

at the CHURCH DOOR

By JULIE CANDLER

A budding young advertising copywriter displayed her writing talents at the Birmingham Unitarian church recently when teen-agers put on a bake sale to raise funds for their Uniteans' treaters.

Mary Roberts planned to the apple pie she offered for sale a note loaded with sales punch.

"This is a genuine, superdelicious, automatic eating, non-dehydrated, non-fat, non-lean, non-crabapple, apple pie. Guaranteed edible and non-toxic. (Caution—do not eat more than 24 in 24 hours)," wrote huckster Mary.

P.S. Her pie sold within five minutes.

Home life has changed recently at the residence of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Emil Kontz, and they love it, says the First Baptist church minister.

The big event in their lives is the arrival of their first grandchild, a girl born to Elaine Kontz Grossnickel Nov. 13. The new little Baptist is staying with her mother at the Kontz home at 501 Larchlea, for a few weeks, before the two join the baby's father, Leon, at Kalamazoo college where he is studying to be a teacher.

Another little Baptist entered the world recently, the daughter of Lin Kven Lee and Custer Suey Lin Hong, whom Dr. Kontz married early this year in a colorful ceremony reported in The Eccentric.

The new baby, Alie Lee, was born Nov. 27. Her mother's entry to the U.S. just two weeks before the wedding was sponsored by the First Baptist church of Birmingham.

Birmingham Lions were told to "be on your best behavior" last week when their publication announced that area clergymen would be special guests at their luncheon meeting.

Rev. Allen Wittrop of First Methodist church was emcee of the meeting, also attended by Rev. Dr. Arnold Runkel and Rev. Dr. Harry Martin of that church.

Ralph H. Baker spoke on the work of the youth service division of the Detroit Council of Churches. He was also heard by the Rev. Reginald Becker, of Embury Methodist church; Rev. Paul Shippert, Ascension Lutheran; Dr. Joseph Blackman, Kirk in the Hills; Dr. Emil Kontz, First Baptist; Rev. Edmond Schwager, Holy Name; Rev. Robert Gibson, First Presbyterian; Rev. Theodore Wuggazer, Redeemer Lutheran, and Dr. Paul Thornberry, of St. James Episcopal church.

That active bunch of "over 21s" at Holy Name church, the Spotlighters, are planning a ski weekend sometime soon. Their card party last month netted \$100, which the group presented to St. Elizabeth's home for the aged in Pontiac.

Jim Holden is president of the group of about 70 young people. Mary Boetcher was chairman of the successful card party.



PORTRAYING PAGES OF THE MAGI, three young members of First Methodist church rehearse their part in the pageant depicting incidents told in every home and church at Christmas time, to be presented at 8 p.m. Sunday in the church. Boys are (from left) Richard Bergum, Mike Koeneke and Greg Cowman.

Kirk Bell Choir Makes Special Appearances

Garbed in their choir robes, the handbell-ringers of the Kirk in the Hills appeared at two special events last week. The performances were the first in other than church worship services.

They displayed the ancient art of handbell ringing at the annual crippled people's party given by the Junior League of Birmingham Saturday at Cranbrook. Tuesday they played at the Kirk in the Hills Women's association reception for new members at the Kirk house.

The smallest of the 37 English handbells is two and a half inches in diameter, while the largest measures six and a half inches. They play three chromatic octaves. A widespread interest has accompanied the revival of the ancient handbell ringing art in America. The Kirk's bell choir was formed one year ago.

First Methodist Building Pledges Reach \$312,603

The "complete the building" crusade at First Methodist church reached a total of \$312,603.27 in pledges this week, with many reports still not received, it was announced by Rev. Dr. Arnold F. Runkel, minister of the church.

"Dr. Runkel said that through the rapidly growing church, the church hopes to build an educational wing, a chapel, and additional parking facilities.

Estimated cost of the project to complete the church structure, he said, is half a million dollars.

Chairman of the building fund crusade is William H. Younger. His four lieutenants are Fred Burnham, Ted Guething, Coy Ecklund and Richard Bailey.

Use this page to keep everyone in your church and its several organizations fully informed on what's going on. News items and pictures are needed to make this Church page a valuable medium.

Special Christmas Services Begin This Week

The traditional Christmas pageants and white gift offerings are scheduled by a number of Birmingham area churches for the days before Christmas Sunday on December 23.

At First Methodist church the Holy Nativity scene will be enacted Sunday at 8 p.m. in the church, with three choirs of children six to 18 years old singing carols.

Two ministers of the church, Dr. Arnold F. Runkel and Dr. H. O. Martin will appear in the pageant's cast of 30. Other adults in the cast include R. E. Bayes, S. E. Bychinsky, A. A. Canfield, Mrs. T. W. Cahow, H. William Ives, J. W. Olds, O. L. Schultz, R. H. Smith and J. T. Stevenson.

Choir and pageant musical director Rodney M. Peterson is being assisted by Mrs. H. R. Hengst. Pageant directors are Mrs. M. A. Samanen and Virginia Seger, religious education director at the church. D. J. Burdhardt and Mrs. J. W. Olds are assisting them.

That same day a special group of American and foreign Christmas carols will be sung at both worship services, one at 11 a.m. involving the junior and boy choirs will join in the carol singing.

The gingerbread house and other operetta scenery were constructed by Paul Shay, Charles Hilgendorf is handling lighting and costuming is under the direction of Mrs. Clara Shay.

Eric Pedersen plays the role of Hansel, with Christine Marks cast as Gretel. Other leading roles are played by Diana Shay, Albert Smith, Gary O'Tool, Sheryl Stulize and Pat Pedersen.

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN church, white gifts will be offered at 8 p.m. Sunday in a 45-minute service featuring the Nativity pageant and carol singing. Gifts of money will be used for relief of war victims in Hungary and Egypt. The white gifts laid at the crèche will be distributed through Presbyterian missions in Detroit and the Hungarian Reformed church, Detroit.

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL church's sanctuary will be the scene of a Christmas vesper service of music Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at 2100 W. 10th Mile road. Albert Bolitho, minister of music at the church is directing the service, in which junior, pilgrim and chancel choirs will participate.

The chancel choir will sing the cantata "Rejoice Beloved Christians."

CHRIST CHURCH (CRANBROOK) annual festival of gifts with the traditional pageant, will be held at both 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. services Sunday.

The following day, the family visiting committee of the Woman's auxiliary group choose gifts for the families for which they are responsible.

The remainder of the gifts are apportioned to county social agencies.

FIRST BAPTIST church's special Christmas events begin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday when the entire church school will present its traditional Yule program, centering around the Nativity story. Gifts will be distributed later at the children's Christmas party and carol sing.



HANSEL AND GRETTEL, portrayed by Eric Pedersen and Christine Marks, pose with the gingerbread house around which the action will center tomorrow night when the operetta is presented at Lutheran Church of the Ascension.

'The Tinker' To Reveal Meaning Of Christmas

A family gets wound up and tense as it tries to fulfill its Christmas obligations, and the right way to celebrate the great holiday is revealed to them in "The Tinker," to be presented next week at First Baptist church.

The special Christmas production, a three-act drama, is being presented in the church auditorium at 8 p.m. next Thursday and Friday, and again Sunday evening, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m.

Mrs. Leland J. Bunyan directs the play, written by Fred Eastman after studying the life and spiritual thinking of St. Francis of Assisi. Members of First Baptist church's drama group appearing in the production are J. Fred Allen, Charles Ferrand, Mrs. Thomas B. Anderson, Penny Greer, William L. Richardson, Carol Brisendine and Leland J. Bunyan.

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ADMIRING THE "baby" at a Christmas party at which members of St. Veronica's guild of Holy Name Altar society paraded period fashions are (from left) Mrs. William J. Reilly and Mrs. James Harrison. Mrs. Anthony D'Agostino portrays the proud mamma of the gay nineties. Mrs. Charles Obermeyer acted as commentator of the fashion show Tuesday night in St. Anne's hall, first introducing the models as "some of the latest creations I saw on a recent trip to Paris."

Lutheran CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
(Synodical Conference)

Corner 14 Mile Road and Pierce Avenue

Rev. Paul Shippert, Pastor

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Wednesday Evening Meeting — 8:15

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Evenings 7:00 to 9:00 Except Wednesdays and Saturdays.

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On Franklin's Village Green
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at Wellington and Northhandy.

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AND CHURCH SCHOOL
10 a.m.

Robert J. Searls, Minister

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21600 West 10 1/2 Mile Road

11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
Minister: Reverend H. Read,
11:00 a.m. CHURCH SCHOOL

Pilgrim Fellowship Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
Pilgrim Fellowship Meeting 7:30 p.m.
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