



Monthly Tidings

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • TALLAHASSEE, FLA. • VOL. 7, No. 11 • DECEMBER, 1980

1981 Stewardship Report

Three hundred and seventy-five pledges have been made to the 1981 Church Program this far and giving has increased on an average of 13%. These gifts mean an additional \$37,000 over last year's offering from this same number of persons. This is the result of the good work of many many people and the response of those who see the need of the church. We hope to have a response from every member of the congregation and soon have a final report.

Why I Love the Church

By Judge Ben Willis

The following remarks were made by Judge Willis at a recent early service leading up to Stewardship Sunday.

When one is asked why he loves the Church it is necessary to understand just what the term "church" means to him. The church to me includes the church universal comprising the whole body of Christians regardless of a particular denomination.

I love the church universal because it has been the means by which the gospel message has been preserved for more than a thousand years through the Dark Ages and continues to be the dynamic force which unites and inspires the Christian witness.

I love the Methodist Church because of the rich heritage of the dedication and inspiration of John Wesley and his followers and its strong voice of repentance and forgiveness. I have loved particularly the parishes of Centenary in Quincy and Trinity in Tallahassee. It was from Centenary that I received my earliest Christian training and I am forever grateful to the teachers, preachers and devout souls of that parish who sought to point out to me the way of doing God's will.

I love Trinity because it has been my church home for more than 40 years. I was married in it. My children were baptized in it and it has been its comforting ministers and members who have stood by me in times of sorrow. I love Trinity for many things, some great and some small, but I particularly cherish its whole-hearted response to service persons during World War II. The church, through dedication of Mr. B. W. Partridge, sent out regularly a bulletin to all service people for

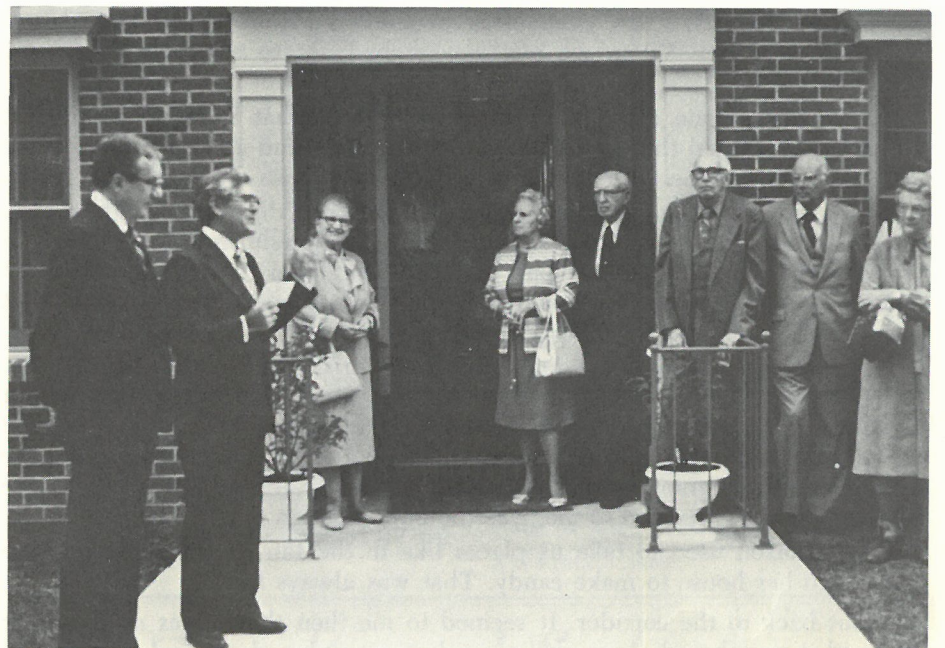
whom there was an address which gave news of home and of service personnel of the community. It was a beacon on love and comfort to all of us. It was literally sent all over the world, wherever a service person was, and was eagerly awaited and enthusiastically read. This Church in this way made us all proud to try to be Christians and we were grateful to Trinity Church.

I love this Church because of the pastors who have served it and whose ministry, counseling and service in time of spiritual need have responded so fully.

I love this Church because of the example and inspiration of so many of its devout and dedicated members, whose lives and convictions have been and are an enrichment of my own life. Their fellowship is a precious privilege. There are and have been in this church so many who I regard as truly of God's nobility.

I also love the beauty of this sanctuary. The richness of its architecture—the splendid teachings of its symbols, and the talent and devotion of those who fashion and create the flower arrangements. I love the hymns we sing, the rituals we follow, and I rejoice in the splendor of the music rendered by our choirs and musicians.

I love this Church for all these things. Each of them serve to make me feel closer to God and the strength, power and wisdom from Him which I so constantly and desperately need to meet the confrontations of life and the imperative of trying to respond to his will and to honor the covenants made for his Kingdom.



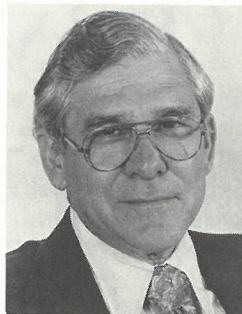
Rev. Gene Zimmerman (second from left) welcomes a gathering of Trinity members to an openhouse at the senior minister's new parsonage on Sunday afternoon, November 2. District Superintendent Al Vaught (left) conducted a brief service consecrating the new home at the corner of Live Oak Plantation Road and Twin Oaks Drive. About 200 members and friends were present for the outdoor ceremony.

December Trinity Calendar

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Monday, 1st | — 6:45 A.M. Bible Study (Gene Zimmerman) Conference Room
10:00 A.M. Bible Study (Brent Byerman) Conference Room |
| Tuesday, 2nd | — 7:00 A.M. Bible Study (Brent Byerman) Conference Room
10:30 A.M. U.M.W. Board Meeting—Conference Room
12:00 Noon U.M.W. Luncheon—Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday, 3rd | — 10:30 A.M. Bible Study (John Green) Conference Room
7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room |
| Thursday, 4th | — 4:00-5:00 P.M. Harmony Bells (Jr. Highs) Choir Rm. |
| Friday, 5th | — 12:30 P.M. Florence Clemons Class Luncheon—Gregory Room |
| Sunday, 7th | — 11:30 A.M. Special Advent Services (grades 2-4) |
| Monday, 8th | — 6:45 A.M. Bible Study (Gene Zimmerman) Conference Room
10:00 A.M. Bible Study (Brent Byerman) Conference Room |
| Tuesday, 9th | — 7:00 A.M. Bible Study (Bent Byerman) Conference Room
3:30-4:30 P.M. Melody Bells (3-5) grades) Choir Room
7:30-8:30 P.M. Carolling Bells (Sr. Highs and Adults) |
| Wednesday, 10th | — 10:30 P.M. Bible Study (John H. Green) Conference Room
6:30 P.M. Choir Supper
7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday, 11th | — 4:00-5:00 P.M. Harmony Bells (Jr. Highs) Choir Room |
| Friday, 12th | — 6:00 P.M. Wesley Fellowship Class Christmas Party Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday, 14th | — 8:45 and 11:00 Worship Services—Dr. George Foster
11:30 A.M. Special Advent Services (grades 2-4) Chapel |
| Tuesday, 16th | — 10:00 A.M. Special Communion Service for the Homebound Chapel |
| Wednesday, 17th | — 7:00 P.M. Administrative Board
7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:00 P.M. Charge Conference |
| Thursday, 19th | — Tidings Deadline |
| Sunday, 21st | — 11:30 A.M. Children's Special Advent Services (grades 2-4) Chapel
6:00 P.M. Covered dish dinner
7:00 P.M. Carol Service |
| Monday, 22nd | — 7:00 P.M. Youth to go Christmas Carolling |
| Tuesday, 23rd | — 7:00 P.M. Youth to go Christmas Carolling |
| Wednesday, 24th | — 7:30 P.M. Christmas Eve Communion Service Sanctuary |
| Thursday, 25th | — Office Closed |
| Friday, 26th | — Office Closed |
| Sunday, 28th | — Student Recognition Sunday—Austin Hollady to preach |

COMMENT

By Gene Zimmerman



I've just had a mental flash back. It was clear and sharp and everything I saw and felt in those days was in focus. The note said Mrs. Dixon was at the hospital outside the intensive care unit where her husband had been brought. When I got there I saw her sitting down at the end of a long corridor by herself. There wasn't anyone in the hall but the two of us; I at one end and she at the other. We saw each other at the same time and I waved and walked toward her. When we met we reached out to embrace and kissed her cheek.

Seeing her again down the long corridor was what brought it all back. Only then it seemed that I was the one at the other end and she would wave and come toward me with the embrace and sometimes a kiss on the cheek.

Mrs. Dixon was my junior high teacher for the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Those were the days you know, when one teacher taught multiple subjects in several grade levels. She was one of those kind who thought her students would one day "amount to something" and tried to encourage us on to that "something."

My interest in those days ran to baseball, girls, and literature and in that order. I thought of myself as a poor student because in every class except the one on literature my mind was either on baseball or girls. (She reminded me of that today). She called on me a lot in the literature class and gave me important assignments that often put me before the group as one of the "leaders." That, it seemed to me, was the only place in class I could shine.

Mrs. Dixon used to take us places like to the fair or the show or have us over to her house to make candy. That was always fun.

But back to the corridor. It seemed to me then that I was at the other end and it was she who was smiling and coming toward me and saying, "It's going to be O.K." And "you'll make it" and "things are going to be better after this." It was Mrs. Dixon who made me feel there was something to build on and believe in (she was a Methodist) and that this experience would "amount to something."

Now it was my turn and thank God for the opportunity. I could walk down the long corridor where she sat alone and embrace her and say, "It's going to be 'O.K.' and 'you'll make it' because there's something to believe in."

I had the feeling while we were talking that if anyone came by she might just say, "This is Dr. Zimmerman, he was one of my students. I always knew he would amount to something."

Thank you Lord, for the rare opportunity to return a gift of grace to someone who so lovingly—and painstakingly—gave it to me.

Editors Corner

Our Church -- A Democracy

By Dean Bunch

This year's Stewardship Drive, under the leadership of Palmer Williams, has been an excellent example of the participatory nature of our church. The involvement of a large number of church members was a large element in the success of the campaign.

The same principle holds true in church decision making.

The United Methodist Church and Trinity are in very large measure representative democracies. Although the Discipline does reserve certain authority with respect to the worship service and the day-to-day operation of the church to the clergy, the policy decisions with respect to the future course of our church are in our hands, subject to the limits set out in the Discipline and the Constitution.

Certain functions and authority are exercised by the Administrative Board, the Trustees, (who are responsible for the physical plant) and committees, such as the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee. However, these bodies speak and act for the membership and are accountable to the membership for their actions.

There is only one way for these groups to be truly accountable to the membership and that is for the mem-

bers to be informed of and to participate in their activities and deliberations.

An example of such participation occurred last month as the Administrative Board discussed the reorganization of the church staff and the resignation of one of the staff. The meetings, expertly chaired by Kitty Ball, served as a forum for the airing of many deeply held beliefs from board members and church members. After a full discussion of the issues, votes were taken and decisions were made. The debate, however, overshadowed the vote in importance for it was the essence of "town meeting" democracy—every member's voice capable of being heard.

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is another group whose responsibilities are among the most important in the church and whose deliberations and decisions touch every church member. Meetings and agendas of this committee and all committees should be announced to the membership and their meetings should facilitate debate by all church members interested in the issues facing the groups.

It is only through a full, complete discussion of issues facing the church by a well-informed membership that decisions which truly reflect the sense of the members can be made.

Christmas Services Planned

Sunday, December 14—

Dr. George Foster will preach at Trinity United Methodist Church on December 14, 1980 at the 8:45 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. Worship Services.

At the 11:00 Worship Service, our Chancel Choir and the Choir of First Presbyterian Church will join forces to present the *Christmas Cantata* by Daniel Pinkham. Accompanied by organ and brass ensemble, this short contemporary work (1958), will comprise the first part of the service before the sermon.

Sunday, December 21—

At 7:30, following the Family Covered Dish Dinner, the choirs will

present our annual Carol Service with the readings of the Christmas Story. Special carols by the choirs and congregational singing of the familiar one will enhance the verses of scripture surrounding the birth of our Lord.

Sunday, December 28—

Rev. Austin Hollady will preach at Trinity on December 28, 1980 at both Worship Services.

Each Sunday during the Christmas Season—

Carols by voices and instruments will be performed in the court yard and prior to each of the morning worship services

HEO Only Helps When You Do

By Lori Steinmeyer

A big thank-you goes out to the Koinonia class Plumbers for their volunteered work. Several of Trinity's members were helped with house repairs this past month.

HEO also appreciates the creativity of circle #8 and the junior high Sunday school class. The junior high Sunday school class made popsicle stick plant holders. Circle #8 provided the floral arrangements of dried flowers. These arrangements were taken to many of Trinity's homebound members by volunteer visitors.

Den 1, pack 104, Ruediger, (Cub Scout Troop) joined in the giving. They made popsicle stick plant holders with live plants for some of Trinity's members.

Thanks again to our HEO visitation volunteers. Your efforts are appreciated, especially by those you visit. Keep in touch with the HEO office in December as more items will be available for you to take when you visit. Also remember to call or write in and let us know about your visit.

Finally, HEO functions by efforts of people such as these. If you have

a service you would like to volunteer please call the HEO office Monday through Friday from 9 am to 1 pm. HEO can only care as much as you do!

THANK YOU . . .

May Hamilton and her daughter, Nancy Hoffman, wish to thank Trinity Church for its response to their needs following the complete destruction of Nancy's home by fire. The knowledge that people really care was the most important gift of all. Intellectually, you know this, but it's wonderful to experience it.

We men of the Leon-Wakulla Methodist Men's Fellowship want to thank you members of the Trinity Church for the use of the van to transport our members to the Leesburg retreat, October 3-5.

Not only was it an energy saving effort, but it enabled our representatives to further extend their weekend of fellowship. Each layman received a great spiritual blessing.

Yours in Christ,
Leon - Wakulla Methodist Men's Fellowship
Cyrus A. Ford,
Secretary

UMW Dec. Meetings Set

CIRCLE MEETINGS:

- Circle 1—Monday, December 8 at 10:00 A.M. Hostess: Mrs. Thomas Lux—205 Seminole Drive.
- Circle 2—Monday, December 8 at 2:30 P.M. Hostess—Dr. Mary Lee Hurt—2102 Old Fort Drive. Co-hostesses—Dr. Ruth Dales and Mrs. Aubrey Morse. Program—presented by Dr. Hurt—"Live a New Life"
- Circle 3—Tuesday, December 9 at 10:00 A.M. Hostess—Mrs. Marie Bower—561 E. Call Street. Program—Parable study presented by Ollie Reece Whittle.
- Circle 4—Tuesday, December 9 at 10:00 A.M. Meeting to be held at Trinity in Wesley Brotherhood Classroom. Program: Brent Byerman—"Whoever I am, I as Thine."
- Circle 5—Tuesday, December 9 at 10:00 A.M. Hostess will be Mae Curtis, 2910 Woodside Drive. A Christmas program.
- Circle 6—Monday, December 9 at 10:00 A.M. Hostess is Mrs. John Humphress, 1503 Hickory Ave. Please bring your parable books.
- Circle 7—Tuesday, December 9 at 10:00 A.M. Hostess: Mrs. Alton Revell, 1203 Firethorn Lane. Cohostesses are: Mrs. H. V. Matthews and Mrs. Rufus Jennings. Program presented by The Melodeers of Leon High School.
- Circle 9—Tuesday, December 9 at 19:30 A.M. Hostess: Mrs. James Smith, 1210 Domingo Drive. A Salad Luncheon is to be served. (Each member is to bring a salad) Program—Christmas Sharing.
- Circle 8—Tuesday, December 9 at 9:15 A.M. in the Church Parlor. Hostess is Mr. Ben Betts, Jr. There will be Christmas program.
- Circle 10—Monday, December 8 at 3:30 P.M. at Tallahassee Convalescent Home, 2510 Miccosukee Rd. Program presented by Pat Crotty.
- Circle 12—Monday, December 15 at 7:00 P.M. Meet in Church Parlor for a Christmas program. Bring money for "money tree."
- Circle 13—Tuesday, December 16 at 7:30 P.M. Hostess: Mrs. Lois Fletcher, 412 Hillcrest St. A Christmas program will be presented.

“A Prophet Is Not Without Honor Except...”

By John Green

June, 1981, I will celebrate sixteen years of ministry as a member of The United Methodist Church of the Florida Conference. While in college and seminary, I served as a pastor to two United Methodist Churches. So, in sum total, I will begin next June with 20 years of experience in either the area of pastoral or educational ministry. I share this background in order to add credibility to my subject.

During these years I have viewed the ministry, and participated, in areas besides teaching and preaching. The Ministry involves counseling, administration, and in addition, asks or demands one to be a prophet. The young minister assumes his congregation understands these roles and expects them all to be practiced. The young minister soon learns that most people do not join a church to hear words of wisdom or prophesy or to find out how good one is as an administrator.

Most people join the church out of need—need for help. People want a “helping hand” much more than a “revelation” as to where they are going. People will not listen to the prophet, the preacher, the teacher or administrator unless the congregation feels close to that person, trusts that person and knows that “minister” person is concerned about them.

In this primary concern for our own need there evolves a neglect or lack of understanding about the “other” roles of ministry. One among them being prophesy. Sometimes there exists a conflict between the people and the prophet. No one knew better than Amos, the prophet. His ministry and prophesy brought conflict with the people and Amos was asked to go and prophesy where he could do little harm. (Amos 7:10-15) Amos refused to compromise on such a request.

This is the problem of the minister being a prophet. The minister must prophesy at his or her own possible great expense—especially if salaried by the church. The minister must do

nothing that will jeopardize finances or programs—especially finances. The prophecy of the minister is only safe in a church with an open and free pulpit.

Sometimes it is a little scary. But most churches is Methodism have a history that a minister will not be dominated by a committee or congregation. It is possible to live by conviction and still be respected. Trinity United Methodist has been and is one of those churches where one can speak what is believed to be the truth and discover that as a minister his (maybe some day there will be a her) job is not jeopardized.

Who is the prophet? The prophet is one who acts or speaks to fairness and justice. The prophet is concerned with kindness and minimum standards of decency. The prophet believes God has created a natural order of good and that humans should maintain that order with respect, peace and responsibility to God. The prophet should try and keep before the congregation questions raised by faith in God and a life in the community and church and, above all give leadership answers to these questions.

The biblical records tell us how varied the gifts of the prophets may be. The gifts of the prophets may vary. The prophet is bound by obligation and responsibility to faith in the living God. There is anguish over church conflicts. There is the risk of not being one's favorite minister if someone becomes upset by a decision. There is heartache when all cannot be pleased. The situation in the world does not make the prophet's task easier but does make it relevant. Conflict is part of any way of life that is important. Life puts demands on every generation. The prophet is aware of them and seeks to meet them with the forces God provides. Some are more capable than others.

Let us not forget the "prophet" role among our own needs. This role is needed more each day. I'm grateful Trinity provides the opportunity. I'm grateful my 20 years of ministry has

been influenced by prophets like Austin and Becky Hollady, George and Autie Foster, Phil and Mica Roughton, Gene and Emily Ann Zimmerman. As we approach the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace—let us not forget his prophesy, “I have come that you might have life and life abundant.” Let’s lend a hand to this prophesy!

☼ ☼ ☼

Trinity's Lead . . .

Trinity finds itself in the forefront of the changes that are taking place in the Methodist Church. It is now taking its first steps in caring for the everyday needs of its homebound members. In the November 14th issue of *The United Methodist Reporter*, several articles appeared on the problems of the aged in our society. The thrust of these was to point out that the churches are in a unique position to meet these needs.

“Churches — like families — have the ability to perform all kinds of services for the elderly at a fraction of the cost for the government to do it,” suggested one speaker at the White House miniconference on aging held in Cincinnati.

KOINONIA CLASS SETS DEC. PARTY

The month of November was one of interesting lessons by Rev. John Green, Rev. Brent Byerman, Mr. Lyndon Burke Phifer, and Dr. David Levenson. Dr. Levenson, an F.S.U. professor, is a Jewish expert on the New Testament and will continue his series on the first Sunday in December. The rest of the month we look forward to hearing from Dr. George Foster.

We congratulate class members, Nancy and Jimmie Duncan, on the birth of their son, David Belton, on October 27th.

The second of our quarterly socials this year will be a Christmas party in the home of Marilyn and Bob Dean on Sunday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. If members have not signed up to bring food, please contact Julie Pararo at 877-9046.

The members of our class who are part of the home maintenance team assisting the H.E.O. ministry were called upon twice during November. This is an ongoing project of the Koinonia Class.

Mustard Seeds

By Liz Smith

If you are a compulsive list maker, as I am, then you know this is our season! As the time between now and Christmas day grows alarmingly short, the many lists of things I should attend, buy, bake, clean, sew, mail, wrap, decorate, etc., etc. grow ever longer. But the most important list, for me, is the one I keep tucked in a secret part of my wallet. Dog-eared and worn from the constant folding and unfolding, by Christmas eve it will be an almost unreadable jumble of names, ideas, scratched through items, prices, sizes and checkmarks. It is, of course, my Christmas list; the gifts I want to buy or make for people I love.

Yes, I did say it is the most important part of Christmas for me, and no, I don't think I've missed the "real meaning" of Christmas. We all like to complain about the greedy merchants and blame them for destroying the meaning of Christmas by making it so commercial. But hearing carols in October, and seeing Christmas decorations and cards in the stores even before Halloween has come and gone, or being besieged on every hand with advertisements urging me to buy more and higher priced gifts is not what will spoil Christmas for me. I am the only one I can blame if I miss the "real meaning" of this lovely season. I am the only one who can ruin my Christmas, and it will happen if I let gifts become more important than giving.

Christmas is giving; God, giving Himself to us, making His love visible in the person of the Christchild, and we, accepting that gift of Love, letting it find expression in our lives through our giving to others. We can give material things, such as Christmas presents, and they are real and beautiful expressions of that love. But we can also offer the intangible things of the spirit; our concern, care, faith, support, understanding and trust and they can be given every day. To love because He first loved us and express that love in giving to others, seems to me to be the "real meaning" of Christmas.

When we give gifts in that spirit I believe they become true Christmas gifts, for they are given to Him also, as surely as the gold, frankincense and myrrh that were brought long ago to a manger in Bethlehem. But if we want to give these kinds of gifts we should be aware that they carry a special “prior condition” with them; something that we must put at the very top of our Christmas list. It is spelled out very clearly in the fifth chapter of Matthew, verses twenty-three and twenty-four:

“If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

If we really want our gifts to honor His birth and celebrate His coming, we must let Him into our lives. But there will be no room for Him in our hearts if they are filled with bitterness and hate, with hurt feelings that we refuse to let go of, and shattered pride and anger over real or imagined wrongs done to us by others. If He is not present, then all our packages, in all their beautiful wrappings, will not be true Christmas gifts but just presents under a tree. “Go, first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift” . . . and have a truly blessed Christmas.

My Pilgrimage . . .

By Brent Byerman

Grady Memorial Hospital has sixteen stories and sits in the middle of downtown Atlanta. One day as I was making my rounds as a student chaplain, I visited Linda. She was in a room by herself which was a rare situation in that huge over-crowded welfare hospital.

Linda was black, middle aged, and lived by herself. In our conversation together, she told me about her strong faith and love for God. She continued about how she was a long time member of a local Baptist congregation and knew many of its members well and that several of them had come to visit her in the hospital.

Then, in an open and honest manner that caught me somewhat off guard, Linda told me that even in the midst of her faith and many acquaintances and friends, she felt very lonely at times especially since the death of her sister a few years prior.

My first instinct as I stood next to her bed was to respond to her confession of loneliness with a pat answer, such as, “Well, you know God is with you all the time.” This type of a response would have given me an escape from having to get involved with this person. Also, the idealistic side of me still wanted to hold on to the belief after years of struggling with the Christian life after my conversion that the answers were simple.

I did not give a pat answer that day. Instead I confessed to Linda that I also have much loneliness inside of me. She seemed somewhat surprised at first that I, a professional minister, would have such feelings. However, as we continued to talk, our openness, honesty and willingness to risk created a relationship in which we were able to minister to one another.

Faith in God does not remove our humanity. I seem to be better able to minister to and be ministered unto as I become in touch with my own deep needs, weaknesses, struggles and limitations.

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. (James 5:16)

In Christ,
Brent

The Wesley Fellowship Class

Wesley ellowship Class is made up of men and women in a wide range of ages having varied interests. Dr. W. Earl Armstrong is class president.

New members are cordially invited to join us for the fellowship time over coffee and doughnuts served during the pre class period, and visitors are always welcomed. Birthdays and anniversaries are recognized and any who are ill are remembered with a note. Volunteers from the group serve as teachers. We are especially proud of those who bring us the lesson each Sunday leaving our hearts warmed with the message. Other faithful members give their services in varied ways.

The class recently purchased new Cokesbury hymnals for their use. Come join us!



Adrian and Beverly Harris, above with four-year-olds, and Bill and Germaine Fritchman, at left with five-year-olds, are only two of the Sunday School teachers who give their time every Sunday. Their only reward is our attendance.

the church today

U.S. high court strikes Kentucky Ten Commandment law

WASHINGTON (RNS) — Kentucky's law requiring the posting of the Ten Commandments in the state's public schools was struck down here by a U.S. Supreme Court that had not even heard oral argument in the case.

Basis for the majority ruling in the 5-4 decision was that the law had a religious, not a secular, purpose.

Nine years ago the court established a three-part acceptability test for state laws dealing with religious questions: they have secular, not religious purposes; their "primary" effect could not advance nor hinder religion, nor could they foster excessive government involvement in religion.

Two of the dissenters, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Justice Harry A. Blackmun (a United Methodist), objected to the majority ruling on technical legal grounds, saying the high court should have heard arguments before announcing a decision. Justices Potter Stewart and William H. Rehnquist objected to the decision itself.

Bishop urges support for Jewish Community

HOUSTON (UMNS)—The United Methodist Church's Council of Bishops heard an appeal from one of its members for his colleagues to demonstrate public support of the Jewish community.

"Because of a resurgence of anti-Jewish symptoms and actions in the U.S.A., I request each bishop to be aggressive in putting the world on notice that our solidarity with the Jewish community continues," Bishop Roy C. Nichols of New York urged.

Bishop Nichols, speaking at the close of the council's semi-annual meeting here this month, called upon each bishop to "cultivate positive relationships between the Christians and Jews in your episcopal area."

Strict school guideline set for religious themes

WALDWICK, N.J. (RNS) — In a struggle which has pitted Christians against Jews, Muslims and other non-Christian residents, the board of education here has approved a set of guidelines for observance of religious holidays in public school classrooms.

The Waldwick board voted to adopt the policy after four hours of debate during which several residents threatened political reprisals if the alleged over-emphasis of religious themes continued in the classroom.

The board declared in its policy that religious themes could be included in class instruction throughout the year, "if presented as part of an educational program, but may not be used to advance or inhibit any religious point of view." The policy also permitted a limited celebration of religious holidays in the context of "a broad cultural study appropriate to the season. . ."

REV. PRICE TELLS OF ALFALIT

Editor's Note

Alfalit is an interdenominational agency established to minister to the many illiterate people in the Hispanic Countries of Central and South America and the Carribean. It was begun in the 1950's by a gift from the women of the Florida Conference and carried on by members of the Cuban Conference. It has since spread to numerous denominations and workers.

Its major purpose is to teach people to read and write and to provide them with Bibles and Christian literature. It also attempts to assist them with basic home care and basic ways to increase the quality and quantity of food.

Trinity Church supports the salary of the Rev. Tom Price, the writer of the following letter, with a gift of \$1,000 per year.

Dear Friends of Alfalit:

Today has been a great day here in the office in Alajuela. Ramiro Alvarez and his family have arrived safely from El Savador. Ramiro is the Executive Secretary of Alfalit there and has served in that capacity since the beginning of the program. Through all the political, social, economic and religious turmoil El Salvador has endured in recent years, he has stayed at his post with complete faithfulness and promoted the work with amazing success. He has organized classes, trained volunteer teachers, moved literature and, in every sense, has been one of the most effective leaders of the movement.

As you know from the newspapers, conditions in El Salvador now have deteriorated to unprecedented depths. Death and violence are regular visitors to family after family, as guerrillas from both extremes seek to embarrass and cripple the centrist government. Some of the violence is politically motivated; some is perpetrated by unabashed criminal elements. These kill, rob and pillage for no more lofty purpose than personal gain. Ramiro's house and office (one location) were robbed in January and practically all of his, and Alfalit's, equipment was lost. Three months ago, guerrillas came out one night into his neighborhood, entered houses forcibly, took the children of the families out into the street in front of his home and there shot them in cold blood. His own family, whether by oversight or providence, was not touched. Later, however,

when his life was personally threatened, he was persuaded to try to take his family to a safer place.

Leaving El Salvador on last Thursday, Sept. 25, he drove with his wife and four of the children (for lack of space, two older boys traveled separately by bus) across the border into Nicaragua. We knew they were going to attempt the departure on Thursday, but from that date until yesterday, Oct. 1, we had heard nothing. Traveling the highways of rural El Salvador by day or night can be very dangerous. However, they were able to cross the frontier without incident, stayed with friends briefly in Nicaragua, and arrived late Tuesday night in San José, Costa Rica. An early telephone call to the office Wednesday alerted us to their safe arrival and shortly we greeted them as they drove up to the door.

We have found housing for them temporarily at the Methodist Center and are procuring necessary supplies for them to set up housekeeping. The children appear to be adjusting to their new situation. They are alert, well-behaved, nice looking young people, a credit to their parents and to their country.

This morning Ramiro joined the office staff for the morning devotional period. As he shared some of his experiences with us we could feel the quiet strength of his faith and were moved to rededicate ourselves afresh to the cause of Alfalit and the Kingdom of our Lord. Our prayers, in which we know many around the hemisphere join in, seemed more fervent and heartfelt than usual.

Even without Ramiro the work in El Salvador is not totally at a standstill. In less tense parts of the country, there are classes continuing, books being read, and teachers working with students one to one. We do not know what lies ahead for that troubled country. But along with Ramiro, we have faith that God's will is good and that in the end his righteousness and love will triumph. We beseech all our friends to join us in thanking God for the safe deliverance at this moment of this precious family and to pray for those who still labor and suffer in many parts of the world under trying circumstances.

Sincerely,

Tom Price
Alfalit International
Alajuela, Costa Rica

Monthly Tidings

Vol. 7, No. 11 Dec. 1980

Published Monthly except August by

Trinity United Methodist Church
USPS - 013 - 030
P. O. Box 1086
Park and Duval
Tallahassee, Florida 32302

☆ ☆
Eugene Zimmerman
Brent Byerman, John Green
Ministers

☆ ☆

Dean Bunch, Editor

Jan. Deadline: Dec. 19

Second Class Postage Paid
at Tallahassee, Florida

Mr. & Mrs. Frank D. Moor
1552 Isabel Court
Tallahassee, FL 32303