

The Baptist Builder

JAMES L. PLEITZ
PASTOR

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PALAFOX AND LA RUA STREETS
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

VOL. XVII

DECEMBER 22, 1966

NO. 51

SEASON'S GREETINGS

From Each Member of the Church Staff
To Each Member of Our Church
Goes a
Sincere Prayer for a Wonderful Christmas Season
And a Happy and Prosperous New Year



SEATED (Left to Right): Miss Mary Lou Pitts, Pastor's Secretary; Miss Helen May, Director of Youth Education; Mrs. Kittie Manning, Dietician. STANDING: Paul Royal, Minister of Music; James Drexler, Building Superintendent; James L. Pleitz, Pastor; E. L. Barrineau, Treasurer; Clyde K. Bizzell, Assistant to the Pastor; Robert L. Hughes, Minister of Evangelism. NOT SHOWN: Mrs. James L. Rountree, Financial Secretary; Mrs. Conny Asters, Educational Secretary; Mrs. G. T. Sutton, Membership Secretary.

Pastor's Paragraphs

KEEPING OF CHRISTMAS

Each day the song reminds us "It is one day closer to Christmas." Now is the time to complete your shopping, and please don't forget Lottie Moon!



The important thing about Christmas is not the buying of gifts but the KEEPING OF CHRISTMAS. Years ago, Henry Van Dyke made some splendid suggestions concerning keeping Christmas. Let me share them with you:

"It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day, but there is a

better thing than the observance of Christmas Day, and that is keeping Christmas.

"Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to put your rights in the background, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life — are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then, you can keep Christmas.

"Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open — are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

"Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world — stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal love? Then, you can keep Christmas.

"And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But, you can never keep it alone."

Most sincerely, **ll**

James L. Pleitz



**SEE YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL
AND WORSHIP SUNDAY**



Library Notes

CHRISTMAS

As shadows cast by cloud and sun
Flit o'er the summer grass,
So, in Thy sight, Almighty One,
Earth's generations pass.
And as the years, an endless host,
Come swiftly pressing on,
The brightest names that earth can boast
Just glisten and are gone.

Yet doth the star of Bethlehem shed
A lustre pure and sweet;
And still it leads, as once it led,
To the Messiah's feet.
O Father, may that holy star
Grow every year more bright,
And send its glorious beams afar
To fill the world with light.

William Cullen Bryant, 1794-1878

Taken from Masterpieces
of Religious Verse



LOTTIE MOON OFFERING

"Thou camest, O Lord, with the Living Word that should set thy people free" — The Living Word is being spread through the preaching, teaching, healing, and publishing activities of our Foreign Mission Board. Remember them now with your Lottie Moon Offering.

Mrs. Margarette S. Berrisford
Prayer Chairman,
WMS Night Society



JANUARY BIBLE CONFERENCE

Our January Bible Conference date is January 8-11. Dr. J. Leo Green, former pastor of our church and now serving as Professor of Old Testament at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., will be here to teach Sunday through Wednesday. The book of Amos will be our study.

SERMON TOPICS

11:00 A.M.

**"The Way Home From
Bethlehem"**

(Matthew 2:1-12)

5:00 P.M.

"Where Does God Fit In?"

CHRISTMAS DAY — 1966

9:30 A.M. — Sunday School

11:00 A.M. — Morning Worship

Pastor's Sermon:

"The Way Home From Bethlehem"
(Matthew 2:1-12)

5:00 P.M. — Christmas Day Vesper Service

Youth Choir Will Sing

Pastor's Meditation:

"Where Does God Fit In?"

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

"The birth of Jesus is the sunrise of the Bible," says Dr. Henry van Dyke. "Towards this point the aspirations of the prophets and the poems of the psalmists were directed, as the heads of flowers are turned towards the dawn. From this point a new day began to flow very silently over the world — a day of faith and freedom, a day of hope and love. When we remember the high meaning that has come into human life, and the clear light that has flooded softly down from the manger-cradle in Bethlehem of Judea, we do not wonder that mankind has learned to reckon history from the birthday of Jesus, and to date all events by the years before or after the Nativity of Christ."

— Martha Tarbell



THE VERY NEWEST

The rosebud on the pulpit Sunday was placed there in honor of

MISS VALERIE DIANNE SMITH

daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Smith
born December 13



A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

"We believe that mistletoe is more significant than missiles; We believe that Bethlehem's star outshines man's satellites; We believe that the Wise Men's gifts have not suffered from inflation; We believe that the fear of the Shepherds is more healthy than the fear of rockets; We believe that Joseph's dreams still outwit Herod's hate; We believe that our journey to the Manger is more important than a trip to the moon."

— Anonymous

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Miss Kay Oliver and Mr. Fred Hill upon their marriage December 17.

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

Mrs. C. C. (Bea) Asters in the loss of her father.

IN THE HOSPITALS:

Baptist:

Mrs. John L. Smith, Mr. Vernie Chance,
Mr. Walter McNeil.

Sacred Heart:

Mr. Vernon Tatum, Mrs. Lois Everitt.

Navy:

Chief James J. Yandle

HOME FROM HOSPITAL:

Dr. William H. Coker, Jr., Mrs. Colin B. Dykes, Miss Annie Mae Barr, Mrs. John D. (Mary Frances) Smith.



ATTEND PRAYER SERVICE

WEDNESDAY EVENING

REMEMBER THIS DATE

JANUARY 8-11

JANUARY
BIBLE CONFERENCE

"Studies In Amos"

Visiting Teacher:

Dr. J. Leo Green

THE BAPTIST BUILDER

Published Weekly by the
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 500 North Palafox Street
 Pensacola, Florida 32501

Second-Class Postage Paid at
 Pensacola, Florida



CHURCH OFFICE 433-5631

CHURCH OFFICERS

J. Nixon Daniel, Chr. of Deacons.....438-9573
 A. H. Arnold, Sunday School Supt.....433-3753
 F. Willard Vickery, TU Director.....476-8431
 Mrs. Cecil S. Jones, WMU Pres.....433-2601
 C. H. Overman, Jr., Brotherhood Dir.....476-3123
 Mrs. A. R. W. Stoesen, Librarian.....432-6502

CHURCH STAFF Residence Phones

James L. Pletz, Pastor.....433-1502
 Clyde K. Bizzell, Asst. to Pastor.....432-7237
 Paul Royal, Minister of Music.....432-8573
 Dr. R. L. Hughes, Min. of Evangelism 432-9266
 Dr. G. J. Rousseau, Pastor Emeritus
 Miss Helen May, Dir. of Youth Ed.....432-2721
 Mrs. Olivia Swaine, Organist.....932-4050
 Mrs. J. C. Rountree, Financial Sec'y.....432-1326
 Mrs. C. C. Asters, Edu. Sec'y
 Miss Mary Lou Pitts, Pastor's Sec'y.....432-5640
 Mrs. G. T. Sutton, Mem'ship Sec'y.....432-5640
 Ernest Barrineau, Treasurer.....432-5079
 Mrs. Kittie Manning, Dietician.....456-2124
 James Drexler, Bldg. Supt.....438-0213

Mrs. Arthur Haylock,
 Our Missionary to Honduras

All material to be included in The Builder
 should be in the office, preferably in
 writing, not later than 9:00 a.m. Mondays.



LOOKING AT LAST SUNDAY

Sunday School Attendance:	
Main School	1172
Crippled Children's Home	22
Training Union Attendance	245
Additions to church membership.....	5
Tithes and Offerings:	
Budget	\$6,506.88
Specials	232.15
LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS	
OFFERING	1,470.47
TOTAL OFFERING	\$8,209.50

1966 GIFTS

All contributions intended for 1966 credit
 must be in by December 31. You have just
 one more Sunday to give what you planned
 to give this year.

1

**SUNDAY REMAINS
 IN 1966 TO GIVE
 YOUR TITHES AND
 OFFERINGS THROUGH
 YOUR CHURCH!**

CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE

The Church Office will be closed
 December 23, 24, 26th.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

- * 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.
 A. H. Arnold, Superintendent
- * 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
 Broadcast over WCOA
- 4:00 p.m.—Youth Choir Rehearsal
- * 5:00 p.m.—Vesper Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:00 p.m.—Boy Scouts, Activities Center

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 4:45 p.m.—Special Youth Choir Rehearsal
- * 5:50 p.m.—Fellowship Dinner
- * 6:30 p.m.—Officers' and Teachers' Meeting.
 Sunbeams, G.A.'s, R.A.'s, YWA's.
- * 7:30 p.m.—Prayer Service — Student Night
- * 8:15 p.m.—Adult Choir Rehearsal
- * 8:15 p.m.—Open House for College Students
 at the home of Troy Booker,
 110 West Gadsden Street.

*Indicates Nursery will be open 15 minutes
 prior to the time indicated above.

NEW MEMBERS

BY LETTER:

- 64. Mrs. Helen Broxson, 751 Boxwood Drive
 From: First Baptist Church,
 Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- 65. Mr. James C. Raybon, Jr.,
 931 Clearview Drive
 From: Woodlawn Baptist Church,
 Pensacola
- 66. Mrs. James C. Raybon, Jr. (Ada)
- 67. Miss Dorcas Ann Whetsel,
 1200 West Mallory Street, Apt. 211
 From: Sooner Baptist Church,
 Oklahoma City, Okla.
- 68. Miss Sandra A. Winston,
 Mallory House, Apt. 109
 From: First Baptist Church,
 Gainesville, Fla.

MINISTERS' AND LAYMEN'S RETREAT

The Greater Pensacola Crusade organi-
 zation is planning a Retreat to be held
 January 17-18. The Retreat will be held
 at the Bluelake Methodist Assembly, and
 will begin at 10:00 A.M. January 17 and
 will conclude with the noon meal on Janu-
 ary 18. The price for this Retreat will be
 \$6.55. Space is available on a first-come,
 first-served basis. Reservations are to be
 made with Rev. Charles Britt, 432-6487.

READ YOUR BIBLE DAILY

Reading for the Week of
 December 25 - 31

Revelation 7, 12, 18 - 20