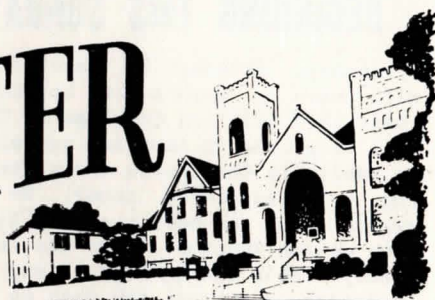


THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER



First Baptist Church, Mount Airy, North Carolina

Volume 5

December 15, 1966

Number 48

FIRST BAPTIST PRESENTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

"THE CHILDHOOD OF CHRIST"

BY

JOHANN CHRISTOPH BACH

A CANTATA PRESENTED

BY THE FIRST BAPTIST CHOIR

ALSO

CHILDRENS' CHOIRS

AND BELL RINGERS

SUNDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 18

7:30 P. M. ---CHURCH SANCTUARY

"THE CHRISTMAS CAROL"

BY

CHARLES DICKENS

PRESENTED BY

FIRST BAPTIST YOUTH

SPONSORED BY TRAINING UNION

WEDNESDAY EVENING

DECEMBER 21, 7:00 P. M.

FELLOWSHIP HALL

"Invite your friends to enjoy this favorite of all Christmas stories with you."

CHURCH NURSERY OPEN FOR BOTH EVENTS

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering For Foreign Missions

PASSES \$1400 MARK: 95% COMPLETED

PICK UP 1967 OFFERING ENVELOPES BEGINNING THIS SUNDAY

Sunday, December 18, each family will have an opportunity to pick up their 1967 Offering Envelopes. These will be grouped by families and placed on tables in the church annex (beside the main sanctuary room). We are asking that one member of the family pick up the envelopes for the entire family. This can be done at any time on Sunday or through the week at your convenience. On December 27, we will mail out all the envelopes that have not been picked up by then. As you can imagine, this can be a large unnecessary expense for the church budget. You have two Sundays to get this done, so please make every effort to pick them up as soon as possible.

Keep in mind that you will have an opportunity to approve the 1967 Church Budget in January and will at that time be given an opportunity to sign a pledge card. We are asking you to continue your present giving through January. By February 1 we will begin our new budget.

Please use the numbered envelopes assigned to you. Our people are constantly forgetting their envelopes on Sunday and then using the first envelope they can get their hands on. Your contributions are recorded weekly by your envelope number. This means a lot of extra work on the part of our secretaries if you use a strange number. Won't you help us do a faster and better job for you? We will appreciate it.

OUR STEWARDSHIP RECORD

December 11, 1966

Budget Offering-----	\$2,001.10
Designated Funds-----	\$510.20
Kindergarten-----	\$389.20
Building Fund-----	\$121.00
Lottie Moon Offering----	\$1,141.02
Total Offering-----	\$2,511.30
Budget Offering to Date----	\$93,861.56

PASTOR DECLINES INVITATION TO BRAZIL

For several weeks the pastor has been in sincere prayer concerning an invitation extended to him while attending the North Carolina State Baptist Convention meeting in Winston-Salem. The invitation involved an 18 day trip and preaching mission through Bogota, Columbia; Quite, Ecuador; Lima, Peru; Rio de Janeiro, South America; and parts of Southern Brazil. The purpose of this group of pastors and laymen making the trip was to offer an opportunity for them to preach to other peoples and also to broaden their own scope and deepen their intensity for foreign mission work. The doors of Brazil are open now to Southern Baptists and we must carry the gospel of Christ through them whenever we possibly can. Brazil is the land of opportunity. This group will leave Charlotte on January 18 and return to this country on February 8. This will be Brazil's summer season and will also be the time that the Brazilian Baptist Convention will be meeting in Belo Horizonte.

It was disappointing for the pastor to say no to this invitation, but God's will seems to be pointing in another direction at this particular time for him and for his people. Around January 19, the bids on our new sanctuary building are to be opened and studied. Also in January we will be seeking to subscribe our 1967 church budget. Together we will be standing at a most important junction for our church. The success of one of these items could mean a lot to First Baptist in 1967. The success and adoption of the other item could make a lasting impression on First Baptist and the community she serves for many years to come.

Won't you commit yourself now to pray for these men who will be going to Brazil in Jesus' name, and at the same time join with the pastor in putting your shoulder to the wheel through your faithfulness to the church in the weeks ahead to accomplish the important tasks that are before us? God grant that we shall do our very best to make 1967 the most eventful and very best year our church has ever known. God grant that we



Sunday, December 18

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

Monday, December 19

3:30 p.m. Cub Scouts

Wednesday, December 21

6:15 p.m. Youth Choir
7:00 p.m. Christmas Play
8:15 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday, December 22

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. Howard Morris
Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Webb
Alathæan Sunday School Class
Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Inman, Jr.
Mrs. A. L. Bunker
Miss Alma M. Sparger
Mrs. E. H. Hennis
Mrs. Bernice H. Midkiff
Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Smith
Dr. and Mrs. P. W. Green
Mrs. George E. Marshall
The Vance L. Hallman Family

The following memorial gifts have been given in memory of Mr. J. Harvey Parries:

BUILDING FUND

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Morris

HANDBELL CHOIR

Mrs. A. L. Bunker

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WHY I BELIEVE IN THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

There are many good causes in this world, and the good people representing these good causes often ask you and me for money. But some causes are better than others. The choice is often not between bad and good, but between the good and the best.

I think the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions is just about the greatest cause a person can find. I measure causes. The ones that are mentioned often in the New Testament are the ones I try to give priority. The great work of the New Testament church was missions. The gospels close on a mission theme. The Book of Acts is a long story of missions.

Since I am trying to be a New Testament Christian, should I not give myself to the goals of the New Testament? I believe I should. Our Foreign Mission Board is my link with the people "who live in darkness". If the people who live in that darkness are ever to see a great light, I must wholeheartedly support my communications link with these people. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is this link.

The ordinary dollar that is dropped into the treasure of First Baptist goes to a lot of causes. About 80¢ of that dollar stays in Mount Airy and about 20¢ gets out of town. Of the 20¢ that gets to Raleigh, only 8¢ leaves North Carolina. Of that 8¢ that gets to Nashville, about 3¢ actually gets to the foreign mission cause----a little more of the 8¢ does go for home missions. Every one of the causes is worthy along the way and none is really wasted. But my priorities keep telling me that the foreign mission cause is very close to the work of the New Testament.

Once a year I get an opportunity to cut through the jungle of good causes and give a sizeable gift to this great cause. Every penny of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goes straight to the foreign mission field. I am not going to miss this opportunity to do something about a great cause. Remember Lottie Moon in December and make it a great gift.

T. U. --NECESSITY OR "EXTRA"?

What is happening all over our convention has found its way to our church. This can be verified by attending Training Union and observing only a handful of faithful members who have the keen foresight and spiritual discernment to come and prepare themselves for service.

Upon investigation several reasons have come to our attention for not attending Training Union.

One is the most foolish reasons is this, "I don't want to force my child to go to church if he or she doesn't want to go." This idea of freedom has certainly gone a long way since I was a child. What kind of a parent would say this to a child? They force the child to wear the proper clothing, eat the right food and go to public school in order to fit them for society. Yet they will not require of the child the most important thing in life----that of getting to know and understand God. What good is physical fitness if it is not for the purpose of serving Christ? What good is an education if it is not used for the glory of God? Have we forgotten so soon that Jesus said, "For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world (health, education, etc.,) and lose or forfeit his own self?"

A second reason is a lack of understanding concerning the ministry of the church. Who is to minister? For most Christians, churchgoing is still a spectator endeavor. Apart from supporting the cause with their finances and presence, they leave to the preacher the job of the ministry. There is, of course, no basis for this in the New Testament. There is no distinction between the laity and clergy. The word "laity" comes from the Greek word that means people. Therefore, all Christians are laymen in the sense that they are "the people of God". In order to fulfill the task of ministering Christ has given us, it is imperative for us to be trained. This is the purpose of Training Union.

Please make your attendance at Training Union a matter of prayerful concern.

See you in Training Union.



HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
ANYONE?

How about your church? Do your contributions equal the pledge you made in 1965 toward the budget of your church? How grateful we are that you have seen fit through these years to have a unified budget out of which could come our gifts for missions, building fund, and local operations. This is the simple way. The difficulty comes when we pledge our support at the beginning of the year and fail to follow it through. Too many of our people presently rest in this group. Our faithful stewardship of God's money comes no easier than our time and talents for God. Don't we really do what we in the end want to do? If God takes a fourth or fifth place in our lives, I'm afraid His church will claim about the same interest and faithfulness. Isn't this true? Let's do something about it.

We urge you once again to sincerely consider what you have done for your church financially in 1966, and to ask yourself if you have really done your best. Certainly God would not require anything more than your best. Call the church office and ask for any information you might need. This is a season when gifts are very meaningful. Won't you be sure that your first and best gift is to the Lord? See you in church Sunday!

OUR KNOWN SICK

NORTHERN SURRY HOSPITAL

Mr. Roscoe Stewart

AT HOME

Mr. Grady Harmon

Mr. Albert Gwyn

Mrs. Earl Ramey

Miss Marla Hartman

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary for this Sunday in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Bray by Mr. and