



# EDITOR'S DESK

According to Luke the angels sang about "Peace on Earth." It may seem cynical, but it is truthful to say that the earth had not been particularly peaceful before Christ's birth and has not been since that time. Even though we may be spending our way to a national high on Christmas gifts in memory of one who gave His life in service, we are not blessed with peace internationally nor within our own nation.

Here at home we are only too well aware of the disturbance of major crime and riots. We all agree that our nation would be much better without them. We are not very peaceful about our opinions as to how it should be done. We can agree that better methods of controlling the crime syndicates should be developed, and most of us would feel that we need improvement in containing riots. Where we will differ is our concern for the people who are unhappy enough to create a riot. Few of us have or will experience the desperation of people in the urban ghetto. Some people are concerned enough to urge support of programs to try to help the people in the ghetto. What is good about federal programs and what is bad? Is our state doing enough? Is our local city doing enough? Is our church doing enough? We have programs funded nationally in Chicago, Beaumont, Biloxi and other areas, and we provide some support through our local church. What are we doing here in Austin? Some members are tutoring, and an organization is helping one family. What can we do as individuals and as a group to help the neighbor across the freeway from most of us?

The majority of us feel a great ambivalence about Viet Nam while some of us want to quit and others want to win a military victory. The real war for the allegiance of the people of Viet Nam to a dream of a nation responsive to the problems of its people does not seem to be going as well as the military battle. We may feel that there are good reasons for being in Viet Nam and still disagree rather strongly about some of the priorities over there. Our denomination in cooperation with others is trying to help in refugee camps involving about ten million people and scattered up and down the country. We have done a bit as a local church through OCMW and Share Our Substance but not as much as we could have done. We could also urge a priority to develop a country rather than destroy it with napalm or bombs.

We didn't really forget, but we didn't quite quote all of that passage from Luke for it says, "and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased." Another scripture points out that a tree is known by its fruit. We need to be concerned that the life of our own church and our own life is one that is pleasing to the God best symbolized in a sacrificial life. Then a real Christmas can be celebrated within our hearts and in our community.

In Christianity and Crisis of 10/16 we found some words on the Black Power advocates in Roger Shinn's article "Is Racial Hostility Ever a Gain?"

The angry black militants, although they

# FAMILY NIGHT PLANS DEC. 17

Dr. Victory Appel has been busy organizing for the Family Night supper, and he has come up with the following:

- A. For the meal, we are asked to bring as follows- A-H Salad and or vegetable.
- H-R: Main dish or casserole.
- S-Z Dessert. Each family unit should bring enough to fee six.

The Pilgrim Guild will furnish coffee, rolls and butter. Mrs. Clark Hubbs is in charge of the meal part.

Ches and Sally Towery will be in charge of the decoration of the Fellowship Room. Javan Reid will be in charge of the decoration of the Fellowship Room with the aid of the students. Mrs. Richard Swallow will be in charge of the decoration of the tree there. Mrs. J. B. Morrison will be in charge of the decoration of the small tree in the kindergarten room. Mrs. M. E. Partridge and Mrs. Mary Cassel will decorate the tables. Mr. "Pat" Partridge will be in charge of entertainment.

Please bring extra Christmas decorations and plants and be sure to put your name on them so that they can be returned.

Don't forget your white gift etc.

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CHRISTMAS BUREAU. The Community Christmas Bureau is located at 4019 Marathon St. one block west of Lamar at the corner of W. 41 and Marathon. The phone number is GL-4-6621. The bureau will be open from 8-5 Mon.-Fri. until Dec. 22. If you wish to help one particular family, they will give you a name.

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VOICES FROM HOME: Families, make a free recording for your serviceman or woman stationed overseas or hospitalized stateside who will not be home for Christmas. Call Red Cross now at GR 8-1601 for an appointment between Dec. 3 and Dec. 10.

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THE CHINA WATCHERS SERIES IV will be Sun. Dec. 10 at 2 P.M. at The Methodist Student Center. FOREIGN POLICY OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. \*2 films with Dr. David Edwards as discussion leader.

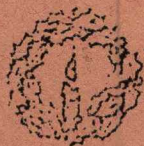
XXX  
BLACK POWER (cont.) make a poignant cry of protest, do not offer a solution. To yell "Burn, baby, burn" is not to promise justice. And to talk of establishing a rural, black economy (subsidized by black militants and white segregationists) is no realistic contribution to present despair or future reconstruction.

However, such phenomena are understandable as a reaction to the frustrations of life in a nation brutally stacked against one large group of its people. ...

In this present stage we begin to perceive the inadequacy of all gimmicks and programs for meeting our cultural sickness. Yet we know that accusation and laceration are no substitute for action. So we will work at every social program that promises anything, knowing the necessity and inadequacy of all such programs."

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On Nov. 19th we voted support to the work toward open housing by the Human Opportunities Corp., the City Council, and the Austin Council of Churches urging specific steps be taken toward achieving that goal.



TRUSTEES (Cont.) the outside trim on the parsonage. It will need a second coat, but it has already improved the appearance greatly.

Undoubtedly the Trustees will discuss the relationship of the proposed budget to the anticipated income at the next meeting scheduled for Dec. 12th at 8 P.M. at the home of Mrs. Marie Clark, 2800 Robbs Run.

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Church Council-It has been a long time since we have attempted to have a Church Council meeting. It would seem like a good idea (suggested at one of the small group meetings) to have a meeting of the Council prior to the Annual Meeting. All church officers, presidents or representatives of various organizations of the church, chairmen of the committees, and the four representatives at large should be present. The date will be Wed. Jan. 10 at 8 P.M. in the Fellowship Room of the church.

We would like to see all members of committees present to plan some of their work for the coming year. It would give us all a chance to compare notes.

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CHURCH SCHOOL-It is time to give a word of appreciation to our teachers. Mrs. J. B. Morrison, Mrs. Jay Stanford, the pastor, Mr. and Mrs. James Strickland have given us high quality of teaching in their classes.

Dr. Melvin Oakes has been leading the adult discussion group which meets on the second floor of the Y. The last time we heard they were discussing Fletcher's SITUATION ETHICS. It is a good group, and if you like to discuss things, you could help with your presence.

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COLONY? Dr. Victor Appel wonders if we should not consider having at least three of our neighborhood groups meet once a month to increase fellowship and discuss various things. Suggested items could be the Bible Study outline contained in the pamphlet "All Things New" in preparation for the Fourth Assembly at Uppsala in 1968, The Local Church in God's Mission, "Who Speaks for the Church" by Roger Shinn and John Bennett in response to Paul Ramsey as contained in the Oct 30 issue of Christianity and Crisis, or other subjects that the group might select. What do you think?

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OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION-While our church has been doing fairly well this year in giving to Our Christian World Mission, we have done a bit better in the past. Our national boards are facing a real problem though as reflected in a letter from President Ben Herberster,

1967 has been a year of continuing growth in the financial support of Our Christian World Mission. The most recent reports indicate that members of the United Church of Christ have given \$822,613 more in 1967 than at the corresponding dates in 1966. (Conferences have received \$951,517 more and national instrumentalities have received \$128,904 less.)

Since 1967 has 53 Sundays, it has been suggested that all local churches give their loose plate offerings for that Sunday to Our Christian World Mission.

We should say to you that South Central Conference is not one of the Conferences taking more this year from OCMW than they did in 1966. In fact we are probably giving more this year than we did last in the Conference. Our instrumentalities are in trouble though and do need help.

Our sympathy is with Mrs. J. B. Morrison on the loss of her brother, Dr. James Hubbard, in mid-November after a long illness.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Trenckmann on the birth of twins on Nov. 10th. They are Cynthia Ellen and Charles Mark. A new home was being remodeled at 2602 Thomas Dr. but delays meant that it was only about 2/3rds complete when the twins came home.

The Carl Burkles took their vacation and visited in Missouri and home state Iowa.

The Ashes took trips. Elizabeth went to Mexico while Herbert went hunting.

Our congratulations to Hildegard Everett who secured her co-pilot's license this past month.

We had a note from Kay Hancock in Bonn, Germany which reported that she was learning the language, and Don was buried under mounds of manuscripts for a book.

The Carl Leidens took a trip to New Orleans in November, and Mary is ready to go back.

We hear that M. E. "Pat" Patridge has been in Washington, D. C. but is now back home.

We had a phone call from the Barrows, and they reported that they were all fine. We asked about Laurene Melchar and discovered that she was doing well. Francis Barrow has been doing a lot of traveling but none here.

We keep awaiting the construction of the swimming pool at the Jack Mitchells and anticipate that it will be ready for next spring.

The Winters from Florida (fancy that) visited daughter Pat Oakes and were in church with us on the 12th.

Word from her brother indicates that Mrs. Eleanore (August) Schenck is now in a Church of Christ rest home in Houston. The address is 3601 N. McGregor Way, Houston, Tex. 77004  
From Mabel McNeely.

Mrs. Helen Lee spent Thanksgiving weekend with her daughter in New Orleans, La.

Dr. and Mrs. Mathis Balckstock and family spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Abbeville, La.

Miss Beulah Smith had friends for Thanksgiving dinner. Her sister is visiting her for ten days.

John and Mabel McNeely had Bob and Frances McNeely for Thanksgiving dinner.

Mrs. Erna Seeliger has returned from New Delhi, India where she visited her daughter and son-in-law for two months.

Mrs. Josephine Trenckmann had 13 of her family with her for Thanksgiving dinner featuring a 16 pound turkey with trimmings.

We hear that Bob and Frances McNeely plan on a Florida trip for the Christmas holidays. It would be nice if they could visit the Towers in Ft. Lauderdale.

Eleanor Towery reports that she had a very enjoyable trip Cincinnati leaving on Nov. 6. She particularly enjoyed the color on the trees in Ark., and the frost on the ground early in the morning. The only way to go, she reports. She visited with her family and met John in Columbus on Nov. 11th at the Riesers. They obtained a 61 Falcon for \$50 and visited friends and relatives on a three day trip back to Texas. John had flown up to Chicago and then to Columbus. He had attended the meeting of the Committee for Ecumenical Studies.