

The Church Bell

Vol. I, No. 1

First Methodist Church

December 1955

CHOIRS TO PRESENT CANDLELIGHT
CAROL SERVICE DEC. 18 AT 7:30

SPECIAL CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE
TO BE HELD ON CHRISTMAS EVE

The rich and varied beauty of Christmas will be expressed through Christmas music to be presented by the three church choirs and guest soloist at a Candlelight Carol Service on December 18 at 7:30.

By virtue of two handsome candelabra built especially for this service by Wilson Young, the church will be illuminated by the soft glow of candlelight, as the Senior Choir sings French, Bohemian, German, and Latin carols, old and new,

In one of the songs, the Youth Choir will act as an Echo from the balcony.

The Junior Choir will sing Leo Sowerby's "The Snow Lay on the Ground," and Dickinson's delightful carol, "The Friendly Beast."

The Rev. Charles Stratton will read the various portions from Scripture,

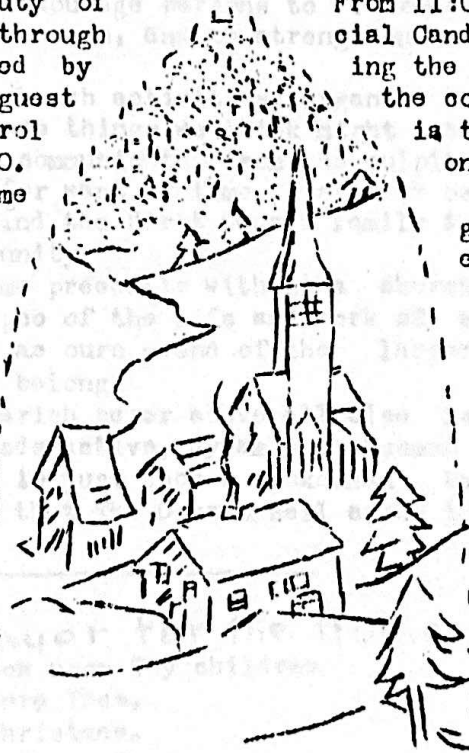
Donald Geyer, outstanding baritone from Newark, will sing five Christmas solos, including the familiar "Birthday of the King" by Neidlinger and "Gesu Bambino" by Yon.

From 11:00 P.M. until midnight a special Candlelighting Service, featuring the Festival of Light in which the congregation will take part, is to be held in First Church on Christmas Eve.

Each worshiper will be given a small candle as he enters the church. At the climax of the service, the ushers will come forward to light their candles from that of the minister, who, in turn, lights his from the tall altar candle symbolizing Christ, the Light of the World.

The ushers will light the end candle in each pew. This light will be passed along until the whole sanctuary is a sea of candlelight.

There will be special Christmas music and also a brief meditation by the minister, "See, the Christmas Light!"



Christmas Greetings

FIRST ISSUE

This is the first issue of a parish paper to be put out once every month. See Page 2.

CHRISTMAS NIGHT

There will be no evening service held on Christmas night,

Issued monthly by the First Methodist Church,
Stony Point, N. Y.

This Church is affiliated with the National Council of
the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. and the World Council
of Churches.

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Charles Dickinson, James Cochran



Junior Choir

Newly-formed this fall,
the Junior Choir is presently made up of six boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 11.

Under the direction of Mr. Parker, the group has sung twice so far at the Sunday morning worship services and also at the Union Thanksgiving Service held at First Church.

The choir is also singing at the Christmas Candlelight Carol Service, December 18 at 7:30, as well as at the service that morning.

Credit for the pleasing appearance of the Junior Choir, much commented on by the congregation, belongs to Mrs. Henry Friedrich, who made the attractive blue and white robes.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The Christmas offering envelopes being sent with this issue of The Bell are to be used exclusively for the vital World Service benevolences of our Church.

They may be returned at any of the Christmas services, or later.

It is hoped that many will wish to make this Christmas gift a really sacrificial one, especially in view of its being used for the work of Christ beyond the local parish.

THE NEXT CELEBRATION of Holy Communion will take place Sunday, January 1.

"The Why and Wherefore"

"Never mind the why and wherefore," goes a line from Gilbert and Sullivan's Pinafore; yet it is important as we launch this new publication that we should mind it very much - "else, wherefore born?"

Samuel M. Shoemaker, noted clergyman and author, once aptly observed: "The church is a family with time and concern for one another. It is an army warring unitedly against the world's ills. Every Christian has a place in that family and a responsibility in that army."

It is our hope that even through such a medium as this paper we may help to encourage persons to increase that time, to deepen that concern, and to strengthen that enlistment.

In providing news of church activities, organizations, editorials - all those things we think might be of interest that cannot be communicated from the pulpit or in the Sunday bulletin for want of time, space, or occasion - we hope to help bind the First Church family into an even closer bond of unity.

We hope, too, that some presently without a church home might gain a new glimpse of the life and work of a worshipping fellowship such as ours - and of the larger Body of Christ to which we belong.

The reason for this parish paper above all else is this: the Church today needs active, dynamic spokesmen in both life and word. It is just such a spokesman by means of the printed word that The Church Bell seeks to become.

A Christmas Prayer for the Home

Father of all men, look upon Thy children
Kneeling together before Thee,
And grant us a true Christmas.
With loving hearts we bless Thee:
For the gift of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
For the peace He brings to human homes,
For the goodwill He teaches to sinful men,
For the glory of Thy goodness shining in His face.

(Continued on Page Seven)



Halos 'n' Horns



"The time has come," the bishop said,
 "To talk of many things:
 Of cars, and trips, and aching backs,
 Of halos, horns, and wings!"

THE ABOVE BIT OF VERSE, offered by the former superintendent of this District (without apology to Lewis Carroll) as part of his annual report to Conference a few years back, shows the origin of the title of this column. A regular feature of The Bell, it will be a miscellaneous assortment of church names and news--anything we think might be of interest--all informally presented. Suggestions and items are always most welcome!

* * * * *

MUCH CREDIT IS DUE the dozen or so members of the W.S.C.S., headed by Mrs. Sophie Youmans, who served a more-than-delicious luncheon for a group of 33 Methodist ministers and wives from Bergen-Rockland Counties meeting here on December 8. That much good-will was won for the church can be seen from the remarks of appreciation voiced on behalf of the entire group by Dr. Arthur H. Brown of Ridgewood. The luncheon, he said, "places this church in our memory as a center of fine hospitality!"

An extra gracious touch, also much appreciated, was provided by Mrs. Thomas Cochrane, who made small Christmas corsages for each of the eleven women guests.

* * * * *

AFTER A SPELL IN THE HOSPITAL, and another abed - both confinements uncongenial to his outdoor nature, Lucien Conklin left with his family on December 5 for more sunny climes. For those who might wish to send them a Yuletide greeting, their address is: c/o Mrs. Ruth Leslie, 1633 Arthur St., Hollywood, Florida - the home of Mrs. Conklin's mother. We hope that when he returns after Christmas his ailing leg will be all better!

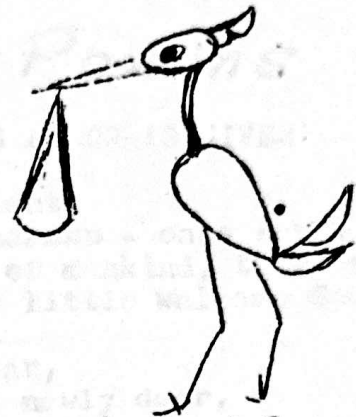
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SPEAKING OF ADDRESSES, we are happy to supply them for the two former ministers of First Church: Rev. and Mrs. Charles A. Baker, Innwood, Indiana; and Rev. and Mrs. Robert M. Maring, 74 Garden Road, Karachi 3, Pakistan. Since both families will regularly receive this paper, we take this opportunity to send them Christmas greetings on behalf of a church which remembers them with affection.

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CONGRATULATIONS AND ENCOURAGEMENT to Bob Rose, who recently pledged Delta Phi fraternity at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, where he is now in his sophomore year!

(Continued on Page Six)



New Arrival

A new son entered the family of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Peifley at 2:55 A. M. on November 30, with the birth of Gary Lee.

Five pounds, five ounces strong at birth, Gary left the Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern with his mother after five days and is now at home, diligently about the business of growing up.

T.V./RADIO PROGRAMS

On December 22 at 1:00 P.M. the children's choir from St. Marks Methodist Church in Rockville Centre, L.I. will sing over television Channel 4.

On Dec. 23 the renowned children Bell Ringers will play Christmas music on the Merry Mailman show at 6:00 on Channel 9, and again on WABO radio Christmas Eve at 7:05.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING

Mr. Parker will play host to the Official Board at its next meeting to be held in the Parsonage on Friday evening, December 30, at 7:30. Important plans for the New Year will be discussed. It is hoped all members may attend,

Christmas Poems

THE SHEPHERDS

They came as the Angel told them
 Just as they were -
 Dressed for the fields in working-
 clothes,
 With wind - tossed hair,
 Feet and rough hands unwashed;
 unready
 To meet a King;
 Yet in obedience, eager reverent,
 Unquestioning.

So let us come. Like them
 We cannot be
 Prepared, yet hasting
 In humility
 To cleanse our hands in grace
 By thee outpoured.
 As thou receivedst them
 Accept us also, Lord!

- John Linnell

UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN

Given, not lent,
 And not withdrawn - once sent,
 This Infant of mankind, this One
 Is still the little welcome Son.

Now every year,
 Now born and newly dear,
 He comes with tidings and a song,
 The ages long, the ages long;

Even as the cold
 Keen winter grows not old,
 As childhood is so fresh, forseen,
 And spring in the familiar green,

Sudden as sweet
 Come the expected feet,
 All joy is young, and now all art,
 And Ho, too, Whom we have by heart.

- Alice Moynell

A CANDLE FOR THE CHILD

Candlelight, candlelight,
 Brightly burn, this Christmas night.

Once upon a time a star
 Was more radiant than you are,
 As God's gift will always dim
 All that we may lift to him.

Even so, you are the sign
 His love is answered, now, by mine;
 As His love will always spark
 Light to blossom in the dark.

So to the star he gave his
 Son,
 Lift up your light, O Little
 One;
 And for the symbol that you
 are
 The Child will love you,
 little star,

- Ellis McDonald

THAT WHICH IS FOUND IN STRAW (Written in a German P.O.W. Camp, 1943)

Who seeks too far afield
 In heavens for a sign
 Neglects the stars concealed
 In hearts of humankind.

That which is found in straw
 May be a diadem:
 A dream in a prison-stall,
 A Babe at Bethlehem.

CROSS - WORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
S	m	i	t	h	o	x	n	a	m
	10				11				
	i	d	e	e	b	r	o	s	
12		13			14				15
r		J	k	e	e	a	r		
o		16			17				
		o	o	p	d	y	a		
18						19			
B	e	t	a			s	e	t	h
20		21	22			23	24		25
A	b	B	e			g	e	a	n
		26		27		28			
e		a	l	p		s	o	l	e
d		29			30				
		k	e	a	s	k	i		t
	31				32		33		
	w	e	c	t	J	e	h	u	
34					35				
n	o	n	t	h	b	r	n	e	

ACROSS

DOWN

- (Continued)
1. A District Superintendent.
 2. Syllable on the diatonic scale.
 3. Mentally deficient person.
 4. Amos' hometown.
 5. Uriah ~~Keef~~ of "David Copperfield" fame.
 6. King David's grandfather.
 7. Radiograph of short wave length. (pl.)
 8. Scandinavian.
 9. Like.
 10. Idea (French)
 11. Brothers (abbr.)
 12. Steal.
 13. President Eisenhower.
 14. Auditory organ.
 15. "In Memoriam _____" by Tennyson.
 16. Surname of comic strip character.
 17. Prefix signifying ill, bad, difficult.
 18. Greek letter.
 19. A son of Adam
 20. Article of furniture.
 20. The _____ of Bethlehem.
 21. Former pastor, First Methodist Church.
 22. What all Calvinists hope to be among.
 23. Miss Strassburg.
 23. Important card in Canasta.
 24. A very high mountain.
 24. One of Job's protagonists.
 25. The sun, Old _____.
 25. Tool of Peter's trade.
 26. Large dull-green New Zealand parrot.
 27. "O Thou by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way;
The _____ of prayer Thyself hath trod,
Lord, teach us how to pray."
 27. King of Israel, famous fast driver.
 28. Sailing Ship Judah Benjamin. — A.C.
 34. Frank Mason _____, hymn writer.
 31. In like manner.
 35. "Et tu, _____."
 33. Utah (abbr.)

W. S. C. S.

Five women from the WSCS with Mr. Parker, visited the Methodist Home for the Aged on November 30.

Taken on a thorough tour of the building by Miss Evelyn Howe, head matron, the group was given an insight into the care which assists in bringing happiness to the 200 members of the Home "family."

Those who went were: Mrs. William Lewis, Mrs. Thomas Cochrane, Mrs. Henry Friedrich, Mrs. Joseph Rose, and Mrs. Mary Babcock, new chairman of the church Committee on Hospitals and Homes.

It has been suggested that every Methodist try to contribute \$1.00 per year for the Home, which depends for support on the Newark and New Jersey Conferences.

The next meeting of the W.S.C.S. will be held at the home of its president, Mrs. William Lewis, on Tues., Dec. 20 at 7:30 P.M. The program will be an informal Christmas party. Those who so desire are asked to bring some gift for a man or woman at the Ocean Grove Home.

A treat is promised at the Society's meeting on Jan. 19, when Mrs. Charles Stratton, wife of a Presbyterian missionary on furlough from Iran, will speak and show pictures of their work in that land.

METHODIST MEN

The Methodist Men are to meet next on Sunday, December 18 at the church at the conclusion of the Christmas Candlelight Carol Service.

KEEP CHRIST
IN CHRISTMAS



"He's our most efficient usher! Used to be a subway guard, the new head usher says! Especially good for these crowded Christmas services!"

"HALOS 'N HORNS"

(Continued from Page 3)

RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE HOSPITAL were both Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey E. Dickinson (he spent one night there after an automobile accident unbeknown to his wife, who was a patient in another room) and Mrs. Mildard Heaphy. We're glad to report on their recovery!

* * * * *

IN A RECENT LETTER TO MR. PARKER, the Rev. Alfred W. Dusebout, guest preacher here during the United Evangelistic Mission October 23-26, expresses his thanks for the "thoughtful" gift book sent him by the Official Board. He concludes: "Regards to all the wonderful people whom I had the pleasure of meeting during the U. E. M."

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IF YOU HAVE SOME SPARE TIME during the Holidays, you may enjoy trying to solve the Crossword Puzzle on Page Five. If you should get stuck, the editor - who wrote it - will be glad to offer any help! Average time it should take: 19½ minutes!

Ushers' Schedule

Sunday School Pageant

Under the capable direction of Luther Jones, head usher, an Ushers' Corps has been created and functioning smoothly for the past two months.

According to Mr. Jones, the schedule for the next several weeks is:

- December 18, A.M. - James Miller and William Gannon.
- P.M. - Bruce Conklin, Joseph Rose.
- December 25: Willis Ambrey, Charles O'dell.
- January 1: Lowell Parker, Melvin Stalter.
- January 8: Clarence Ambrey
George Cole-Hatchard
- January 15: Edward Conklin
Bertram Hoyt
- January 22: Everett McElroy
Harold Peifley
- January 29: Lucien Conklin
Chauncey Dickinson

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY MORNING

There will be no Church School session Sunday morning, December 25.

The 11:00 A.M. service will be a Family Worship Service, with a telling of Frederick Speakman's memorable Christmas story, "Yes, I Remember Bethlehem" in place of the regular sermon

WATCHNIGHT PROGRAM

At its November meeting, the Official Board authorized a Watch Night observance to be held New Year's Eve, starting at 9:30 with the showing of an unusually fine hour-long religious film, followed by a few games and refreshments.

At 11:15 there will be a Watch Night Service held in the sanctuary, offering an opportunity for those who wish to usher in the New Year with prayer and meditation.

A PRAYER FOR THE CHRISTIAN HOME (Cont. from Page 2)

God bless us every one, with the blessing of Jesus,
 By remembering our kinship with all men,
 By well-wishing, friendly speaking and kindly doing,
 By cheering the downcast and adding sunshine to daylight,
 By welcoming the strangers (poor shepherds or wise men)
 By keeping the music of the angels' song in this home,
 God help us everyone to share the blessing of Jesus,
 In whose name we keep Christmas. Amen. - Henry Van Dyke

An effective Christmas Pageant, entitled, "And They Brought Him Gifts," adapted by Mr. Parker from a play by Margaret Waage, will be presented by the Sunday School at 7:15 P.M. on Friday evening, December 23.

Performed in darkness, with spotlights illuminating the readers and tableaux, the pageant will include all grades in depicting both the Christmas birth and the variety of response which it may call forth.

At the climax of the pageant, all the boys and girls will come forward with presents for a child between 6 and 12 at the Rockland State Hospital in Orangeburg.

At the conclusion of the service, the usual Christmas party will be held for the Sunday School downstairs, Coffee and cake will be served to the adults by the Official Board.

S. S. TO PUT ON PARTY AT HOSPITAL

Christmas joy will be brought to some sixty boys and girls in the Children's Ward of the Rockland State Hospital at a Christmas Party to be put on for them by the Sunday School of this church.

On December 27, some of the older pupils will bring to the Hospital the presents brought in at the Pageant and will present them, tagged with the name of an individual child. They will also provide ice cream and cookies for the sick youngsters.

Anyone who would care to assist in this worthy project by contributing a gift suitable for a child of 6 to 12, is urged to do so.

MARING GIFT FUND

Those who would appreciate an opportunity to assist the Rev. Robert M. Maring, a former minister of this church, in his difficult work in the mission field at Karachi, Pakistan, may now do so by contributing to the "MARING GIFT FUND" to go to the Marings in the name of the Church.

A box, appropriately labeled, will be in the vestibule, remaining there until around the middle of January.

Christmas

The Parsonage
Christmas, 1955

Dear Friends:

"The world is filled with people who have eyes and ears, yet who do not see or hear," Helen Koller once said. "I would rather be blind and deaf than one of those."

The world is filled with people who see the bright sights and hear the joyful sounds of Christmas and who share in its festive merriment - yet who miss its deeper meaning.

At the heart of Christmas is the glad, Good News that in the birth of Jesus the living God came among us, full of grace and truth. Christmas reminds us that because a Child was born in a lowly stable at Bethlehem one star-lit night the world would never again be the same, and all life would henceforth be more lovely.

This is the real reason why someone has observed: "At Christmastide, when hearth fires and heart fires are lighted, the whole room of life is filled with warmth and beauty." It is a time when the heart keeps open house.

This, too, is the reason why Christmas belongs to the Church. Elsewhere in this issue you will find details of all the activities by which we seek to give varied expression to the true meaning of the Season that hails the birth of our Lord. I urge you to avail yourself of all these opportunities to glorify God and to enrich your Holiday observance.

May I call your special attention to the Candlelight Carol Service on December 18 at 7:30, featuring the finest Christmas music by our choirs and a talented soloist; the Church School Pageant on December 23 at 7:15, a moving portrayal of the Christmas message by our boys and girls; and the Candlelighting Service, in which everyone will take part, from 11:00 P.M. to midnight on Christmas Eve. Surely there could be no more fitting way to usher in Christmas than by attending this latter service which has been scheduled sufficiently late so as not to interfere with Christmas Eve plans at home.

Finally, I would like to extend to each of you my own warm Christmas greetings and ask you to join with me in this Christmas prayer:

Merciful Father, who through the windings and turnings of many days hast led us once more to the Festival of our Saviour's birth, grant that the pleasures of Christmas may serve not to lure us from Him but to guide us into His Presence. As our lives are brightened by the beauty of Christmas, may our spirits be lifted up by the loveliness of Christ. Thus may we share the good tidings of a Saviour born to us. Amen.

Faithfully yours,

David L. Parker