we find a more dedicated Christian or accomplished musician with two degrees in music to his credit. Dear family, we are more fortunate than we realize. Not only do we have a wonderful Minister of Music, but we are doubly blessed because Mrs. Sutter (Joan to everyone) also has a degree in music. And by the way, music degrees are not easy to come by.

We, the Music Committee, say to you, church family, let's see that our children seize this opportunity of musical education so that they may do as Paul said, "Study to show thyself approved" thereby presenting the best within each individual, not for ourselves but for the adoration and glory of God and that we may come before Him with praise and thanksgiving.

Most sincerely,

Mrs. James R. Bray

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Dear Friends:

We are privileged to use this means of expressing our love to our many, many friends in Mount Airy at this Christmas Season. We think of you all so often, and cherish most highly the bonds of love that God has permitted us to have with you.

At this Season, we wish for you the joy and happiness that is known through the Christ of Christmas. May God bless each of you richly in the New Year that lies before you.

Affectionately yours,

Mel, Barbara, Vern, and Steve

A WORD FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR ...

Your many expressions of good will and love for our ministry here and your greetings for the Christmas season have enriched our lives and endeared us to you. We thank you one and all. We are grateful to God for the privilege of working with you. May this Christmas be the most MEANINGFUL you have experienced and may the New Year bring fulfillment of all your most cherished hopes and dreams.

Lowell F. Sodeman and Family

EASTSIDE MISSION

We, the people of Eastside Mission, wish to express to you, the people of First Church, our appreciation for your many expressions of love and concern in our work. The Lord bless each of you in this good season and in the coming year.

Eastside Mission Pastor and People



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hennis (nee: Mary Vaughn) who were married on Sunday, December 20, in

A Christmas Prayer



Let us pray that strength and courage abundant be given to all who work for a world of reason and understanding * that the good that lies in every man's heart may day by day be manifested * that men will come to see more clearly not that which divides them, but that which unites them * that each hour may bring us closer to a final victory, not of nation over nation, but of man over his own evils and weaknesses * that the true spirit of this Christmas season -- its joy, its beauty, its hope, and above all its abiding faith -- may live among us * that the blessings of peace be ours -- the peace to build and grow, to live in harmony and sympathy with others, and to plan for the future with confidence.

-- New York Life Insurance Company

There is love at Christmas, because Christmas was born of love. Let us, each one, keep alive this spirit of love and glorify God.

-- Josepha Emms



CHRISTMAS EVE

At midnight in the church a hush falls
and we hear
Only a gentle rustling, like the sound
He heard as near His bed the golden
straw
Rustled as the cattle gathered round.

Then through the hush the white-robed
choir begins
The song of joy, the same the angels
then
Sang o'er the plains near Bethlehem of
joy,
Of hope, of peace on earth, good will
to men.

And then across the cold, clear air the
bells
Proclaim to all the town that Christ is
born;
Chiming as even the heavens must have
chimed
The night the stars stood still to
greet the morn.

And in the hush, and through the song,
and with
The bells my heart lifts up, and this
I know . . .
The ancient tidings of great joy are
still
As thrilling as they were so long ago.



IN BETHLEHEM

Let us go now to Bethlehem
Upon this Christmas Day,
And there within a manger bed
Find strength we need alway.

A faith to conquer every doubt ...
Love which is good and true ...
Hope that can banish all despair ...
Peace to bring joy anew.

And let us there accept the gift