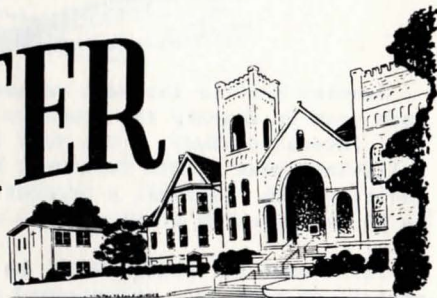


THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER



First Baptist Church, Mount Airy, North Carolina

Volume 5

December 8, 1966

Number 47

Are You Ready for Christmas?



The Bethlehem innkeeper of more than 1,960 years ago was unprepared for a sublime event which could have happened in his place of business. Because there was no room for Mary and Joseph in the inn, Jesus, the Son of God was born in a lowly manger. This innkeeper is to be pitied, for he was not ready for this first Christmas experience, though the Messiah's coming had been foretold for hundreds of years.

Before feeling too sorry for the innkeeper, let us ask ourselves if we are ready for Christmas, 1966. And how can we get ready?

Have a prepared head.

We do not mean a shampoo and set nor a facial, but the kind of preparation which may be made by praying, "God be in my head, and in my understanding." Such a prayer helps us see beyond the superficialities of Christmas and to have a keen insight and understanding of its significant meaning to all mankind.

Have a prepared heart.

Sometimes when we do things for others and for the Lord we discover that we've been motivated by selfishness rather than by love and compassion. Only when our heart is attuned to the heart of God are we touched by the infirmities of others and desire to alleviate their distress.

Have a prepared hand.

Here again we do not mean the manicured, gloved hand; but the hand which shares God's gifts and the imploring hand of prayer.

There is no better way for you to prepare your head and heart and hand for Christmas than by participating in your church's Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Will you make this kind of preparation for Christmas? If so, then you will know the high inspiration and personal joy of being a part of the church and its mission. And you will be ready to celebrate the advent of His coming to be the Saviour of the world.

I know you will want to make every effort to be present Sunday to hear the pastor's message and to worship a living God. See you there!

Christmas Offering for WORLD MISSIONS

STUDIES IN AMOS



January 9-13 is the week we have set aside for our study of the book of Amos. Each year in January the Southern Baptist Convention chooses a book of the Bible for intensive study. One year the book will be in the New Testament, and the following year an Old Testament book is chosen. This year we are to study the exciting book of Amos, a prophet said to be speaking to our day just as surely as he was speaking to his people of 765 B. C.

This week of study will be one of the most challenging and informative periods we have ever experienced as a church. The study will include all Young People and Adults throughout our church. Just be sure you circle these dates on your calendar now before they are filled by other activities. Watch for further details and information in later Newsletters. This is something you will not want to miss.

Kindergarten Receives State Approval Again

This week Mrs. J. R. McNeil, our Kindergarten Director, received the following words from Mr. Calvin L. Criner, State Supervisor for Nonpublic Schools with a copy also being sent to Mount Airy Superintendent, B. H. Tharrington.

"The Committee for the Evaluation of Nonpublic Schools has reviewed the annual fall report for your institution and extends approval to it for the academic year 1966-67."

This kind of information greatly pleases us because it speaks so well for our Kindergarten teachers, our physical facilities, co-operation of parents, congregational support, and a director at the wheel who is experienced and one who has the preparation of children upper-most in her heart. We take our Kindergarten ministry for granted so often, that I fear that we do not know the part it plays in the city of Mount Airy. I hope you will ask around about this educational service, then you can lift your head and be proud of what your church is able to do through your co-operation and witness.

Thank you, Mrs. McNeil, for a job

Lottie Moon Offering

Received To Date

\$506

Our goal—\$1,500

OUR STEWARDSHIP RECORD

December 4, 1966

Budget Offering-----	\$2,282.50
Designated Funds-----	\$289.00
Kindergarten-----	\$201.00
Memorials-----	\$88.00
Handbell Choir-----	\$50.00
Lottie Moon Offering-----	\$95.65
Total Offering-----	\$2,571.50
Budget Offering to Date----	\$91,350.26
Budget Needs to Date-----	\$108,365.46

The Bethany Sunday School Class will meet with Mrs. J. E. Stimpson, Monday night, December 12, at 7:30 P. M. Mrs. George K. Snow will be



Sunday, December 11

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
 6:00 p.m. Training Union

Monday, December 12

3:30 p.m. Cub Scouts
 7:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack Meeting

Wednesday, December 14

6:00 p.m. Primary Choir
 6:00 p.m. Junior Choir
 6:30 p.m. Sunbeams
 6:30 p.m. Church Council
 6:45 p.m. Youth Choir
 7:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
 8:15 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday, December 15

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following memorial gifts have been made in memory of Mrs. J. S. Bray:

BUILDING FUND - J. S. Bray Family

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Banner
 Miss Dottie Sink
 Mr. and Mrs. Caleb Hill
 Mr. and Mrs. Archie Barker
 Mrs. E. H. Kochtitzky
 Mr. and Mrs. John P. Frank
 Lovina C. Paulette Circle

HANDBELL CHOIR

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Johnson
 Mr. and Mrs. Guy R. Blackburn
 The Electa Sunday School Class
 Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Reece

CHURCH CHOIR

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Lewis

LIBRARY

The Hi-Way Sunday School Class

Memorial gifts have also been given to the Building Fund in memory of Mr. J. Harvey Parries by Mr. and Mrs. James E. Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Banner.

A memorial gift has been given to the Building Fund in memory of Mr. Murner Lewis' sister, Mrs. Gray Roberts, by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Banner.

Because I am unable to personally acknowledge the many cards, letters and packages I received while I was a patient in Anchorage, Alaska hospital, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart--for everything. I hope that you know how much brighter you made the days for me. I did not miss a day getting something---I could hardly wait for mail call---such a blessing and still is. You can't imagine how wonderful to get mail when you are away from home.

When I came around to knowing things again, several doctors and nurses were standing over me and one doctor said, "Thank God, that's all that saved you boy, we had done all we could with human hands."

Hoping you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I will not get to come home, but I'm thankful to be alive. I'm doing fine now.

Thanking you all again. May God Bless you all.

Love,

A/2C Walton R. Shelton, Jr.
 AF 14888550
 CMRI Box 2166
 APO Seattle, Washington 98742



Monday, December 12 - 2:30 p.m.

MAGGIE NUTT HERRING CIRCLE - Mrs. G. W. Taylor, 145 Worth Street

Monday, December 12 - 7:30 p.m.

LENA WEBB CIRCLE - Mrs. M. H. Cagle - 209 Wrenn Avenue

Monday, December 12 - 8:00 p.m.

MARY HESTER POWELL CIRCLE - Mrs. Marvin Driskill, 931 N. Franklin Road

Introducing The 1967 Church Council

After considerable examination and study, we can now see a revised First Baptist Church Council emerging that will be seeking to lift up the mission, purpose, and program of our church through a much needed method—that of planning. For several years we have followed a set-pattern that was designed some 12-15 years ago and landed down from year to year without asking if this particular type of council was adequately fulfilling a needed job. For several months the leadership of our church has sought with the pastor to find a better and more effective way than we already had. A solution has seemingly been found, and it is interesting to note that it closely parallels the suggestion our Church Administration Department in Nashville, Tennessee, began making several years ago.

What is a Church Council? The Church Council is a servant of the congregation. It provides the meeting ground for leaders to consider what God wants their church to be and do. It exists not to make decisions for the congregation, but to help the congregation make its decisions wisely. The council provides the congregation with a group of responsible leaders to whom it can look for planning, coordinating, and evaluating a church's work.

Technically, the Church Council is that organization of a church through which the organization and committees of a church may co-ordinate their activities into one harmonious program of work. It is not an authoritative or administrative group.

The Church Council is composed of those church leaders who have responsibility for the church programs. Normally, the Church Council will include the pastor, Sunday School Superintendent, Training Union Director, Woman's Missionary Union President, Brotherhood President, Minister of Music, Minister of Education, and certain ex-officio members. The chairman of the deacons may be a regular ex-officio member. The ex-

lected leaders and committee chairmen whose duties relate to the work of the church council. (Robert's Rules of Order Revised defines an ex-officio member as one having all the privileges of membership, including the right to vote.)

The task of the Church Council is basically threefold: (1) Planning, (2) Co-ordinating, (3) Evaluating. The council should meet at least once every month. The chairman, who is usually the pastor, may call additional meetings during periods of annual planning or when an unusual amount of co-ordination is needed among church organizations such as for revivals or stewardship emphases. (Handbook For Church Council Members).

An organizing meeting for the greater 1967 council will be held Wednesday night, December 14 at 6:30 P. M. in the Junior High Sunday School Department (behind the Fellowship Hall).



SERVICEMAN OF THE WEEK

This week we remember in our prayers and in our thoughts:

Lt. Joseph K. Harrell
2411 Blossom St., Apt. 5E
Columbia, South Carolina

OUR KNOWN SICK

NORTHERN SURRY HOSPITAL

Mr. Roscoe Stewart
Mr. Grady Harmon

FORSYTH HOSPITAL

Mr. Albert Gwyn

VETERANS HOSPITAL, DURHAM

Miss Marla Hartman

THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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