

The Baptist Builder

A Publication of First Baptist Church
Palafox and LaRue — Pensacola, Fla.
ELWIN L. SKILES, Ph.D., Pastor

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Number 41

Greetings of the Season

At this Yuletide Season all of our hearts are turned heavenward with a renewed spirit of thanksgiving and dedication to God for His "unspeakable gift in Christ Jesus." That He is our wonderful Savior and that we are His Ambassadors working in His Kingdom are brought into exact focus as we contemplate our Lord's miraculous birth. Then, too, we are made exceedingly conscious of the many glorious blessings that have been showered upon us since last we worshiped Him at Christmas time, and all of them because of our Christian fellowship and devotion to God.

We wish for you every Christian joy, and the peace of God which passeth all understanding. May God's gracious gifts of faith and hope and love abundantly be yours today and throughout the New Year.

Mrs. Skiles, Elwin, Jr., and Ann Collier join me in grateful appreciation for the glorious privilege of service in your midst and the many evidences of your love, generosity and devotion all the year long.

Faithfully,
ELWIN L. SKILES

The wholehearted co-operation manifest by every teacher and officer along with the support of the Sunday School as a whole makes us proud of the results of the first three months of this church year.

We wish for all a most pleasant Christmas Season and when it is gone, we can look back and feel we have celebrated His coming as we rightfully should. May we all dedicate ourselves to the task ahead in His name.

T. A. GUTHRIE,
Superintendent of the
Sunday School.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Morning Worship.....	8:30 and 11:00
"God's Postponements"	Pastor
Special Music:	
"Sweet Little Jesus Boy".....	MacGinsey
8:30 — Genie Brasher; 11:00 — Sam Jordan	
Hallelujah Chorus	Handel
* * *	
Sunday School	9:40
* * *	
Vesper Service	5:00
* * *	
"In the Lonely Midnight"	
"Fairest Lord Jesus".....	Arr. by Richard S. Willis
"Dear Little Stranger".....	Gabriel
"There's a Song in the Air".....	Harrington Junior Choir
"The Christmas Message".....	Pastor
"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee", Beethoven "Sleeps Judea Fair".....	MacKinnon
"Nazareth"	Gounod
Gene Brasher, Soloist	
Youth Choir	
* * *	
Training Union	6:15
Christmas Caroling Tour in chartered bus for the young people.....	7:30

All of us are deeply conscious of the grim world situation and may find that this fact tempers our merriment somewhat. It should not, however, temper the warmth of our Christian greeting to each other.

Please accept this hearty greeting to you as sincere as my friendship has always been.

WILSON HARRIS,
President, Brotherhood

Our first year here in First Church, Pensacola, has been filled with many blessings. As we enjoy this another Christmas Season, our hearts are full beyond any adequate expression of deep appreciation of you — one and all. Your most loyal support and your love for the things which belong to God have made our hearts rejoice within us for you. May each and every one of you find in the year ahead a place of service in the Lord's work and with each passing day grow in the grace of our Lord.

TOM DRAPER,
Educational Director

Greetings of the season to all of you who have participated in our Training Union activities this year. May many more of our members join us in the new year for a greater Training program.

God grant you every blessing.

HAYWOOD ARNOLD,
Training Union Director

As this Christmas Season approaches my thoughts go out in gratitude to all of you for your co-operation, loyal support and faithful service in promoting the cause of missions.

I consider it a real blessing to have the privilege of serving with you in our W. M. U. God grant you the health happiness, and all the blessings you so richly deserve.

MRS. M. B. DAWSON,
President, W. M. U.

They Don't Believe Anybody Can Forgive

JUST a few weeks before the trouble started below the 38th parallel, there came to me by chance a remarkable tale. The story had first been told by Doctor Cho to Doctor Bro in Korea, but those two rhyming names are of different hemispheres—Doctor Cho is a Korean scholar, and Dr. Albin Bro is an American clergyman.

I do not know the name of the little minister, but I wish I did because in the history of men and their passions, his action is possibly unique. He was pastor of a box-like unpainted church in the town of Soon Chen. There he had worked for many years, among people who today, fleeing in raddled lines before the shell fire, pin their hopes on out-numbered American troops. But even in the days of peace—really so recent, although they now seem so far away—the Korean pastor often felt discouraged.

"What can be wrong?" he asked of his two young sons, who helped him in his work. "Why do so few come to church?"

"We must keep on praying and working," urged the younger.

"I think I know what is wrong," said his brother. "The Korean people don't believe our new gospel. They don't believe anybody can ever really forgive. We've just got to show them the way."

"May God show us the way," sighed the pastor.

And he went off to visit his friends, the lepers—6,000 of them confined on an island colony nearby. Much of the little pastor's life had been devoted to helping those lepers. But this time, while he lingered on the island lazaretto, guerilla soldiers from the north swooped down on the town of Soon Chen pillaging, robbing, and spreading terror.

When the minister returned to his parsonage, it was only to look upon the dead bodies of his two sons. They were his only ones, and they had given their lives in resisting the North Korean bandits.

That was a dazing blow to an aging man.

He sat as if in a stupor while the native police, who are excellent detectives, prattled in their native jargon of clues and trails—and vengeance. One day they came to the parsonage, dark eyes dancing with triumph, and news. They had caught the murderer of his two sons.

Nor did they exaggerate. When he had his day in court the murderer made a complete confession of his bloody crime. The judge prepared to pro-

By Fulton Oursler

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

—John 3:16

nounce the death sentence when suddenly a voice was heard in the courtroom.

"I would like to speak, please!"

It was the little pastor who now stood before the judge; it was the father of the murder victims, himself so pale and trembling that a stranger might have thought that he was the guilty one.

"Honorable Judge," he began, "I forgive this man who killed my two sons." He was speaking clearly and distinctly, because he wanted everyone in the crowd to hear him. "By sentencing the killer of my beloved ones to death, the law can do nothing to help my grief. Why kill, then? Why not give him to me? Let me bring him into my family. He can take the place of one of those I have lost. If you will let me have him, I promise Almighty God to treat him as my own son."

The silence in the courtroom was like

Judgment Day. Men could not believe their ears. But they saw the Korean pastor lay his hand firmly on the murderer's shoulder, and smile at him.

As the two men left the courtroom together, there were echoes in the father's heart of two well remembered voices, and they were speaking to him with a love that is stronger than time, or space or death:

"We must keep praying and working."

And:

"They don't believe anybody can ever really forgive. We've just got to show them the way."

Voices of his vanished sons, blessing him from afar, I do believe!

Perhaps even now its blessings are being felt in the faith that deepens between men as Koreans and Americans fight and die together. (Used by permission of the author and The Nashville Banner.)

The Better Christmas

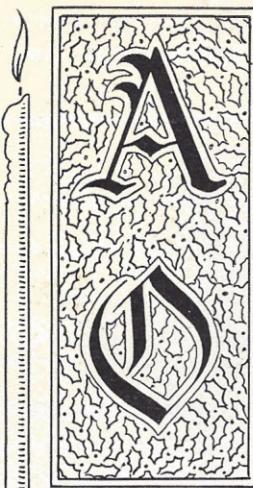
Again we come to the gladdest season of the year. The happiest of all our holidays is just before us. And there leaps to our lips the time-honored, if time-worn greeting; for sincerely, very sincerely, we wish you a merry, merry Christmas.

That means much more than wishing you a good time. Simply to have a good time is not enough to satisfy you. There must be something more at Christmas than a good meal or a lively game or sprightly company. Indeed, one can have a genuine Christmas even if clouds overcast the sky and a scrap of dark falls upon the path.

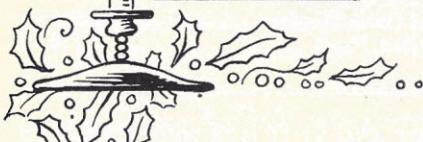
So we wish you the better Christmas—a Christmas that is better than any in the past, better in its inward uplift and urge, better in its spiritual dynamic, better in its manward service, better for you and all about you . . .

No doubt there is some repair that is needed for the inner man. Dress up your heart for a happy holiday. See that your soul is in order. If there are any leaks in your moral nature, now is the time to stop them. If your spiritual garments have become frayed or thin at any point, now is the time to cut them off or rehem them.

HIGHT C MOORE
From *The Better Christmas*



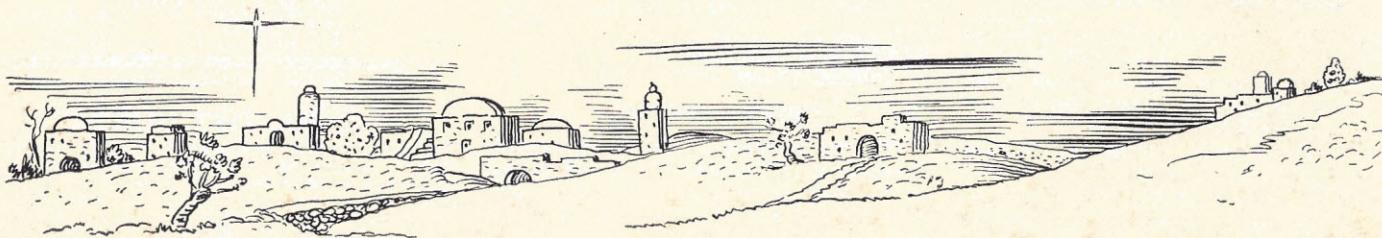
And n Earth Peace



The promise of the angels has failed only as men have refused individually and collectively to accept the condition upon which God based his promise. Faith, hope, and peace come to individuals and nations alike as they respond to divine guidance.

World conditions have brought renewed need for a truly Christian observance of Christmas. In the midst of this world confusion, let us look back across the years and see a tiny baby in a quiet, humble manger—the Son of God, the Saviour of the world.

Peace on earth can come only as it first comes through the hearts of individuals. And only peace within the hearts of individuals can bring the cessation of war. But, regardless of outside conflicts, you can have peace this Christmas if you have Christ in your heart and if you will put him at the center of your life.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Comparison	1949	1950
Enrolled	1416	1406
Present	820	865

	Enrol.	Pres.	Att.	Preach.	Cont.
Gen. Officers	10	8	8	54	
Adult 1	136	69	39	82	
Adult 2	112	67	49	78	
Adult 3	245	160	130	179	
Y. P. 1	102	69	53	52	
Y. P. 2	49	19	13	20	
Senior	79	44	34	31	
Intermediate	79	51	42	39	
Junior 1	121	75	57	39	
Junior 2	93	59	43	54	
Primary 1	46	30	6	27	
Primary 2	47	34	9	18	
Primary 3	60	37	10	9	
Beginner 1	60	46	3	51	
Beginner 2	49	33	4	20	
Nursery 1	10	6	1	6	
Nursery 2	15	13	3	7	
Nursery 3	58	29	2	24	
Nursery 4	35	16	2	2	
TOTALS	1406	865	508	787	

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Congratulations are in order for Miss Barbara Holt and the cast that presented "Unto Bethlehem," a Christmas play, over Station WCOA on last Sunday afternoon. Also to Mrs. Maurice Davis and the Youth Choir for their splendid contribution to the success of the program.

OUR BASKETBALL TEAM journeyed to Mobile on last Thursday and lost a hard fought game, 31 to 36. They will play East Hill Baptist in their next league game on January 4 at 5:30. Support your team by your presence at the YMCA for their games.

MUSIC NOTES

How grateful we are to our choirs for the splendid program of Christmas music on last Sunday evening.

YOUTH AND JUNIOR CHOIRS will sing at the Vesper Services on Christmas eve at 5:00. We extend our special thanks to Mrs. Maurice Davis, director of music, her accompanists and to each member of our choir.

WE WELCOME OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

One of the joys of the Christmas Season is that of having our college students home and in our services. We miss you when you are away, and are always glad to have you return for a few days.

We will observe our Annual Student night program on New Year's Eve at the regular 7:30 worship hour. More details of this service will be given in next week's Builder.

DEACONS TO RECOMMEND PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL PROPERTY

On next Wednesday evening at 7:45 the deacons will recommend that the property east of the present church plant be purchased at a cost of \$17,500 and that \$500 be allowed for changes necessary in converting it to church use. This is the only property adjacent to our church which can be purchased and utilized. Negotiations for the purchase of the property north of the church have been going on for more than a year but without success.

It is the considered judgment of the deacons and the expansion committee that our long range building program, with a new auditorium and adequate educational facilities as its goal, will be brought nearer to realization through this proposed purchase. Additional ground area is essential to the building program. In addition to providing an 82x150 foot plot of ground for future expansion, this purchase would give us a fifteen room apartment house and a three car garage to use in growing a greater Sunday School. If it is the desire of the church to take this proposed action, it will be possible for us to enter one-third of the building on December 31. This will enable us to move the Young People's Department No. 1 from the high school into church property. Later on, room will be available for Young People's Department No. 2 and Nursery No. 4.

Full explanations of the proposed action will be made on next Wednesday evening. Every member of the church is encouraged to be present to give serious consideration to our need for expansion and to our possibilities for growth.

One of our fine young men, Henry Brady, a senior in Baylor University, will bring the message in this prayer and praise hour.

TRAINING UNION

	Enrolled	Present
General Officers	10	10
Adult 1	37	20
Adult 2	43	33
Young People	56	42
Senior	33	19
Intermediate	41	25
Junior 1	44	25
Junior 2	33	15
Nursery Story Hour	20	15
Beginner Story Hour	18	8
Primary Story Hour	28	13
Total	363	225
New Member Class		5
		230

BANNERS — Attendance and Efficiency — Original Union.

Opening assembly in the Young People's Department of Training Union will be led by the college students. All college students are urged to be present Sunday night at 6:15.

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK

TUESDAY —	
6:30 — Youth Choir practice.	
7:30 — Adult Choir practice.	
WEDNESDAY —	
7:00 A.M. — Morning Watch.	
6:15 — Sunday School Workers' Supper.	
Friendly Class, Mrs. H. Gentry, teacher, will assist.	
7:00 — Departmental meetings.	
7:45 — Prayer and Praise Service.	

LAST SUNDAY AT A GLANCE

Sunday School	865
Training Union	230
OFFERING:	
Local and Missions	\$1,528.96
Building Fund	1,778.19

Total.....\$3 307.15

MEET AND VISIT OUR NEW MEMBERS

By Letter:	
45 — Miss Mary Frances McKinney, 4427 N. Davis Highway.	
By Baptism:	
13 — Charles H. Overman, Jr., 3201 Torras Avenue.	
14 — Patricia Ann Connors, 1507 W. Jackson	
15 — Carol Sue Connors, 1507 W. Jackson.	***

AMONG OUR MEMBERS . . .

Mrs. W. M. Dennard is in the Phoebe Putney Hospital in Albany, Georgia.

NOTICE

The church office will be closed on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday. In case of emergency call the pastor at 8-4727.

SYMPATHY

To Mr. R. R. Meeker in the loss of his brother.



The Church Staff joins in wishing every member of our Church a Merry and Christian Christmas.

MRS. G. T. SUTTON

ANNE DRAPER

MRS. MAURICE DAVIS

BETTY GRAHAM

MRS. G. F. MANNING

PAUL CARO

THE BAPTIST BUILDER

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