

Gifts Hung on Trees At Sunday School

Children at the First Presbyterian church, Birmingham, celebrated Christmas this year by giving gifts to the children and making a workshop for interesting and useful gifts.

The gifts were made in the church school, with the children making Christmas trees like the one shown.

By the Sunday before Christmas, the 12 children for grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 had the trees made and hung in heavily laden mitten trees.

THAT SAME Sunday these huge trees were trimmed abundantly with socks brought in by the boys and girls and their mothers.

The children made socks and mittens of every size and variety were removed from the trees. They were then delivered to the First Presbyterian church, Birmingham, in an out-of-town Detroit and Dodge Community house in Hamtramck, both Presbyterian missions.

The plentiful supply contributed by the young folks was more than the children and their mothers could pack up. As a result a large workshop supply of mittens and socks is being made in order to contribute to children in even more distant areas.

THE FIRST, second and third grade children held a Saturday work day at the church school. They wrapped their Christmas gifts for the holiday and made decorations for the one-and-a-half-ton tree at the Sunday school.

Among the workers who participated in the Saturday project were Susan Safford, Louise Bailey, Lee Harris, Nancy Dandford, Linda Lauffer, Dick Hatch and Ann Richard.

The mitten trees carried on a previous First Presbyterian church tradition, but the sock trees and workshop were new this year, according to Mrs. Margaret Machin, religious education director.

"WE DECIDED that children at Christmas time had the opportunity to learn the lessons of giving for others," Mrs. Machin said. "Even though they were entertaining and giving presents to the children via a Santa Claus and there was no way for the children to give."

The sock and mitten trees and the workshop provide the opportunity for the children to experience the true meaning of Christmas, Mrs. Machin feels.

The idea of sock and mitten trees originated, Mrs. Machin believes, with the American Friends Service Committee organization in Philadelphia.

CHILDREN there began the custom during World War II, when they sent clothing to children overseas.

Mark New Year's Eve

A New Year's Eve Communion service will be conducted at 8 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. The Rev. Theodore Wiggan will speak on the theme, "The Dawn of Memory."

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6:00 P.M. Sunday Evening Service
7:30 P.M. Wednesday Evening Bible Study
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SELECTING a tiny pair for her contribution to the sock tree at First Presbyterian church school, Sally Ames, 7, of 842 Larchlea, Birmingham, hangs her gift for Presbyterian mission children.

SUNDAY SERMON TOPICS

FIRST METHODIST
The Rev. Arnold F. Rankin will preach at both 10 and 11 a.m. worship services on the topic, "How to Deal with Time."

Redeemer, Lutheran
Duane Wiggan, student at Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, will give the sermon at 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. services. His theme will be "The Acceptable Year of the Lord."

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
"Listening in on the Future" will be the topic of the sermon by the Rev. W. Glen Harris.

Unity Center
The Rev. Frank Glabach has chosen the subject, "The Law of Renewal," for his sermon at 11 a.m. services in the WYA building.

Northminster Presbyterian
Taking his text from Matthew 5:16, the Rev. Mackay Taylor

sermon will be "The Law of the Lamp and the Candle" at 10:30 p.m. service.

How living prayer and harmony may be found through the "Law of Love" is the theme of the 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. services.

FIRST BAPTIST
The Rev. Paul and Mrs. Pauline will be the subject of the sermon at 11 a.m. services. The New Year message is based on Proverbs 13:9.

Congregational
At 11 a.m. services, the Rev. Robert D. Boyer's sermon topic will be "The New Year."

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Churchwomen Complete Pledge, Hold Annual Meet

The annual meeting of the First Presbyterian Women's association will be held Jan. 5, at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel at the church.

All annual reports will be given, followed by installation of new officers by Mrs. Bruce A. Fleming, president of the Michigan Synodical society.

The officers for 1956 are Mrs. L. I. Woolson, president; Mrs. C. Adams, first vice president; Mrs. Carl Black, second vice president; Mrs. R. C. Scott, third vice president; Mrs. Arthur Fries, recording secretary; Mrs. Vernon Bryant, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. H. G. Wood, treasurer.

Ordination Held For Church Officers

Elder R. L. Boothby, district pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist churches of northwest Detroit and suburbs, recently held ordination services at the Ferndale church, 1346 Pinecrest.

Accepted elders and deacons are ordained according to Acts 6:6 and must qualify to requirements found in the 1st chapter of 1 Timothy.

For Ferndale during 1956 these men will be Elders: Charles A. Hendry, G. Caswell Linden Smith (head elder), Howard Lear, Warren McPherson, and Raymond Vaughn.

Church deacons will be: Raymond Cochr (head deacon), Paul Robertson, John Zdan, Ward Haskel, Harold Okiski, Keith Dunigan, Ernest Rowe, Donald Preston, Winford McPherson and Thomas Edgar.

Women's Mission Slates Meeting

The Women's Mission union of First Baptist church will meet at the church parlors on Thursday, Jan. 5.

At 11:30 a.m. a business meeting will be held by President Mrs. Mildred Criger.

Lunch will be served at 12:45 with the Bible study. Factors are Mrs. James Overland and Mrs. Frances Phemister, joint chairmen.

THE "AFTERNOON" program will begin at 1:30 p.m. Mrs. Frank Berelson will lead devotions.

Mrs. Ann Finley will speak on "A Tour of Our Foreign Mission Fields."

Principals speaker for the afternoon will be Dr. Emil Kotze, who will discuss "Kings as a Foreign Mission Field," showing slides he took while in Europe.

Supper Club Plans Guest Speakers For Dinner Meeting

The Supper Club at the Congregational church, Birmingham, is planning a 5:45 a.m. dinner and meeting at the church on Jan. 6.

Judge Arthur E. Moore of Oak and county juvenile courts will speak on "Juvenile Delinquency."

State police Sergeant Cyril Galt will give a shooting exhibition.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bartlett are in charge of arrangements.

THEY ARE being assisted by the Clair DeValk, the Frank Le Groves, the Arnie Honoldts, the John Greenhatch, and the Gene Penitcheils.

The committee members are taking reservations for the dinner from anyone interested of joining with the group.

St. Bede's Guilds Announce Officers

Mrs. Willis Ludeman has been elected new chairman of St. Mary's at St. Bede's church in South field township. She will be assisted by Mrs. Harry Ewell or who will act as co-chairman and treasurer.

St. Francis guild reports an election of officers for the new year. They are: Mrs. George Sevak, chairman, and Mrs. Robert Offenst, co-chairman and treasurer.

A new guild has been formed which will be called St. Gerard's. Members will work in cooperation with the St. Bede-Sanctuary society.

Mrs. Louis Rodgers will act as chairman, assisted by Mrs. Emil Comblay, co-chairman and treasurer.

Early caps for church activities makes it better for us and better for you. Don't wait until the deadline, please.

WCS Members Schedule Meeting At First Methodist

A general meeting of First Methodist church WCS will be held at the church on Jan. 4. Luncheon will be served by group 3 at 12:15 p.m.

Mrs. L. S. Rathbun will give devotions, and Mrs. Lynn Russell, president, will conduct the business meeting.

Mrs. Betty Roberts Will Present Program on "The Symbolism of Chinese Art"

MRS. BETTY ROBERTS, well-known lecturer, will present a program on "The Symbolism of Chinese Art."

The executive board meets the same day at 9:45 a.m. in the chapel.

New Year Begins With Open House, Week of Prayer

On New Year's Day the ordination of communion will be observed and new members received at First Baptist Church.

In the afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m. "Open house" will be observed at the Baptist parsonage, 501 Larchlea. Factor and Mrs. Kantz will have the latchstring out for members and friends of the church.

This is an annual custom which the Kontzes have observed here and elsewhere for 29 years. A Sunday evening service will be held at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Kantz will give a Bible talk on the subject, "The Practice of Prayer." The talk is planned to introduce and interest new observers of the Universal week of prayer.

During the first week of the new year, the First Baptist church will participate in the worldwide observance of "Week of Prayer." Each evening of the week neighborhood groups will convene for prayer, led by a church lay leader.

Themes for these home prayer fellowships will follow those used by similar groups around the world. Locally, the project is sponsored by the board of deacons, under the leadership of Louis C. Crooks, chairman.

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Count Your Blessings

As we come to the end of the old year, it is good to pause for a moment of quiet retrospection to count our many blessings.

We, in America, are especially fortunate to have freedom of enterprise—the system that has given us the highest standard of living in the world.

A vital part of our way of life is an abundance of power—power that turns the wheels of industry—power that relieves men and women of drudgery and slavery. Power that helps to provide the necessities and luxuries as we alone know them and appreciate them.

Natural gas service is another "modern blessing" that is all-too-often taken as a matter of fact.

No other modern service in the home today does so much, yet costs so little.

Think of the time and labor, the comfort and convenience that today's modern automatic Gas appliances provide.

Yes, one of our extra blessings in this accelerated tempo of modern living is extra leisure time, more hours for relaxation, recreation and rest.

Spend a moment of that extra time this week to consider and count your blessings.

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New Year Greetings

The spirit of the New Year brings to us a better appreciation of old acquaintances and the value of close friendships. May you enjoy a maximum of happiness every hour of every day in the year ahead.

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