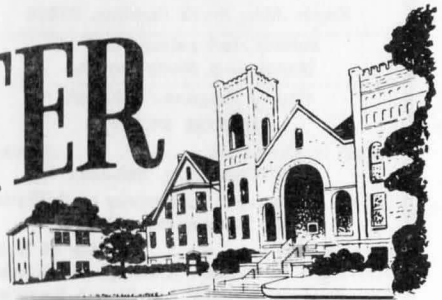


THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER



First Baptist Church, Mount Airy, North Carolina

Volume 6

December 7, 1967

Number 47

ARE YOU A SHOCK ABSORBER?

....."Who does she think she is? I'll never work for her again!"

....."I can always withdraw my pledge, you know."

....."Why doesn't she come down to earth once in a while? She always has to be so intellectual about everything!"

....."She can't control her own little monsters---what makes her think she can teach Sunday School?"

....."Anyone who dresses as well as that can't have her mind on the sermon."

....."Those Wednesday nighters are all spiritual snobs."

....."I never would have worked so hard if I had known what the money was going to be spent for."

When Dad comes home from the office and lets off steam, everybody there --if it is a loving family--knows that he has had a hard day at the office, and behaves accordingly. Or they know that sister didn't get a part in the school play tryouts, or brother's team lost the game, or mother has an exceldrin headache; and while nothing may be said in words, everybody knows how to create the kind of environment in which the harassed individual can find his balance again.

If our "family of strangers" is to be truly a family, it (the church) must be a place like home, where one can erupt and still be loved and accepted where one can say the nasty things that come to mind, and have them disappear without a trace. absorbed in love by

It (the church) must be a place where, if two are angry, they can be sure that they stand on solid ground together and that reconciliation will come about if they do not try to block it.

It must be a place where "I'm sorry" is known and accepted as a truthful action and not a polite and meaningless gesture. In any loving household any gesture of reconciliation is accepted wholeheartedly and immediately, not grudgingly and suspiciously.

Here are some suggestions on how we, as a church, can live in love and harmony with one another. Consider them carefully in the light of your own existence.

.....Be a shock absorber - don't get stirred up by what you hear; receive it quietly and peacefully.

.....Be a sponge - absorb it, hold it; don't pass it on. Keep it, at least as far as you can, from spreading.

.....Be a drain - take it in, let it go right through your mind, leaving no traces; forget it as soon as possible.

.....Be a shield - defend, protect, explain the person or action talked about; quietly, gently, without mounting any counterattacks; remember, you are a shield, not a sword.

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Church Telephone 786-5185

CHURCH STAFF

James L. Powell, Jr. Pastor
213 Wrenn Ave. 786-6667

Alfred L. Stanley Minister of Education
207 E. Lebanon St., 789-1702

Jerry F. Johnson Minister of Music
Mrs. James R. McNeil .. Kindergarten Director
Mrs. Rayburn Golding Church Secretary
Mrs. Charles Childress Administrative
Secretary

Carl Talley Church Maintenance

Circle MEETINGS

The MARY HESTER POWELL CIRCLE will meet with Mrs. James L. Powell, Jr. Monday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m.

The ELLA GREENWOOD HOLCOMB CIRCLE will meet with Mrs. Rex Tilley, Tuesday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Youth Council Meetings

Your Youth Council will be meeting every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month instead of the 2nd and 3rd as reported in last week's Newsletter. All young people who are interested are invited.

Sunday School

The Dorcus Sunday School Class will have their Christmas Party this coming Monday evening at 6:30 in the church Fellowship Hall. All ladies in this class are asked to bring a covered dish for the supper. Come and enjoy this time of fellowship together!

December 11 - 6:30 p.m.

The BETHANY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS will meet Monday, December 11th at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Mrs. J. H. Johnson, 112 Grace Street. Mrs. Grace



Opportunities for the Week

Sunday, December 10

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service
- 7:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Monday, December 11

- 3:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
- 6:30 p.m. Christmas Party - Dorcus Sunday School Class

Wednesday, December 13

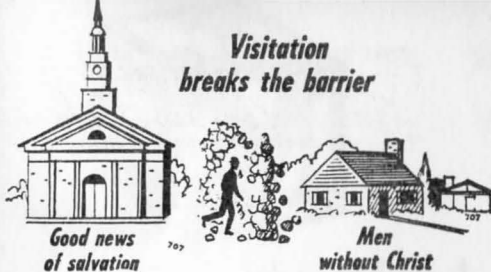
- 3:30 p.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal
- 4:30 p.m. G.A.'s
- 4:30 p.m. Sunbeams
- 5:30 p.m. Primary Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Prayer Service
- 8:00 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday, December 14

- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Are You Willing?

- To close your book of complaints and to open the book of praise?
- To believe other men are quite as sincere as you and to treat them with respect?
- To ignore what life owes you and to think about what you owe to life?
- To stop looking for friendship and to start being friendly?
- To be content with such things as you have and to stop whining for the things you have not?
- To enjoy the simple blessings of life and to cease striving for the artificial pleasures of the day?
- To forget what you have accomplished and meditate on what others have done for you?
- To cease looking for someone to help you and to devote yourself to helping others?
- To consecrate your life to the service of an imperfect Church and to remember that Christ chose twelve imperfect men to be His disciples?
- To accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord and to let your life be an outlet for His joy, love and peace?



THE KEY TO EVERYTHING

I am sure you have heard of a master key. Most large buildings have keys for every door in the building, but there is one key which fits every door. It is called the master key. This key is so constructed that it will unlock every door in the building.

In the building of a church, there are many keys to various activities and ministries. There are keys for Sunday School growth; there are keys to successful WMU programs; there are keys to faithful and obedient Stewardship; there are keys to a blessed worship service. In fact, there is one key to everything---the master key. And that is VISITATION.

Visitation is the master key to enrollment and attendance and growth. Visitation is the master key to revival and outreach and successful soul-winning. Visitation is the key-note in our Lord's commission "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel."

If one quarter of the members of our church were truly filled with the Holy Spirit we would not have to announce revival or visitation. They would be out knocking on doors with or without prospect cards.

Visitation is the key to a great church. Remember, "that call you make ---that visit---if you do it in His name, in His spirit, it may show up again in heaven.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A memorial gift has been given to the LOCKE WEBB MEMORIAL FUND by Mr. and Mrs. Natt Ferguson.

Memorial Flowers

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary for this Sunday in loving memory of Mrs. H. E. MILLER by the

OUR STEWARDSHIP RECORD

December 3, 1967

Budget Offering-----	\$2,309.12
Designated Funds-----	\$225.00
Kindergarten-----	\$215.00
Memorials-----	\$10.00
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering-----	\$138.00
Total Deposit-----	\$2,672.12
Budget Offering to Date----	\$104,688.39
Weekly Budget Needs-----	\$2,385.00

Say, G.A.,

Hear a story

About a

Nigerian hero!

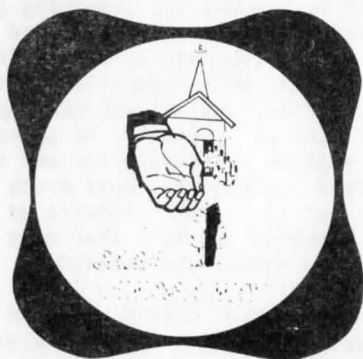
Guess who?

On Wednesday meet him

G.A. room

4:30 p.m.

Have You Pledged To Support Your Church In 1968?



**A GOD WHO CARES CAN
NEVER BE REPRESENTED
BY A PEOPLE WHO
DO NOT CARE**

Pledge Cards Returned-----	458
Pledge Cards Unreturned-----	281
Amount Pledged (12-5-67)	
Yearly-----	\$80,756.40
Weekly-----	\$1,551.01

ARE YOU A SHOCK ABSORBER?
continued.....

.....Be a mirror - nothing shows a person what he is saying or doing as well as a quiet, uncritical, but unresponding reception.

.....Last, and most important: pray over these things in yourself and others. When the central spirit changes, everything becomes different even when all the outward happenings remain the same. It is at the altar that the central changes are made.

We Generally Find What We Look For in Church

A recent article in the Biblical Recorder carried the above title, and this editor feels that it strikes a real truth. The following words were written by Dr. Pierce Harris, pastor of First Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. He says:

"When a man goes to a church he should be looking for something good. He should not be like the bird that sits on the top rail of a farm fence, looking for where some sick calf has died, overlooking all the healthy animals in the pasture. We generally find what we are looking for and there are dead calves in almost every pasture; but if one will inquire of "The Good Shepherd" he will find many good things to admire and commend.

In a world almost wrecked by hatred, violence at home and war abroad, there is not time or place for stabbing the church in the back. Some complain that the minister has no 'message,' but if a fair-minded man will attend a church Sunday after Sunday there is a better than fair chance he will hear something that, applied to his own way of life, will make him a better man."

How often are you as a family attending the worship services of your church? Won't you let this Sunday become a new beginning for you?



L is for Lottie—or Love.

M is for Moon—or Money.

C is for Christmas—or Christian Concern.

O is for Offering—of Ourselves for Others.

The O is on the other side of the block, still in the hearts and pocket-books of Southern Baptists approaching the Christmas season of prayer for foreign missions, the season of special giving in memory of the One who gave Himself for the world. Its amount in terms of money for missions in 1968 is still unknown; its impact on those who give, forever immeasurable.

Miss Lottie Moon's actual missionary service in China ended many years ago. Through the medium of the offering which she inspired, we can provide the opportunity for new missionaries to Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Orient. Consecrated and well equipped missionaries are one of the many valuable contributions Southern Baptists make to the Lord's cause and the nations of the world.

HAVE YOU HAD A PART IN IT? Our goal is \$1,500.

OUR KNOWN SICK

NORTHERN SURRY HOSPITAL
Mr. Porter Cox

FORSYTH HOSPITAL
Mr. E. C. Collins

MEDI-CENTER, ROOM 149, WINSTON-SALEM
Mrs. Romney Simmons, Sr.

AT HOME
Dr. P. W. Green
Mrs. Bob Lawing

Christian Sympathy

We express our sincere Christian Sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Reid Jackson in the passing of Mr. Jackson's