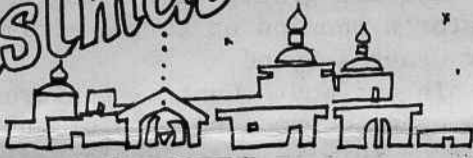




The Visitor

Joyous Christmas



A very enjoyable "family" evening with a meal emphasizing the food of a foreign country will again have our church school bring a program featuring the custome of India. Hildegard Everett has the recipes for you from India, and we will keep track of who does what in order to have enough of each item for the meal on Saturday, Dec.13, at 6:30p.m. Please note that it is SATURDAY and not Friday this year. It will be a Dewali Celebration or Festival of Lights. We pur quotes on "family" for all of you are part of our family. Most of us will not have children involved. Pat Oakes has issued a call for all musicians to join the "Joyful Noise" Band which will furnish music while we sing!

A few years ago we sometimes had our Candlelight Service a bit early to accomodate our UT students. Now we are aware of our students we are coming back for the holidays, and we will have our observance using our traditional service on Dec.21 at 7:30p.m. Pat and Mel Oakes have hosted us for years at their home following the service. We do have some who do not attend our regular worship joining with us, and it is a good time to invite a friend at celebrate with you.



Our Christmas Day Worship will be at 10:00a.m., and we will have communion as a part of our service. Our first Thanksgiving worship was a big surprise in attendance and participation. We will again seek those who are interested in preparing the service and will let you know later in the month the details. If you do not attend a worship service in the meantime, call the minister to find our specific plans. Trinity UCC is having their Christmas Eve Service at 11p.m. They will be delighted to have you worship with them.

Our first thirteen pledges gave us a total of \$22,328 for local, \$4,276 for OCWM, \$1,336 for Witness Share, and Inters \$1,980. We now have 26 pledges with the following totals: Local-\$35,688; OCWM-\$4,666; Witness-\$1,835; Intern-\$3,3,064. We need \$51,919 in pledges to meet the proposed budget. We hope to hear from those of you who have not as yet pledged.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Our Eden Home Expansion Campaign has been very successful. Over \$8000 has been pledged against a goal of a bit over \$3000. We expect that some more of our members will wish to support this worthy cause. Our church (p. 3,rt)

SERMON TOPICS

December 7 always reminds some of us of the attack on Pearl Harbor, but it is the Second Sunday of Advent and Health and Welfare Sunday for the UCC. We will seek someone to report on our involvement during a Moment of Concern. It will be Communion Sunday and Reception of New Members with eight joining us. (Four will be associate members.) The pastor will be preaching on "Accept As Christ Accepts" from Romans 15:7 which is conforming to the bulletin theme of "Welcome" from the same passage. Most of us will bring staples of food for Faith Food Pantry with us. Read Is.11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-8, Rom.15:4-13, and Matt.3:1-12 as the readings for the day.



The Third Sunday of Advent will find David Bartholomew being the preacher which means that we do not have a topic at this time. The bulletin cover will have "Sing" from Isa.35:10, but we do not know if that will hit a response for David or not. Read Is.35:1-10, Ps.146:5-10, Jas.5:7-10, and Matt.11:2-11. What sermon theme would you pick from the above scriptures? 12/14 is date.

The Fourth and last Sunday before Advent finds us having two services for a change. Sometimes when we answer the phone the person seems disappointed that we do not have more than one service. Our 11:00 worship will find the minister cogitating on "Good News and Bad News" from Isa.7:10-16, closely ali aligned with the bulletin theme of Immanuel. Could we have any bad news so close to Christmas? One of our favorite services will complete the day with a candlelight service using scripture and carols at 7:30p.m. Pat and Mel Oakes usually share their home after that service with an "open House"!



December 25 will find us worshipping at 10a.m. Bob Paul, who started us on doing this worship service, will be in Burnham-on-Crouch enjoying grandchildren plus Dean and Lydia Tapley. David Bartholomew and John Towery will organize a worship service and invite others to participate as we found happening for Thanksgiving. That means that you can wonder who will preach, etc.



Dec. 28 will be our last worship service of 1986. David Bartholomew will be in Green Bay, but the minister will be present to speak on "Withdraw To Return" using Matt.2:13-15, 19-23 to understand the tradition (P.2,rt)



"Be Prepared"

Most of us are busy preparing for the coming of Christmas. Those who are leaving Austin should have made airplane reservations by this time. Christmas cards are being purchased, and wrapped presents can likely be found in some homes. If we have friends overseas, we should have already mailed our gifts and must hurry with our cards. Special Advent devotionals were not order by the church this year as they were not used last year. It is a veryt busy time for many of us with extra parties, extra writing, and extra shopping, but we may need to provide ourselves with some time for meditation and thought about the meaning of it all.

It is extremely unlikely that the date of Jesus' birth was Dec. 25. The church used Jan. 6, which we now observe as Epiphany in a minor way, until the observance was shifted to Dec. 25 to help Christians avoid the excesses of the Roman celebration held on that date. If we can manufacture a date to avoid temptation, we can work to have time for our own inner life. It is not important when or if Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but it is extremely important for each of us to discover the birth of the Spirit of Christ in our hearts. In our UCC bulletin of Dec. 2, 1962, the late Rev. Fred S. Buschmeyer wrote: "Actually, it is God who prepares the way for the coming of the Lord, by the gifts of the Spirit he has granted to the sons of men. He has made our hearts sensitive to the fullness of his Intent and our wills responsive to his call to share in the fulfillment of his purposes."

Often Christians have acted out of fear in dread of a literal hell. Unfortunately the vision of a loving God is not real for many. Devotion time is an opportunity more than an obligation.

We were sorry to note the death of Rambie Briggs'uncle in Uvalde this past month.

Dennis Murphy reports that all of them are enjoying good health; however, his father had to have a kidney removed because of cancer. He is still feeling pain in the area of the surgery and is a bit slow in regaining strength. The doctors thought that all of the cancerous tissue is removed.

Mary Tomasek was ill a bit earlier in the month, and we neglected to report that. She did enjoy a trip to North Carolina where she not only saw daughter Dorcas but was able to visit a bit with the Russells. She reports that all of them are doing well. Rollin had made the same tour to the Middle East that Karen Dietz recently made. (We will be hoping to have a report from Karen sometime during the coming year.)

Cathy and Clark Hubbs plan on seeing all of their children and grandchildren during the Christmas holiday season. That will take them to Tenn., Kansas, and New Mexico.

We discovered that Marilyn Gaddis and George Carruthers have signed for refreshments on Dec. 14 so we only have two more Sundays to go!
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL MEET Dec. 7 after worship. United Campus Ministry is seeking a reduction or postponement in pay.
BOARD OF DEACONS WILL MEET Dec. 14 after our worship service.

Thanks to Linda Norelli for typing.

The 1986 Christmas Fund

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Our annual offering for Veterans of the Cross is a way that we have revealed our appreciation for retired religious

leaders and active ministers who face an emergency requiring extra finances.

*Some funds go as an extra Christmas gift to retired pastors or laity selected by the Conference minister.

*The Fund also goes to retired clery or surviving spouses when emergencies place them in special need.

*Special grants will bring some retired pastor's pension up to the minimum voted by our General Synod.

*In our South Central Conference monies are used to pay a portion of the retired minister or surviving spouse's medical insurance.

Envelopes to give to the above worthy purposes will be in the pews during December. You can always mail a gift and your pledge to our work in 1987 to Mrs. Sara Ross, 6705 Lexington Rd., Austin, TX 78731. Remember that monies given in 1986 provide more of a deduction on your income tax than 1987 gifts!

SERMON TOPICS (cont. from p. 1) of Mary and Joseph fleeing to Egypt with Jesus and then returning to nazareth. Other scriptures are Is. 63:7-9, Ps. 111, and Heb. 2:10-18.

REFRESHMENT TIME will find the Deacons doing the honors on Dec. 7, but we need volunteers for the remainder of the month. If you need information on what to do, check with Hildegard Everett or Eleanor Towery. Hildegard came to our rescue on Nov. 30 when a mix-up meant that we had no one signed up. Our thanks to the following who helped earlier Jean and Vic Appel on 11/23; Midori and Oliver Campbell on 11/16; and Mike Adams and Sarah Bentley on 11/9.

PERSONALS (cont.) at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall of Bethany Lutheran Church at 6215 Manchaca Road. First lesson is free. For more information call Fran Kooker 442-8620.

Thanksgiving had travelers in our group. Linda Bulkeley and Dale Tercey went to San Antonio. Jean and Vic Appel visited Debbie in Houston after the day. The Pinkards went to Atlanta to be with Tommie's ill mother. David was to come from Yale, and Chris & Bette were to come from Indiana. Jonathan, Susan and David Ashton were with David's mother and family in Houston. Tanya, Pam, Sally, and Tom Johnson from Garland plus Betty and Hiram Johnson from Del Rio were with the Towerys for the holidays.

Michael Adams had an apartment to rent if anyone is interested.

Frances Creech had a very enjoyable open house on Nov. 23 hampered a bit by inclement weather. Sorry if you missed seeing her interesting home but maybe another time!



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:00 AM Bible Study [7] 11:00 Worship 12:30 Trustees Mtg 1:00 PM Polish Group Dinner John Towery Preaching	Bible Study [9] 7:30-9:00 PM Lk. 18:1-22:1 Lillie Webb leading discussion	Book Study [17] Group 7:30-9:00 PM Kushner - chptrs. 9, 10 at Church	Metro-Min. Mtg. 7:15 PM [11]	Austin Symphony [12]	Brazos Assoc. Exec. Council Mtg. - Burton 10:00 AM [6]
10:00 Bible Study [14] 11:00 Worship 12:30 Deacons Mtg. D. Bartholomew Preaching	Bible Study [16] 7:30-9:00 PM Lk 22:1 - end Midori Campbell leading discussion	Book Study [17] Group 7:30-9:00 PM Kushner - chptrs. 9, 10 at Church			Christmas Potluck 6:30 PM [13]
10:00 Bible Study [21] 11:00 Worship 7:30 PM Candlelight Service followed by an "Open House" at the Oakes' home Towery Preaching		Julie Case's Birthday [24]	10:00 AM Christmas Service [25]		
10:00 Bible Study [28] 11:00 Worship Towery Preaching					

December 1986



We have two opportunities for Bible Study. You will note the times and place for Tuesday nights at 7:30 p.m. The group is studying Luke at the moment. The other time is on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Room during church school hour. The lectionary readings for the day which are printed on our front page will be the subject matter. The major emphasis is upon what that section of the scripture says to us. Your participation is encouraged to help the dialogue!

EDEN HOME EXPANSION 75 (cont. from p. 1) was the first to report our intentions. We also sent in pledges of over \$4,900. Some of you have been contacted, and we will be contacting the rest of our members in Austin. We are glad to report that we have had a response from at least one out of town member. Our congratulations to our committee of David Bartholomew, Fran Briggs, Judy Cole, Hildegard and Rizer Everett, Tommie and Doyal Pinkard, Weldon Scheel, and John Towery. "Dutch" Scheel has acted as our chair and cheer leader!



Claude Tarvin had a major heart attack on Sunday, Nov. 16, and has been in intensive care at Seton since that time. He remains in the hospital in serious condition. Daughters Carolyn and Bonnie from Phoenix came to visit, and his mother and two brothers came from Florida.

Ernie Dean journeyed to Calif. with Shirley to visit the new grandchild. Unfortunately the baby picked up a urinary infection which they are still seeking the cause of. The mother is doing better but had some infection problems in the incision after her C-section. Shirley remained in CA. to help for three days.

Charles Stark was in the hospital with Crohn's disease but is now at home and doing a bit better.

Ricky and Mary Masters were ill with the flu. We missed Marilyn Pickens one day with illness. Linda Norelli reported recovery from the flu, and the pastor is a bit under the weather with a deep cold. Katie Atkinson was also sidelined for a bit with the flu.

Travel season will soon be on us. From Eunice and Robert Paul we have the following: "Our son, Tim, his wife Ann and son Ian are coming from Pittsburgh to visit after Thanksgiving. They will be here for Ian's 8th birthday on Sunday, Dec. 7. We leave for England before Christmas, which we will spend in Burnham-on-Crouch with the Tapleys. Our son, Martin, from NYC will join us there. We will follow that with the Seminary Reformation Tour. We will meet the group in Frankfurt on Jan. 2, and be back here at the end of January!"

We can also report that David Bartholomew will be leaving for Green Bay on Christmas Day and will then go to Harrisburg to meet with Dena Cleaver and her bishop who will determine if it is all right for Dena and David to marry if she is to become an Episcopal priest.

Often we do not hear about things, and we regret reporting the death of Melva Ebert, wife of Bill Ebert, who started Austin Vacuum Cleaner business. Both have worshipped with us in the past. She had been ill with emphysema for the past two years.



Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die

We just received word of the birth of Anna Cheyenne Palmer to Ralph and Leslie Barrow Palmer on Sept. 21, weighing 7lb., 8½oz. Leslie reports that she is a good baby with a great delivery. Nathan is acting like a jealous big brother. Our appreciation to Leslie for providing us with this information.



We were also delighted to hear from Louis Eason who is a chaplain in the Air Force stationed in England. Louis informs us that he has been promoted to Major and will be in the Air Force for awhile longer. He reports that Lynette has been helping him at the base chapel.

For us it will be a gala occasion with the following new members to be received on Sunday, Dec. 7: Judy and Fred-eric Burchsted, 205B E. Croslin, 78752, phone 458-6797 by statement of faith. Margaret "Maggie" Taylor, 3902 Brookview Dr., 78722, phone 474-0804, Carolyn Sawyer, 608 Oakland Dr., 78703, phone 474-2828 come by confession of faith. As associate members we have Earl Cornwell (already listed), Kay and Rey Salas (already listed), and Dale Tercey who lives with wife Linda Bulkeley at 3403 Speedway B-10, 78705, phone 476-6091. We will provide more data in future issues.



We are glad to report that Dale has a part time job getting a computer bank operating for UT's information department.

Marilyn Gaddis and George Carruthers had their picture taken together in our new directory. They were married in the church on Saturday, Nov. 22. They may be living at George's ranch located near San Marcos. That address is also listed in the directory.



Garry Cole was in Paris for ten days on business. Tough duty, Garry!

Bee and Edgar Polome have a three bedroom, two bath house available next door to them on Loyola Dr. for \$650 or so. Bee reports that she hopes to have oranges and grapefruit on Dec. 13 at the dinner. She will have some extra boxes if you want one. Proceeds provide scholarships for music students.

Donald Small made a trip home to Conn. and reported enjoyment at raking leaves. Bet we could find some who would like to help him have that kind of fun.

Allan Case is now moved into his house at 610 E. 46th St. He reports that he is still unpacking boxes etc.

Eric Isenberg's soccer team won 3 games and then played two more in Georgetown. (No report on that day.) Ricky Master's soccer team lost two games and tied one in the playoffs but had won their division.

Mary Halladay will be looking forward to a visit from her daughter at Christmas time. Suspect that Austin will be a bit warmer than Minneapolis.

Kathleen Strong sends us this announcement: "Tuesday night square dance lessons for beginners start January 13 at (cont. p. 2)



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