

The Baptist Builder

Vol. XI

December 22, 1960

No. 52

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PALAFOX AND LA RUA STREETS
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

JAMES L. PLEITZ
PASTOR



Joy to the World

"CHRIST FOR CHRISTMAS"

The birthday of Our Lord draws near;
The "Day-of-Days" of all the year;
A day of hope and joy and cheer.

Keep Jesus Christ in Christmas!
Let not old Santa crowd Him out,
With whiskers gray and body stout.
He helps the world forget about
The loving Christ at Christmas.

The day is Christ's by right divine.
A day no myth should undermine,
A day when thoughts and deeds sublime

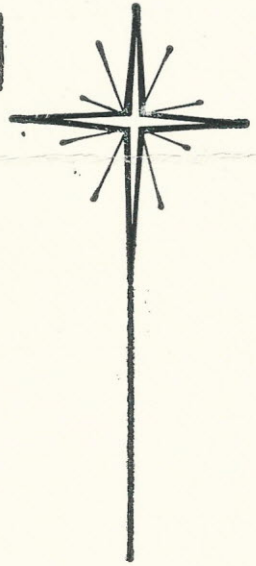
Should keep the Christ in Christmas
When every message, every gift,
Should in some Joyous way uplift
One's thought, and make them drift
To Bethlehem at Christmas.

Beyond all else this day should be
A day of holiest memory.

When all the world should joyfully

See Christ, its Lord, in Christmas.
Give other things a minor place,
But tell to man in every race
The story, on this day of grace,
Of Christ, his Lord, on Christmas.

—Copied



The Lord is come

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

CHRISTMAS DAY COMES ON SUNDAY

It is a very rare thing for Christmas Day to come on Sunday. It last happened in 1955 and will not happen again until 1956.



This should be the most sacred day of the entire year to Christian people. When we come next Sunday to worship Jesus Christ, we will commemorate not only his resurrection (and each Lord's Day commemorates His victory over the grave), but we shall also celebrate His birth. Certainly, if

there is a Sunday in the entire year when we will want to be in God's House, it is on this Sunday!

In past years, the Sunday closest to Christmas has been the Sunday of the lowest church attendance for the entire year. Please, dear friends, let's not let this happen this coming Lord's Day. Can it be that we have so taken Christ out of Christmas that He has been crowded out of more than the inn of Bethlehem? Have we gotten so involved in the external things of Christmas that Christ's birth is not the main thing any more? Is there a better way to spend Christmas than in the Lord's House? Put Christ first in Christmas. Honor Him on His birthday by attending the services of the church.

My family and I wish to thank you for the many, many beautiful cards and gifts that you have sent us in recent days. You are a wonderful people, and I thank God daily for the privilege of being your under-shepherd. My sincere prayer is that God will richly bless you and yours.

Devotedly in Christ,

James L. Pleitz

SERMON TOPICS

11:00 A.M.

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

(Luke 2:1-20)

7:15 P.M.

Student Night at Christmas Program

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

Saturday, December 31

- 10:00 p.m.—Film "Miracle in Manhattan".
Auditorium of Educational Building
- 11:00 p.m.—Refreshments — lower auditorium of Educational Bldg.
- 11:30 p.m.—Worship service led by the pastor. Auditorium of Educational Building.



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Baptist Hospital:

Mrs. Don Jensen (baby girl), Miss Bessie Yates, Mrs. F. B. Peake, Mr. James A. Reeves.

Sacred Heart Hospital:

Mrs. John Kelly, Mrs. R. C. White, Mrs. Byron J. Lane.

Home from Hospital:

Mrs. W. W. Withrow, Bruce Clements, Bob Hightower, Mr. R. L. Kendrick, Mrs. Charles Cole, Mr. Tom Jernigan, Mr. John E. Bratcher.

Congratulations To:

Mr. and Mrs. Don Jensen upon the birth of a baby daughter, on December 18 . . .
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Mandel upon the birth of a baby daughter on December 14.

We Extend Our Deepest Sympathy To:

Mrs. George Markham, Sr. in the loss of her great aunt, who was Winnie's namesake. Mr. M. Holt and Mr. Henry Holt in the loss of their brother, M.s. Harvey Page in the loss of her brother.



THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

It's time for little children,
And a time for grown ups too,
When the joyous Christmas spirit
Fills our hearts with love anew.
'Tis the birth of Christ, the Savior
That we celebrate, you know,
And I guess that's why we feel
God's nearness. We shall go
Down to the village church
And thank the Lord for all
The blessings of health and happiness
Through the year; but these are small
For the greatest of the blessings
Is that Christ did come to save
And forgive us earthly sinners
On the first Christmas Day.

—Anonymous



LOTTIE MOON OFFERING

In Mark 16:15 Jesus said to His followers, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." We who must stay home can do this by giving of our money to send others. Have YOU given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?



Library Notes

STORIES OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas carols are so much a part of our way of celebrating the Christmas season, as we sing them ourselves and as we hear them almost everywhere we go, would it not be a good thing to know about some of the people who wrote them and their reasons for doing so?

There is in our church library a little book which gives in a most interesting way just such information concerning about twelve of our best loved carols.

After reading this book, perhaps, they will become even more meaningful and you will appreciate them even more than ever before.

This is just one of many good things your church library has to offer you in the way of entertainment as well as information on many subjects.

ALMA BRANCH,
Member Library Committee

At this season, any contract between father and child is likely to have a Santa clause in it.

* * *

Christmas will last the year round when mankind begins settling its differences on a basis of what's right rather than who's right.



A CHRISTMAS SUGGESTION

One little girl has written Santa Claus to come early Sunday morning this year so both he and she can go to church on Christmas Day.

P. S.—Santa has agreed!

A CHRISTIAN CAN CELEBRATE

- By listening to great Christmas music.
- By telling the Bible story of Christmas to little children.
- By lighting a candle and reading a portion of Christmas Scripture on each Sunday during Advent.
- By choosing the best television programs.
- By giving priority to events planned by his own church.
- By refraining from the use of alcohol at holiday parties.
- By giving a gift to someone in real need.
- By taking to church a neighbor who might become a member.
- By daily prayer for a Christ-like spirit.

This Christmas, friends everywhere, let's have more mistletoe and less missile talk.

GOING TO RIDGECREST?

Now is the time to plan ahead and make your reservation for this summer. You can pick your week of study and inspiration and adjust your vacation to include it. No one can know the value of Ridgcrest until they attend and experience it for themselves.

Reservations are accepted beginning January 1. Some of the weeks fill up very quickly. If you are interested in going for any of the conferences, we will be happy to send in reservations for you.

RIDGECREST CONFERENCES FOR 1961

June 8 - 14	Student Retreat and Writers' Conference
June 15 - 21	Foreign Missions Conference and Brotherhood Conference
June 22 - 28	Music Leadership Conference
June 29 - July 5	Training Union Leadership Assembly
July 6 - 12	Training Union Leadership Assembly
July 13 - 19	Training Union Leadership Assembly
July 20 - 26	Sunday School Conference
July 27 - August 2	Sunday School Conference
August 3 - 9	Sunday School Conference
August 10 - 16	Woman's Missionary Union Conference
August 17 - 23	Home Mission Board Conference
August 24 - 30	Bible Conference, Library, Church Administration Recreation, Radio and Television, Historical, Christian Life

THE BAPTIST BUILDER

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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CHURCH OFFICEHE 3-5451

CHURCH OFFICERS

Henry L. Ashmore, Chr. of Deacons.....HE 3-4743
T. A. Guthrie, Sunday School Supt.....HE 2-6683
Capt. Robert E. Sparks,
Training Union Director.....GL 5-3211 Ext. 2158
W. T. Osborn, Brotherhood Pres.....HE 2-5238
Mrs. W. C. Carr, Jr., WMU Pres.....HE 3-0769
Mrs. A. R. W. Stoessen, Librarian.....HE 2-6502

CHURCH STAFF Residence Phones

James L. Pleitz, Pastor.....HE 3-1502
Clyde K. Bizzell, Assistant to Pastor.....HE 2-7237
Dr. G. J. Rousseau, Pastor Emeritus
Sid Kennedy, Interim Minister of
Music.....HE 8-6751
Mrs. W. H. Adams, Organist.....GL 6-6737
Mrs. J. C. Rountree, Financial Sec.....HE 2-1326
Miss Mary Lou Pitts, Edu. Sec.....HE 3-3285
Miss Betty Sue Holt, Pastor's Sec.....HE 2-6275
Ernest Barrineau, Treasurer.....HE 2-5079
Mrs. Kittie Manning, Dietician.....GL 6-2124
S. R. Rutherford, Custodian.....HE 3-3059

All material to be included in The Builder
should be in the office, preferably in writ-
ing, not later than 9:00 A.M. Mondays.



LOOKING AT LAST SUNDAY

Sunday School Attendance.....1075
Members Present1030
New Members 1
Visitors 44
(Attendance one year ago..1061)
Training Union Attendance..... 294
Members Present 273
New Members 3
Visitors 18
(Attendance one year ago.. 294)
Additions to church membership..... 6
Baptized 3
Tithes and Offerings:
Budget\$5,466.47
Specials 734.19
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering..... 1,720.64
Building Fund 95.25
TOTAL OFFERING\$8,016.55

NEW MEMBERS

FOR BAPTISM:

22. Susan Patterson, 1901 East Hernandez.
23. Mr. Paul E. Geesner, 711 N. 8th Ave.

BY LETTER:

59. Mr. Donald E. Weaver, 5994 Pursley Ave-
nue. From: First Baptist Church, Enid,
Oklahoma.
60. Mrs. Donald E. Weaver.
61. Mrs. Mary Evelyn Cooley, 14 North Reus
Street. From: Bethlehem Baptist Church,
Fish Creek, Cedartown, Georgia.
62. Mrs. Joe B. Hicks, 14 North Reus Street.
From: First Baptist Church, Elizabethton,
Tennessee.

BAPTIZED:

George A. Sand
Susan Patterson
Paul E. Geesner

DATES TO REMEMBER

**December 31
Watch Night Service**

**January 16 - 19
Bible Study Week**



CHRISTMAS VACATION

The church office will be closed
from noon Friday, December 23,
until Tuesday morning, December
27. Of course, the office will be
open for Sunday's activities.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25—

- 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.
Theron A. Guthrie, Supt.
- 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. Pastor.
(Broadcast over WCOA).
- 1:30 p.m.—Baptist Hour over WCOA.
Speaker: Dr. H. H. Hobbs,
Subj.: "The Glory of Bethlehem."
- 6:00 p.m.—Training Union for all ages.
Capt. R. E. Sparks, Director.
- 7:15 p.m.—Evening Worship. Pastor.
Ordinance of Baptism.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28—

- 5:50 p.m.—Fellowship Dinner.
- 6:30 p.m.—Officers' and Teachers' Meeting.
Sunbeams. R.A.'s, G.A.'s, Y.W.A.'s.
Study of "Mastering Life's Prob-
lems."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29—

- 7:30 p.m.—Church Choir Rehearsal.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31—

- 10:00 p.m.—Watchnight Service.
Film "Miracle in Manhattan."
- 11:00 p.m.—Refreshments.
- 11:30 p.m.—Watchnight Service.



The best Christmas gift of all is a happy
family all wrapped up in each other.



IN MEMORIAM

EMERY KENDRICK, JR.

Joined This Church 9-16-54

Passed Away 12-10-60