

Cranbrook Church Plans Gift Service

Described by Christ Church Cranbrook officials as one of the church's "most impressive and heartwarming services of the season," the Festival of Gifts will be observed this year at 4 p.m., Dec. 12.

An organ program of special Christmas music and hymns will furnish a tonal background as the living pageant unfolds the story of the first Christmas.

The pageant will open with the Wise Men and Shepherds on their pilgrimage to the manger, presenting the first Christmas gifts. Following them the children and

adults of the congregation will carry their gifts to the living manger scene, singing the well-known Christmas hymns as they go.

GIFTS GATHERED at this time are used, together with donations of money, to meet Christmas needs and bring joy to less fortunate families.

Especially needed are gifts for children, books, games, mechanical toys, building blocks, sleds and sports equipment. Mittens and scarfs are always welcomed along with gifts of toys but other items of clothing are purchased in order to meet size requirements among recipients.

"Families are urged to let each child carry his or her own gift to the manger," a church representative said. "By doing this, we feel the child will have a personal share in the joy of giving, just as the Wise Men did on the first Christmas."



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CHOIRS REHEARSE FOR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Jimmy Bergstrom Jim Werner Tom Bergstrom Louise Bailey (front)
Lyntha Price Cheryl Smith Julie Rindel (back)
Miss Phyllis Gardner (left) director.
Jane Linder (Eccentric Staff Photo)

Presbyterians Plan Christmas Programs

Special Christmas music programs will open at the First Presbyterian church on Sunday, Dec. 13, when at 5 p.m., four of the youth choirs participate in the traditional White Gift Service.

Under the direction of Miss Phyllis Gardner more than 200 young singers will take part. L. Robert Slusser, musical

director said.

Miss Gardner, a University of Michigan graduate, with additional study at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, began working with the Presbyterian choirs in September. Currently, five choirs are rehearsing weekly under her direction.

It is planned to have the choirs also participate in their own chapel worship service in the new church now under construction on West Maple road.

THE WHITE GIFT service signi-

fies a united family program of sharing, when children and adults bring gifts for less fortunate persons.

Donations include canned goods, clothing, toys and other items, as well as gifts of money.

Cash gifts this year, with the church collection, will go to two sources. Subscriptions for a month-long magazine will be sent to each of the 18 servicemen on the church roster, with the balance going to a needy church in Mexico.

THE SECOND SPECIAL SERVICE is planned for Dec. 29, when at 7:30 p.m., adults and junior choirs join in the traditional candlelight carol service.

The service will feature Dr. Joseph Clokey's cantata, "When the Christ Child Came," with Mary Bartlett, harpist, and Kent McDonald, pianist, as guest accompanists.

Miss Gardner and L. Robert Slusser, have charge of arrangements.

First Methodist School Groups Planning Party

An "all-youth Christmas party" will be held Dec. 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. by members of the First Methodist church school's senior high department.

These youth night suppers are a regular monthly feature of the church for junior and senior high school students. Each is planned by a different group of the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

The December party is in charge of boys and girls from the senior high school department's Sunday morning school.

SERVING ARE Tom Taylor, Stewart Schenk, Mary Ellen Porter, Joan Kidd, Norma Webb, Linda Johnson, Judy Kroeger, Jeanette Mingo, Sharon Gray, Suzanne Taylor, Cal Hills, Dave Masterton, Dick Johnson, Barbara Dadd and Jean Masterton.

Adult leaders assisting them are Mrs. Clyde L. Taylor, Mrs. William Younger, Mrs. G. T. Christensen, Grant Barber, J. F. Buck and Victor Guilmette.

The dinner will be prepared by Mrs. R. L. Scouler, Mrs. Grant Barber, Mrs. Dwight LaBarre, Mrs. Henry Kroeger, Mrs. Melvin Dadd and Mrs. James Hills.

Family Christmas Party Scheduled at the Kirk

A family Christmas party will be held at George Chapel, Kirk of the Hills, on Dec. 18, starting with a special visit from Santa Claus.

On Christmas Sunday the church is planning a public baptismal service with a candlelight carol service and a candlelight Christmas story read by the Rev. Harold DeWind, D.D., and a special visit from Santa Claus.

Following this a program is planned including a cantata, a communion service scheduled for Christmas Eve.

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