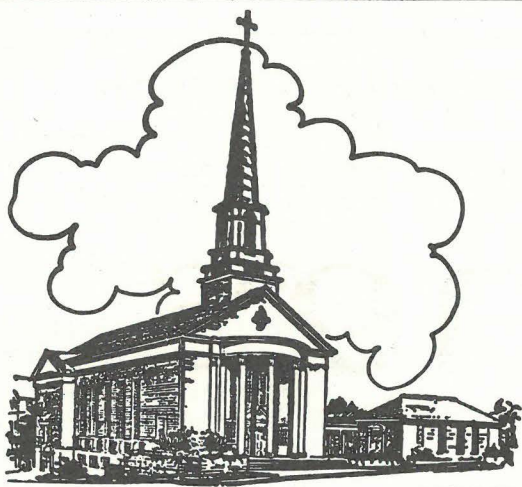




TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • TALLAHASSEE, FLA. • VOL. 3, NO. 11 • DECEMBER, 1976

Monthly Tidings

362 Take Step Forward With Pledges of \$156,000; Campaign Continues for '77 Goal

Three hundred sixty-two families and individual members of Trinity had taken "a step forward" by November 21 with pledges totaling \$156,000 for the 1977 program of the church.

The annual pledge campaign continues so that 320 other families and individuals who normally pledge will have an opportunity to do so by December 10. Pledge cards are being made available during Sunday morn-

ing worship for those persons who were unable to attend the loyalty dinners held in November or who may have been missed on canvassing Sunday, November 14, when rain prevented personal visits to some members' homes.

The program budget for 1977 totals \$306,000, \$260,000 of which is estimated to come from pledges. The remainder is raised from plate offerings, meals served for various group meetings, and other miscellaneous income.

A cash carryover from 1976 pledges is part of the total and is needed to finance the first month's operation in January. The church office reminds members to complete paying their 1976 pledges during December.

The Rev. Dr. Gene Zimmerman expressed appreciation for the response of the membership to the 1977 program. "There are two reasons to give to the church," he said. "First, to give money to carry on the mission of the church, and second, every practicing Christian ought to share something of himself with God by giving a significant gift to the church."

"Job Alike" Sessions Planned for District

Tallahassee District United Methodist Women will hold "Job Alike" training sessions on Thursday, December 2, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Tallahassee Heights Methodist Church; on Sunday, December 5, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Crawfordville; and on Sunday, December 12, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., First Church, Perry.

All officers of Trinity United Methodist Women and other interested persons are urged to attend one of these sessions.

Your Christmas Calendar

- 7:30 p.m., December 5—
"Gloria" sung by Chancel Choirs of Trinity and First Presbyterian Church.
- 6:30 p.m., December 12—
Covered dish supper, Fellowship Hall.
- 6:30 p.m., December 19—
"A Night for Dancing," Carol Choir and Wesleyan Singers.
- 7:30 p.m., December 24—
Family Communion Service.

Choirs Sing "Gloria" as First of Family Christmas Programs

A series of special family Christmas programs begins at Trinity Sunday evening, December 5, when the Chancel Choirs of Trinity and of the First Presbyterian Church will combine to perform Vivaldi's "Gloria."

The work will be directed by Jim Davis at 7:30 p.m. in the Trinity sanctuary.

On Sunday evening, December 12, a covered-dish supper will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It will be followed by a dramatic reading and a Christmas carol sing.

The Carol Choir and Wesleyan Singers will present the Christmas musical, "A Night for Dancing," by Hopson, at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, December 19. This program, directed by Suzanne Gifford, will be performed in the sanctuary.

On Christmas Eve, December 24, a family communion will be held at 7:30 p.m. There will be no evening service on Sunday, December 26.

The Christmas programs are being planned to provide opportunities for Trinity's families to worship together during this joyous season.

Giving and Receiving UMW Meeting Theme

The Christmas program for the United Methodist Women general meeting on Tuesday, December 7, will be on "Giving and Receiving." Each member is asked to bring a gift for a special need (for the Florida Children's Home, needy families, pregnant mothers, children, and the Trinity nursery).

The Executive Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the church conference room and the general luncheon meeting will follow at 11:45 in Fellowship Hall.

Trinity United Methodist Women have increased their pledge to missions by 6% for 1977.

Characters in the Christmas Drama

By Gene Zimmerman

Each year, as Christmas approaches, we busy ourselves preparing to re-create the Christmas drama. In church, on television, and even in some public play houses we see the story of Christ's birth enacted again. Angels and shepherds, the innkeeper and the Wisemen and the Holy Family. If you've grown up in the church you have donned your bathrobe or your mother's silk scarf and played one or another of these persons.

I don't know much about acting but I know that a good actor reads his part, studies the character, and tries to understand the events which took place and how they affected the person he is to play.

I would like to do that with some of the characters in the Christmas drama.

Let's start with the Innkeeper. His stage is a crowded and busy inn. The decree had gone out from Caesar Augustus that a census would be taken and every Jew must go to the seat of his ancestral family to be counted. Thus, those who were of the lineage of David went to Bethlehem.

One can imagine the confusion that takes place at the inn. It was no spacious hostel—two or three large rooms, perhaps. He couldn't begin to care for a fraction of the people who had come to the village. You might understand the innkeeper's plight if you had a room or two to rent and a convention came to town.

Now Mary and Joseph were poor and they had no intention of staying at the inn. Like most every one else they had planned to camp at the edge of the town, but obviously the rigors

of the journey had hastened Mary's delivery and they hurried to the inn to appeal for a place for the child to be born.

"Look," the innkeeper said, "I've got more than I can take care of now, the place is full and the only thing I've got with a roof over it is the stable in the back. If you want to go back there you can." And so they did and so it was that Jesus was born in a stable.

Now the innkeeper was not a villain! He claimed a legitimate excuse; he was busy, and that he was. He had problems of his own and he couldn't be responsible for everybody else's. But the story of the innkeeper has become a universal parable; that people become so busy with things that are understandably important, there is no time or room for the Son of God.

I talk to people who once had a strong faith, a fine marriage, or a life they respected, but gradually it diminished until it all but disappeared. Why did it happen? Where did it begin? Usually, we can't find a time or an event which started it. People get busy with the affairs and responsibilities of life and the value of some things begins to drift away until it's almost gone.

In family life the man is busy with his work, the woman with her home, the children with their activities—all legitimate, all understandable—but then they begin to realize that they are living in separate worlds and find it harder and harder to get back to each other. And those things which are so essential to marriage and family life, warmth and interest and availability, are not there.



"And those who would see wonderful things must often be ready to travel alone."

There's not time to talk because the cares of the home are too many; no time to listen because he's on his way to see an important person. And each of these answers is a good one.

What happened to our faith? they ask. Where did all those high ideals go? How did we lose something that was once so meaningful? We got busy with important things, but in the process, we forgot some of the most important. "What would you have me to do?" and those who persist find some answers.

But mind you, you must be ready to commit yourself to the journey, for when a gleam of truth comes as a bright star in the night you must be ready to follow it or the journey is never made and the answer is never found.

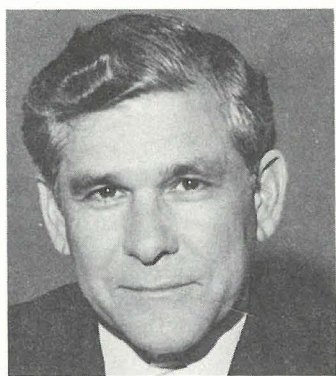
In the story of "The Other Wiseman" by Henry Vandyke, Artaban, a fourth wiseman who was to make the journey, was detained and missed the others. In trying to decide what to do, he was told by a friend, "It is better to follow even the shadow of the best than to remain content with the worst. And those who would see wonderful things must often be ready to travel alone."

By the time Artaban found his way to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph had fled to Egypt. He followed them there and began his search all over again. He tried to keep his gifts for the Christ child intact, but all along the way they were diminished because he spent them on human need. He arrived in Jerusalem on the day of the crucifixion, too late, he thought, to see the Christ. By this time he was an old man. "The quest is over," he thought. But even in that thought, accepted and embraced, there was peace. It was not resignation. It was not submission. It was something more profound and searching. He knew that all was well, because he had done the best he could, from day to day. He had been true to the light that had been given to him. He had looked for more. And if he had not found it, if a failure was all that came out of his life, doubtless that was the best possible. He had not seen the revelation of "life everlasting, incorruptible and immortal." But he knew that even if he could live his earthly life over again, it could not be otherwise than it had been.

And as he lay dying in the streets

(Continued on Page 2)

COMMENT:

"As Important to Receive as to Give"...

I told a lie last Christmas and did it deliberately. But then I've told lies like that before and will probably do it again.

It all started around Thanksgiving. Emily Ann was a volunteer tutor at the elementary school and had been working all year with three or four children who had a hard time keeping up. By now she knew them well. One of the boys became more and more moody and difficult. One day she took him aside and asked what was bothering him. He began to cry and said he wasn't going to get anything for Christmas. She remembered the year before how excited he'd been in anticipation of a bicycle that never came.

No promises were made but somehow Jeffrey had to have a bike. And here I want to stop and tell you how wonderfully generous people can be. It wasn't hard to get the money and when I went to the bike shop the owner said it was enough for two; meaning that he wanted to be a part of this special Christmas gift.

There were more children in the family than we knew about but with a word here and there the gifts grew.

I took two bicycles and several other gifts to a neighbor's house to be kept till Christmas and there I met the mother. She was a warm and gracious woman who was deeply appreciative and when we finished carrying the gifts into the house she gave me a gift. It was then that I lied. "You probably have a lot of oranges at home," she said "No, no we don't," I replied, "and we'll certainly enjoy these." I was a little relieved when I saw the kumquats because I knew we didn't have any of those. "We'll especially enjoy the kumquats," I told her, "my wife likes them very much." (And that's no lie.)

Jesus said that it was better to give than to receive, and I believe it, but it's almost as important to receive as to give; for at its best a gift is a symbol of one's self. People give us gifts because they want to express some feeling they have for us. That feeling may be love, appreciation, gratitude, or any of several others. Therefore, not to genuinely accept a gift is to refuse to accept the feeling they may wish to express to you.

The lie? I'm not really worried about it. I'll do it again if I have to — hands down, flat-footed, bald-faced. I don't mind telling that kind.

GENE M. ZIMMERMAN

Characters in the Christmas Drama

(Continued from Page 1)

of Jerusalem the unmistakable voice of Christ was heard by him and a young girl standing nearby. And, said the author, "His journey was ended. His treasures were accepted."

The other wiseman had found the King.

And then there is Herod.

When he learned of this event he craftily tried to get the wisemen to tell him just where this child was, and when they avoided him on the trip back, he murdered every male child two years or younger in and around Bethlehem.

It's a hideous kind of compliment, but at least he took Jesus seriously. He feared that Christ would be a threat to his crown. Herod had power and position and he was going to defend it at all cost.

The spirit of Herod isn't far away. We have our modern Herods in the political world today. The Stalins and the Hitlers who think nothing of mass slaughter to protect their position. And the lesser ones like them, the Castro's and the Papa Doc's.

But Herod is among us, too. One senses too often an attitude of hostile defense of our position and power. Some people guard their preferred status greedily and resist with antagonism the effort of Christ to call them to serve a common need.

A missionary friend who served in a poor area told me that he once went to a wealthy man in the community to ask his help for their clinic. "God made those people poor," he replied, "let Him look after them." You often don't think of a proper answer until some time later. Had I been there I

would like to have said, "God is looking after them and he sent me to you to call for your help."

The manner in which one plays Herod is only in degree of intensity. Herod of Galilee thought he saw the issue and sought to slay Christ before he conquered him. Lesser Herods sense the issues and resist with indifference and penury.

And then there were the wisemen:

In contrast to Herod and the innkeeper they were not too busy to search for the Christ nor so jealous of their position and wealth to lay these things at the feet of Christ.

The wisemen found Christ like all men find him . . . by a probing search into life, through effort and inquiry, through a disciplined quest, by giving Him dominion over their lives.

Their journey was no small task. It was the end of long years of hope and expectancy and inquiry.

I find no easy avenue to faith, no simple solution to eternal questions, but men find answers when they live on the edge of inquiry and expectancy and when they ask and they seek and they knock. "Lord, what is true? What is Good?"

Retired Persons Plan Party

The Tallahassee Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons will have a Christmas party on December 13, at 2 p.m., in Trinity's Fellowship Hall. All retired persons are invited to come and bring a gift.

Christian Education Comments**"Adults Should Attend Sunday School!"**

It is a mistake to believe that only children should attend Sunday school. A church that does not work to encourage adults to attend Sunday school fails to minister adequately to the entire body of church people. And adults who fail to respond to the opportunities of Christian education (Trinity does offer a number of study opportunities outside Sunday school) are denying themselves opportunities of mental expansion and Christian spiritual growth. It is the church that really suffers when adults fail in their Christian education obligations. No doubt the potential growth of a church is reduced and the future of the church is more than lightly covered with a cloud.

Adults should not willingly avoid the responsibilities of attending a Sunday school class. In truth there is no escape from this responsibility as members of the Christian church. One can easily see that adults today are overwhelmed with needs as parents, money-makers, and civic involvers. In the light of this world the needs of adults can be compounded. John Q. Schisler, in his book, *Christian Teaching in the Churches*, paraphrases an old spiritual that might apply to today's adults in regard to Christian education:

"It ain't our children,
It ain't our young people,
But it's us, O Lord,
Standin' in the need of prayer."

UMW List Christmas Giving Needs

Has the Christmas spirit eluded you so far? Sometimes it doesn't surround us until we give to others or show our concern for persons less fortunate than ourselves.

Trinity's United Methodist Women suggest several opportunities for giving during December.

Special offerings will be taken this month for the Methodist Children's Home in Enterprise, Florida. Envelopes should be marked for these gifts and placed in the collection plate during Sunday morning worship services.

Mrs. R. W. Ashmore, Jr., chairperson of Christian Global Concerns for UMW, says the cottages at the Children's Home are in need of the following items that may be contributed: blender, large waffle iron, matching bedspreads and curtains, rugs, electric frypan, large stainless steel mixing bowls, electric hand mixer, dish towels, sewing machine, large pot with lid, cake pans, bed pillows, flashlights, ice chest and water cooler, room air conditioner, cereal bowls, melmac platters, pyrex casseroles, silverware, plastic glasses, double boilers, crockpot, can opener, electric iron, dishes, alarm clocks, coat hangers, living room wall clock, bedroom and dining room curtains, twin bed spreads. Contact Mrs. Ashmore at 222-0244.

Coupons for the Children's Home, including trading stamps of any kind, Betty Crocker coupons, bonus gift coupons, Gold Key milk coupons and Red Scissors coupons, are being collected to obtain needed items. Contact Mrs. A. P. Wimberley at 224-5824.

Needed by Mrs. I. A. Metz (877-2684) for UMW community welfare projects are children's and adults' clothes, low heel shoes, blankets, used sheets in good condition and clothes for a lady, size 22½.

Local women with problem pregnancies need maternity clothes of various sizes and infants' wear. Contact Mrs. Bruce Harter at 576-9930.

Jesus' ministry is one filled with interpersonal relationships of adults. His disciples were young adults to whom he responded in order to meet their needs. Christ knew adults and ministered unto them.

Thus the Christian education needs of adults are very real. Perhaps our church fails in meeting all of these needs. But, we are working on them. Will you help us? If there is not a Sunday school class that you, as an adult, can relate to and appreciate, Trinity United Methodist Church will start a new Sunday school class. Please feel free to contact anyone you may know in charge of Christian education programs. Feel free to voice an opinion and feel free to let us work together in creating Christian education programs that meet the needs of adults.

JOHN H. GREEN

Advanced Studies Class Schedules Party

The Advanced Studies Class will have a Christmas party at 7 p.m., Saturday, December 4, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Hulett, 3713 Lifford Circle. Class members are asked to bring a covered dish.

The party will also be a farewell for class members Brian and Beverly Webber, who are returning to their home in Australia on December 7 following a period of graduate study at Florida State University.

CIRCLE NOTES

Circle 1 will meet on Monday, December 13, at 10 a.m., at the home of Mrs. Sam Teague, Jr., 713 Rebecca Drive. Co-hosting with Mrs. Teague will be Mrs. George Kilner and Mrs. Royal Mattice.

Circle 2 will meet in the church parlor on Monday, December 13, at 2:30 p.m. Mrs. Mitchell Ferguson (Myrtle) will present the program.

Circle 3 will meet with Mrs. Albert James, 516 East Call Street, at 10 a.m., on Tuesday, December 14.

Circle 4 will meet in Room 210 at the church on Tuesday, December 14, at 10 a.m.

Circle 5 will meet on Tuesday, December 14, at 10 a.m. at the home of Mrs. H. A. Curtis, 2910 Woodside Drive.

Circle 6 will meet with Mrs. Frank Mohler, 1200 Brookwood Drive, on Tuesday, December 14, at 10 a.m.

Circle 7 will meet at the home of Mrs. Howell Wadsworth, 519 East 6th Avenue, on Tuesday, December 14, at 10 a.m.

Circle 8 will meet on Tuesday, December 14, at 9 a.m. at the home of Barbara Woolard, 2015 Lee Avenue, for a Christmas workshop. A nursery will be provided at the church.

Circle 9 will meet at the home of Mrs. J. W. Mitchell, 1535 Belleau Wood, for a covered dish luncheon on Tuesday, December 14, at 11 a.m.

Circle 13 will meet on Tuesday, December 14, at 8 p.m., at the home of Mrs. J. P. Love, 921 Maplewood Ave.

Circle 14 will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, December 13, at the Spartan Restaurant.

United Methodist Women: "So Great a Heritage"

Editor's Note: This history of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations was presented by the author at the September general meeting of UMW.

By Mable Moore

The present organization of United Methodist Women has evolved from several predecessor organizations and combination of groups which in the earlier days had specific purposes, such as foreign missions, home missions, and Ladies Aid Societies. These groups were entirely local and gave to their ministers home furnishings, raised funds for their churches, and visited the sick and poor. Our heritage was greatly enriched by contributions of the Ladies Aid groups, but there came a time when it was felt that missions in Methodism needed something more.

We read that it was in the 19th century — called the missionary century and the women's century — that Methodists first organized for missionary service. The nation was recovering from a terrible civil war, children were forced to work long hours in factories and fields, and millions around the world lived in poverty, ignorance, and without medical care. Women had no political or economic rights, but they were able to band together to show their influence.

Accordingly, in 1869, the first Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized. Only eight women were able to get to that first meeting on a very cold, windy, stormy day in Boston. They went ahead anyway to make plans and during that first year gained enough support to send two foreign missionaries to India — Miss Isabelle Theburn, who founded the first Christian college for women in all Asia, and Dr. Clara Swain, who founded the first hospital for women in India. The next year the first issue of the new magazine appeared, "The Heathen Woman's Friend."

Only a few years later the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, organized a Woman's Foreign Missionary Society at Nashville, Tenn. This group was interested in missionary work in China.

Organization in Florida

The first attempts at organization in Florida were made in Jacksonville in 1878 and by 1882, several groups had been formed — enough members so that the first annual meeting was held in Monticello.

Still Available!

Christmas Cards featuring an ink drawing of Trinity United Methodist Church on blue textured paper.

For Sale by the Youth
To raise funds for Appalachia
Service Project

Package of 25 Cards, \$2.75

To order see any youth member of the church or mail the form below to the church office, P.O. Box 1086, Tallahassee 32302.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Number of Packages Desired _____

Trinity Church had no missionary society until later that year, but probably had representatives present. The minister at Trinity urged the women of the church to organize and by the end of the year 29 members were enrolled. Our 1948 yearbook carries a picture of the charter members of our first Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. Mrs. Council Bryan was the first president.

About ten years later, Home Missionary Societies were being formed in both the northern and southern branches of the church. Often the same members in the local churches belonged to both societies. These societies were combined after 25 to 30 years. Accordingly, here at Trinity in 1911, there was a name change to Home and Foreign Missionary Society. Then ten years later, 1919, with Mrs. T. B. Byrd as president, the name was again changed to the Woman's Missionary Society.

50 Years Later

In 1928, the Golden Anniversary of the Florida Woman's Missionary Society was held in Tallahassee. Mrs. Marvin Collins, Sr., was president of the local society at Trinity, which was not yet 50 years old.

Again, in 1922, we see the name of Mrs. T. B. Byrd when she had a luncheon in her home to plan for an auxiliary for working women meeting in the evenings. Mary Lamar Davis, a member, wrote a paper which preserved for us some of these facts. This auxiliary continued as circles of the Woman's Missionary Society until 1940, following the unification of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1939 with the Methodist Church in the North. So that year our society had another name change. We became the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Business Women's circles became the Wesleyan Service Guild. The Guild at Trinity reached a membership of 177 by the year 1948 and was the largest in the state. The WSCS had about 365 members at that time.

Just before this name change, in 1938, our Society at Trinity again became the hostess for the Annual Florida Conference of the Woman's Missionary Society. Again in 1946 and 1951 Trinity Church was hostess for the annual conference.

In 1968 the merger of the United Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church took place. October 1968 was the charter month for the union of women's societies in these churches to be observed. Trinity WSCS and WSG held a special program in Glenn James Chapel and members signed a list as charter members of the new organization.

Chronologically, this brings us to January 1973 when our organization underwent another name change and became the United Methodist Women, bringing the Wesleyan Service Guild under the new organization. Reorganization of our women's societies took place in 1973. The National Board of the Woman's Division had for several years felt the need for additional inspiration and opportunities to serve the needs of local, national and foreign projects, and they also hoped to be able to draw more people into the work of the church through reorganization of program and activities. Membership had shown a steady decrease. It was hoped that women could be given a wider choice to do the type work or study which most appealed to them.

Our predecessor organizations were "born in times of crisis and opportunity." A century ago when the women's missionary groups were organized, one could easily divide the world into the heathen and civilized people. Today, we see it divided into the haves and have nots, as it was then, but the labels applied are different. Changing economic, social and political factors throughout the world lead us to reassess our attitudes and our methods of participating in missions. Through study, faith, prayer, and personal commitment, we hope that we may find some answers, direction and opportunities in this present period of crisis and change.

Georgia, Florida Methodists to Observe Wesley Heritage at Christmas Conference

United Methodists from Georgia and Florida will meet in Savannah December 28 and 29 to celebrate their Wesley heritage during a Bicentennial Christmas Conference.

The Rev. and Mrs. Gene Zimmerman and the Rev. and Mrs. Alfred Vaught are among those attending from Tallahassee.

Others interested in attending may still make reservations at conference rates with the DeSoto Hilton, Savannah, (912) 232-0171.

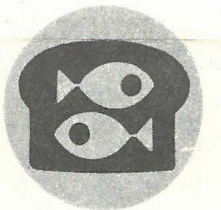
The conference begins with a colonial tea at Trinity United Methodist Church, Telfair Square, at 2 p.m., Tuesday, December 28. Papers will be given during the opening session

on "The Wesleys in History," "The Wesleys in Georgia," and "The Coming of the Wesleyan Movement to the South Carolina, Georgia and Florida Areas."

Tuesday evening special music by Savannah United Methodists combined choirs will be followed by a talk, "Methodism in the Bicentennial: Heritage and Horizons," by Dr. Albert Outler, Perkins School of Theology.

On Wednesday a worship service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church and a marker at the statue of John Wesley will be unveiled as the newest United Methodist historical landmark.

a world food reserve an act of thanksgiving



Hunger remains a way of life for hundreds of millions who are close to the heart of God. Jesus said: "I was hungry and you fed me (or did not feed me)...As you have done to the least of these my brothers, you have done to me."

Last fall a nationwide offering of letters from the churches asked Congress to make the right of everyone to a nutritionally adequate diet a basic part of U.S. policy. Letters poured in. As a result, Congress is considering adoption of a right-to-food resolution.

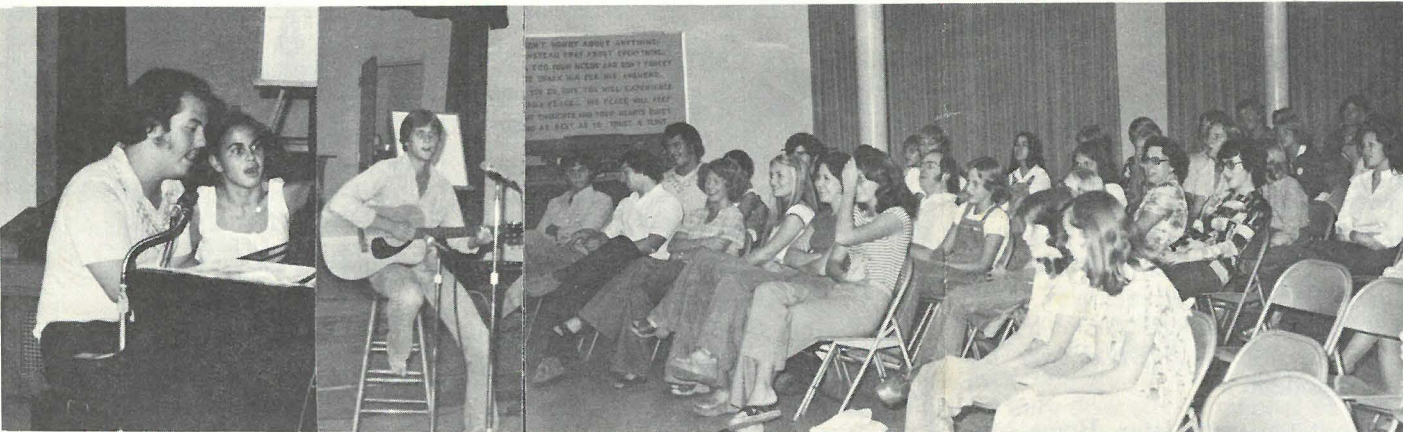
Now we need letters asking the President-elect and the newly-elected Congress for an action that would begin to implement the right to food: U.S. participation in a world food reserve program. A food reserve program is essential in our efforts to reduce hunger. Your help is urgently needed. Please write to:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 1. President-elect: | Jimmy Carter
Box 1976
Atlanta, GA 30301 | Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington, DC 20500 |
| 2. Your U.S. Representative | Washington, DC 20515 | (if Representative-elect use local address) |
| and | | |
| Your U.S. Senators | Washington, DC 20510 | (if Senator-elect use local address) |

Urge them to seek a national food reserve, as part of an international network of reserves. Mention the right to food. Write your own letters. Address and stamp the envelopes and put them in the Sunday collection basket as an act of Thanksgiving.

bread for the world
207 east 16th street
new york 10003

BREAD FOR THE WORLD is a Christian citizens movement in the USA. Membership \$10. This flyer may be copied or reprinted without permission, or ordered (pre-paid) at \$1 per hundred.



Hayride, Bonfire, Barn Dance Dec. 11

By popular demand, a winter hayride has been planned again this year and will take place Saturday night, December 11. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, December 5; cost is \$4 per person.

Those going on the hayride will meet in the church parking lot at 6 p.m. and need to bring a sack lunch and drink to eat around the bonfire, and some warm clothes, a blanket, or a warm friend!

The group will go in several cars from the church to Cross Creeks Stables where they will hop on the hay wagons for a moonlit (hopefully!) ride through the woods to the bonfire where they will eat. Loaded up once again, they will return to the tables for an old-fashioned barn dance in the loft.

Full of exhausted folks, the cars will return to the church at midnight.

The event is for Junior and Senior Highs, and each person may invite two friends.

Youth To Go A-Caroling

Come and spread some Christmas joy! The Jr. and Sr. Highs will go caroling Sunday evening, December 19, after the evening service. All who are interested should meet in the Ark, ready to leave soon after 7:30. Following the caroling, they will return to the Ark for hot chocolate. Plan to be a part of this ministry and fellowship!

Trinity's youth were a large part of the audience during a recent talent night. Youthful performers (left) sang and played along with adults during the family night program.

80 Youth Participate in Trinity Retreat

By 3 p.m. Sunday, November 12, approximately 80 young people from Trinity, Lake Jackson, Live Oak and Chattahoochee had gathered in the Ark for an afternoon with special Trinity guest, Frank Roughton.

The group spent three hours together dealing with one of the difficult questions for Christian young people — the meaning and use of human sexuality. In a straightforward, often humorous way, Rev. Roughton described the pressures of culture put upon people of all ages to make sex a manipulative tool used to satisfy selfish desires instead of allowing it to be the beautiful expression of love God intended it to be.

Periods of concentrated discussion were interspersed with refreshment and recreation times, and the afternoon concluded with a meal together in the Fellowship Hall.

The feeling among everyone seemed to be that the afternoon was time well spent together.

Youth Council Plans Spring, Summer Events

Plans have already begun for two events in future months. At the November Council on Youth Ministries meeting, it was decided to initiate the planning for a weekend camping trip for Junior and Senior Highs at Fort Wilderness in Disney World. Tentatively dubbed "Wonderful Wilderness Weekend," the event is scheduled for March 18, 19 and 20.

Fort Wilderness is part of the Disney complex and is connected to Disney World by several modes of transportation. It also has a number of attractions of its own including an old fashioned "swimmin' hole" — updated with a 260-foot winding fiberglass slide. Further information regarding this special trip will be announced as the date approaches.

Further down the road, another special event is the Appalachia Service Project. Trinity youth have participated three consecutive years in this United Methodist related mission project, and are excited about participating again in the summer of 1977. A meeting was held Sunday, November 21, for those interested in going on the trip and application procedures were begun. The location of this year's project will be assigned by the Appalachia Service Project Staff, using information supplied by the applicants.

There is room for additional applicants, and interested young people should see Phil Roughton immediately.

Mid-Holiday Party Planned at Roughtons'

Dreading the middle-of-the-vacation-week blues? You know, Christmas-over-New-Year's-not-here-yet time? Well, brothers and sisters, there's hope for you! You can abandon the boredom of all your fabulous new Christmas toys and celebrate an evening with your friends — you know, all those MYF turkeys!

On Wednesday, December 29, the evening will begin at the Roughtons' house at 8 p.m. with a lavish assortment of delectable delicacies (that's food for all you Florida High folks!) and appropriate seasonal music (at least until someone says, "Why don't you put some good music on so we can dance!")

Then, at 10 p.m., everyone will go to the newly opened Skate-Inn East on Capital Circle where the whole rink will be reserved for two hours of skating bliss (and probably a little chaos, judging from former experience). At midnight, everyone who is too young to drive (Jr. Highs are cordially invited) may be picked up at the Skate-Inn — by parents or Santa's elves — depending on how well you know Santa — or how well he knows you!

Bible Study Continues Each Wednesday Night

During the months of October and November, the youth Bible study did not meet because of the busy fall schedule in the schools.

Beginning December 1, Bible study will be held each Wednesday evening at 7:30 and will meet in the homes of youth members.

The format for the study will be similar to that used during the summer months, with 30 minutes of group singing, Bible study, prayer and refreshments ending by 9:30 p.m.

"The Wednesday Bible study is one of the best programs we have for youth ministry at Trinity and I'm anxious to see it starting up again. It's the best opportunity the young people have for serious, consistent study of scripture, and it serves an important educational as well as spiritual function," said Phil Roughton.

All youth are invited to participate each Wednesday night at 7:30. Locations of the meetings are announced at MYF.

ROUGHTON'S RAPPINGS

One of the things I like best about God is that he makes sense. Now, since you're probably thinking either "What in the world is that supposed to mean?" or "So what?," I'll say a little more. By "making sense" I don't mean that He necessarily meets our expectations or stereotypes. He does, however, understand our humanity and provides for, or responds to us, accordingly. The Christmas story with the coming of Christ is a perfect example. Our expectation of the coming of the Son of God into the world, had we been living at that time, probably would have been quite different from the actual event. Instead of a stable, we would have worked out the Presidential Suite at the Holiday Inn. A Rolls Royce with motorcycle escort would have been much more appropriate transportation for the honored family. And Ann Landers would have been much more comfortable with a "by invitation only" guest list to replace the any-old-shepherd-off-the-hill approach to visitors of the newborn child.

But God planned the arrival — and he had our need, not our expectation in mind. Our need was not some untouchable, removed symbol of a god whom we could place on a pedestal or in a palace to worship and hear about from the "in crowd." In our humanity we had a hard time understanding, let alone knowing or loving a God we could not see, or hear, or touch. So, two of the gospels begin by telling how Jesus came and a third, John, immediately tells us what it meant — "and the Word was made flesh and lived among us." Again, had we been on the planning committee, we probably would have waited a few years and let Jesus come as a youth, or maybe even as an adult so he could "eloquently verbalize the faith" from day one. God had a better idea and sent an innocent, nonthreatening, lovable, touchable infant as a clear statement of His intention to be involved in every aspect of our lives in a very intimate way. And that makes sense to me. We can understand that.

One way I know we can understand that is the existence of Santa Claus. In recent years old St. Nick has taken a lot of flack about taking over Christmas. Well, I don't want him to take over Christmas either, but I don't see him as being in competition with Jesus. Santa Claus is just another statement of our need to make a principle real to us — in Santa's case, the principle of giving gifts of love.

God knows now, and knew 2000 years ago that one of the best ways to make word about love real is to demonstrate those words through loving behavior or actions. That demonstration was perfectly performed in the person of Jesus Christ. During this holy season, when we remember and celebrate Christ's birth, I am particularly grateful that God makes sense.

Peace, PHIL

This Page For and About Trinity's Youth

Junior, Senior MYF Schedule

With a number of special programs and events during the holiday season, the schedule for Junior and Senior High MYF has been adjusted somewhat and is printed here for future reference:

	<i>Sr. High</i>	<i>Jr. High</i>
December 5	World Hunger/Lifestyle "Bread for the World"	On retreat Camp Weed
December 12	World Hunger/Lifestyle "Bringing It Home"	No MYF Family Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m.
December 19	No MYF Special Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m.	No MYF Special Christmas Program, 6:30 p.m.
December 26	No MYF Merry Christmas!	No MYF Merry Christmas!
January 2	New-Year's Resolutions/ Worship	New Year — New Me?

Monthly Tidings

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