



By JULIE CANDLER

If you are concerned over the seeming over-emphasis on material things and commercialization of the greatest of religious holidays, you may feel better about it after you read this column. At least as far as young people are concerned.

Looking over the gracious, thoughtful and generous acts of young people in Birmingham area churches this Christmas should convince the most disillusioned that the coming generation has the true Christmas spirit.

Teen-age members of the two Pilgrim Fellowship groups at Birmingham Congregational church, for instance, invited young people from the Oakland county Children's home to two parties at the local church. They entertained their guests with a program of dancing, refreshments and carol singing.

THE JUNIOR CHURCH school department of the same church showered the newly-arrived refugee family of Napoleon Magniez with staple goods. Their white gift offering went to needy and institutional children.

First Presbyterian church school children loaded a tree with mittens for distribution to refugee children. At their white gift services, the First Presbyterian youngsters brought foodstuffs which were taken away in truckloads to Presbyterian neighborhood houses. Their white gift offering and later contributions have reached a total of \$1,262, to be sent for Hungarian and Middle East "turn-of-the-century" relief.

White gifts of new toys and new clothing offered by Christ Church Cranbrook children went to county social and relief agencies and needy families.

First Baptist church's senior high youth group took a tree to the patients at Lakeview convalescent home in Pontiac, where they trimmed it, sang carols, and distributed gifts to the shut-ins.

Junior high young people at First Baptist church took Christmas treats and gifts to patients in a ward at Eloise hospital.

A class of fifth graders at St. James Episcopal church made Christmas cards for children at Detroit's Children's hospital. Third graders brought joy to their Birmingham neighbors when they went aroving last Friday night.

MANY OF THE BAPTIST young people went caroling Christmas Eve at the homes of shut-ins.

Unitarian church teen-agers went from house to house asking for clothing for Hungarian refugees. The church's Sunday school Christmas project was the adoption of a Korean baby, to whose family the children will continue to send \$5 every month for additional food, clothing and medicine.

Ascension Lutheran church's teen-agers personally distributed cloth bags filled with gifts for 19 elderly men and women at a local convalescent home.

These are only a few examples of the younger generation's many kindnesses.

There's no doubt about it, the actions of young people in our churches demonstrate the true spirit of Christmas.

As a little kindergarten child at the Birmingham Congregational church was heard to say, "It makes me happy at Christmas when we can give presents."

Six-week-old Richard Leon Grossnickle, whom we seriously frowned a few weeks ago by calling him a girl, spent his first Christmas with his proud grandparents, First Baptist church's Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Emil Koutz.

Franklin Community Church
 On Franklin's Village Green,
 1 block west of Franklin Rd.,
 at Wellington and Normandy.
**MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES
 AND CHURCH SCHOOL**
 10 a.m.
 Robert J. Searls, Minister

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 2160 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 New Year's Eve Party, 9:00 p.m.
 New Year's Eve Watchnight Service, 11:30 p.m.
 ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED

Northminster Presbyterian Church
 3633 W. Big Beaver Rd. (East of Adams)
 MACKAY TAYLOR — MINISTER
 WORSHIP SERVICES & CHURCH SCHOOL
 9:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

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 MI 6-4119 2247 W. Lincoln Ave.



A SERMON BEGINS as the Rev. John B. Rose checks through a reference volume while making notes in his study at Community Congregational church in Lathrup.

**How He Writes His Sermons:
 Rev. Rose Reserves
 Saturday for Sermons.**

By JULIE CANDLER

Unless it's absolutely necessary, don't disturb the Rev. John D. Rose, minister of Community Church Congregational in Lathrup, on a Saturday.

That's the day he sets aside to work on his Sunday sermon. He actually starts getting sermon material together about Wednesday. In his birchwood-lined study in the church on Southfield road, he determines his topic and text. Then he turns to his two "hoppers", as he calls his source files.

ONE "LONG-TERM hopper" contains ideas and information he plans to use sometime in the distant future. A short-term hopper is filled with notes and references he intends to use within the next few weeks.

Discussing source material, the dark-haired minister says, "The best sermons come right out of life."

"People don't want just pleasant stories on Sunday morning, they want something that will be cogent and pictures are needed to make this in their lives," Mr. Rose continued.

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 in their lives," Mr. Rose continued.

EDITOR'S NOTE: To those who listen each Sunday to a Birmingham area minister's sermons, it should be interesting to learn how those sermons are compiled. This week The Eccentric brings a series of interviews with Birmingham area ministers, in which they tell how they write their sermons, and where they get their material.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
 1152 Benaville Birmingham, Michigan
 G. Wheeler Utley, Minister LI 2-0855
 10:00 A.M. Sunday Bible Class
 11:30 A.M. Sunday Worship
 6:00 P.M. Sunday Evening Service
 7:30 P.M. Wednesday Evening Bible Study
 "THE HERALD OF TRUTH"
 WXYZ—Each Sunday 5:00-5:30 P.M.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES
 First Church of Christ, Scientist
 191 N. Chester Street — Birmingham, Michigan
 Sunday Morning Services 9:45 and 11:30
 Sunday School 9:45 and 11:30
 Infants' Room (in Reading Room) 9:30 and 11:15
 Wednesday Evening Meeting 8:15
 Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Except Sundays and Holidays.
 Evenings 7:00 to 9:00 Except Wednesdays and Saturdays
 Here the Bible and all authorized Christian Science Literature may be read, borrowed or purchased.

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**To Welcome
 The New Year
 At Area Churches**

To welcome the New Year in a solemn mood of spiritual dedication, special religious observances are scheduled at several area churches.

The New Year's Eve candlelight service at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer will be in charge of the Weather League, the church's youth group.

Duane Waggoner, student at Concordia Seminary, will preside. Young people taking part in the 8 p.m. service are Jeff Ott, Sally

Christian Science Society
 Invites you to attend its services in their new location.
 26109 German Mill Road
 Franklin, Michigan
 Sunday Morning 11:00
 Sunday School 11:00
 Wednesday Evening
 Testimony Meeting 8:15

**HOW
 CHRISTIAN
 SCIENCE
 HEALS**

Station
 CKLW
 800 KC

Sunday
 9:45
 A.M.

**Baptist Women's
 Mission Union
 Meets Next Week**

The Women's Mission Union of First Baptist church meets next Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the church parlors.

After a business meeting conducted by Mrs. L. W. Criger, president, the Miriam circle will serve luncheons at 12:45 p.m. Mrs. Albert Fawley is chairman.

Christian Social Progress will be the subject of a talk, "Your Government and You", at 1:30 p.m. by Mrs. Max Williams, of Royal Oak. Mrs. Leland Burayn will give devotions, and Mrs. Charles Holtz will offer the dedication of the love gift offering.

The nursery will be open for preschool children.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale—Houses" columns on this week's Eccentric.

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**HAPPY
 NEW YEAR**

Here's to a New Year full of good health, good times, and good fortune for you and your family . . . May you enjoy every minute of it.

We will be closed
 Dec. 31st and January 1st

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GIFT REMEMBRANCES

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