

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, January 7, 1996

HOLY COMMUNION

- A. It has long been the custom....to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday....and we like to announce for the benefit of visiting....the TABLE OF OUR LORD is OPEN to all....
- B. His TABLE is open to all and we invite all of you to receive.... on this the first Sunday of a New Year....trusting that this may be an occasion of.....renewal, reaffirmation and redeidcation of your life.....to the WILL OF GOD...as it comes to us in the life...
- C. Procedure...elements will be served to you in the pews...upon receiving them, please hold....

GREETING / VISITORS

- A. We greet the visitors...delighted you're here with us...join us downstairs for coffee. Be free.....fill out a visitor card.... sign one.....come, worship with us. Come, work with us...
- B. The roots of this church are deep.....ministering here since 1837, at this busy corner of God's Kingdom. We minister in the name of Christ and it is in His loving spirit.....
- C. Wear name tags.....go out of your way to make some new friends.

PARISH CONCERNS

- A. Parish concerns are in the bulletin. Review them on your own, noting the announcement regarding the program for next Sunday evening....as we come to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sign up sheet downstairs....with suggestions of what to bring for the supper hour. The program will be around a ministry to women in prison. Rev. Julia Quinlan will be our guest speaker.....Board of Directors of WAM....Women's Advocate Ministry.
- B. How nice to welcome Kenneth Halcott back to our pulpit. A long time friend.....Ken and his wife, Andrea, now make their home.....for years Ken has brought us the pulpit "word" on the first Sunday of the year.....Grateful to him for this....after a busy Fall and a busy Christmas season, Bill Bonwitt and I appreciate a bit of a breather.....Ken's a native of Ct., graduate of Duke Divinity and an ordained minister of the UM church....welcome home.

( over )

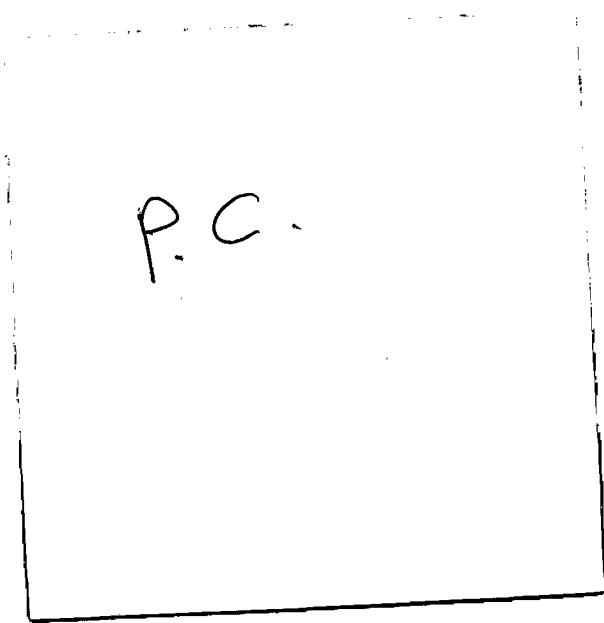
SOME CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

- A. It was a good Christmas for our church. I would like to THANK all who took on extra responsibilities to make it so....as well as those who responded with a special Christmas gift. Christmas gifts are still coming in. Bless you and thank you all!
- B. The monthly news sheet for January is "out"...on the table downstairs in the RR....as well as by the door in the narthex. Pick up a copy....you'll note a paragrap regarding the GOOD NEWS of the canvass.....we have no received 220 pledges toward our goal of 250....and \$ 173,000 pledged toward our goal of \$ 180,000.
- C. That's the GOOD NEWS...and believe me, that is good news.....the "not so good" news is that it's not too late to respond with a pledge of financial support. We still have about 40 people who can take us the rest of the way....mostly "pledge renewals", so let's respond today and complete the task. Pledge cards are still in the pews.
- D. The 1996 boxes of offering envelopes are n the table in the rear of the church for those who asked for them. Pick up the box that has your name on it....close to 250 boxes are there.....alphabetically arranged. If you need help, bring it to our attention. Thank you.

OFFERING

- A. And now let us worship God with our gifts and offerings, remembering the words of Jesus,

"It is more blessed to give than it is to receive".



LAY READER: NEIL BARDACH

DATE: January 7th, 1996

BEFORE



"The Scripture Reading for today is taken from THE BOOK OF PSALMS...  
PSALM 117....found on page 531, and PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS,  
Chapter 1...verses 3 - 14...and found on page 1027.

~~.....verses~~  
~~.....in the Bible that is in the pews.~~

(READER: Take note...after announcing where the reading is found, PAUSE for about 10 seconds before beginning to read. Enough people turn to the Bible to follow along...give them time to find the passage. Then start in...project... Keep your voice "up")

AFTER (Sign off with.....)



"Thus endeth the reading taken from the Holy Scripture.  
May God add His blessing to the reading of His Word and  
to our understanding of it.  
Thanks be to God! Amen!"

(Careful walking up...and careful walking down. We don't want any accidents...walk slowly.)

*Take time to learn to  
read the Scriptures  
well.*

## **Worship**

A hush falls over the congregation. The worshipers are sitting in rapt attention.

The reader walks to the lectern and looks up. Something important is about to happen. You can tell by the way the listeners lean forward slightly, their eyes open wide, their ears attuned. The reader begins to speak, "A reading from the book of . . . ."

Is that the kind of anticipation that rivets your congregation's attention when the Scriptures are about to be read? Or are the lessons a time to take a nap or let our minds drift a million miles away?

In every service of worship the Scriptures are read. Often, several passages are read in the course of a service. These do not include the acts of worship that have been selected or adapted from biblical texts. If reading the Scriptures aloud in the gathered community of faith is so important, we need to take time to do it well.

The reading of the Scripture lessons is essential for effective worship; yet, few pastors or lay readers receive preparation for reading them with confidence.

Here are a few suggestions to help you prepare to read the Scriptures aloud in worship.

First, read the lesson several times. Read it aloud, even if you are alone. Pay close attention to the sounds of the words as well as their meanings. If

there are words whose meanings you do not know, look them up.

Second, find the attitude of the speaker of the passage. Is the lesson simply giving information? Is the speaker happy or angry? Is the speaker attempting to comfort or challenge the listeners? Practice reading the lesson aloud so your reading reveals the attitude of the speaker whose words you are reading.

Third, mark the words you need to stress in your reading. Underline once the words that deserve a moderate stress, and draw two lines under words that should receive greater emphasis. Practice reading the passage, stressing each word appropriately until the reading feels and sounds natural.

Fourth, mark the places you wish to pause in the reading. Mark brief pauses with one thin slash mark (/) and more sustained pauses with a bolder slash mark. Practice reading the passage, including the appropriate pauses, until the reading feels and sounds natural.

Finally, each lesson is meaningful and should be read as if it means something. What is the sense of the passage? How is that sense communicated through the attitude of the speaker, the stressed words and the pauses? Practice reading the passage until the sense of the lesson is expressed in a way that feels and sounds natural.

Reading of Scripture is important to our worship. Let us work to read well.

—*Michael E. Williams*

GREETING TO THE CHILDREN: January 28, 1996

WELCOME

It's always good to have the children of our Sunday School down here with us....the younger children right here in front of me....and the Confirmation Class of teen-agers over here in front of the pulpit...

It's always SPECIAL when the boys and girls are down here...they're good for us....their presence makes us more relaxed....makes things a bit more informal and spontaneous.

SUPER SUNDAY

We call this Sunday "SUPER SUNDAY"...and I wonder if you can tell me why it's called SUPER SUNDAY.

YES....it's Super Bowl Sunday and that means football for a lot of us later today. The "Steelers" of Pittsburg are playing the "Cowboys" of Dallas... and my prediction is that Dallas will win..... a voice spoke to me earlier this week and that "voice" told me the score: Dallas 35 and Pittsburg 21.....

Also said, "The least important fact of life is the score at half-time"....write that down..... 35 to 21....and...

YES....also the Sunday of our SUPER BOWL BAKE SALE...we have three Bake Sales between now and mid-May and what "comes in"...helps to pay for the bus for our Church Picnic.....many have baked for this Bake Sale and we are grateful....now they have come to Church to buy something that their church friends have made....come on down and make a purchase.

ARE YOU SINGING

Now, according to the bulletin, the boys and girls are going to sing....is that correct? And then we invite you to stay for the anthem by the choir.....and the Scripture Reading which today is being offered by two young ladies who have grown up here in our church - Alexis Roosa and Marisa Lombardo....they're reading and we want you to "hang out there" for the reading and then depart after they read....we'll announce a hymn for your departure....

No. 369 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!" (one verse)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, January 28, 1996

GREETING / VISITORS

- A. A word of welcome to the visitors...pleased you're here, and we hope that we'll have opportunity to greet you....be free in the sharing....fill out a card or sign one of the....come and worship with us....come and work with us, too....outreach...
- B. Doing the LORD'S WORK at this busy corner....since 1837....now approaching 160 years....fourth building...deep roots....minister in the name of Christ and it is in His loving spirit that we...
- C. Members: wear your name tags....go out of your way to greet the visitors present....as well as to welcome back former members.... Clu and Miriam Gulager, Mark and Greta Else, Charles and Soo Kim. All active here in those difficult years of 1956 to 1966...

PARISH CONCERNS

- A. Parish concerns..."high-lighted" in the bulletin....note that today we are having our SUPER BOWL BAKE SALE....part of the coffee hour. Come on downstairs and make a purchase...good cause...church picnic of May. And remember, too, that this evening the ADULT FELLOWSHIP SUPER BOWL PARTY is "in the works". T. A. 's apartment....245 E. 93rd Street, 19 E. Sign up downstairs...and bring something for the table...snacks or beverage.
- B. Be sure to pick up your box of 1996 offering envelopes, if you requested a box. Pledge cards are still coming in....240 of them...another 10 to make our goal of "250"...that elusive "250". Small pledges are most welcome as well as large ones...
- C. We'll be working on the February news sheet this week...out next Sunday....any items you'd like to have mentioned, write them up and get them to either Mr. Bonwitt or myself, or Judi Ferland, Secretary. February 8th....Administrative Council Meeting. (Thursday evening). Rummage Sale, Saturday, February 24th. (Dianne Keller, coordinator)

OFFERING

- A. Gifts are still being received for the special HUMAN RELATIONS DAY appeal....envelopes in the pews...another fifty dollars over the goal. Jesus said:

"IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN  
IT IS TO RECEIVE..." In this spirit..

## JESUS' LIFE ON EARTH

### 583. THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY

There is a green hill far away,  
Without a city wall,  
Where the dear Lord was crucified,  
Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,  
What pains He had to bear;  
But we believe it was for us  
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,  
He died to make us good,  
That we might go at last to heaven,  
Saved by His precious blood.

There was no other good enough  
To pay the price of sin;  
He only could unlock the gate  
Of heaven and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has He loved,  
And we must love Him, too,  
And trust in His redeeming blood,  
And try His works to do.

*Cecil F. Alexander, 1823-1895*

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### 584. MARY AT THE CROSS

And Mary stood beside the cross! Her soul  
Pierced with the selfsame wound that rent  
His side  
Who hung thereon. She watched Him as He  
died—

Her son! Saw Him paying the cruel toll  
Exacted by the law, and unbelief,  
Since He their evil will had dared defy.  
There stood the mother helpless in her grief,  
Beside the cross, and saw her firstborn die!

How many mothers in how many lands  
Have bowed with Mary in her agony,  
In silence borne the wrath of war's  
commands,  
When every hill is made a Calvary!

O pity, Lord, these mothers of the slain,  
And grant their dead shall not have died in  
vain.

*Clyde McGee, 1875—*

### 588. GAMBLER

And sitting down, they watched Him there,  
The soldiers did;  
There, while they played with dice,  
He made His sacrifice,  
And died upon the Cross to rid  
God's world of sin.

He was a gambler, too, my Christ,  
He took His life and threw  
It for a world redeemed.  
And ere His agony was done,  
Before the westering sun went down,  
Crowning that day with crimson crown,  
He knew that He had won.

*G. A. Studdert-Kennedy, 1883-1929*

## 580. SIMON THE CYRENIAN SPEAKS

He never spoke a word to me,  
 And yet He called my name;  
 He never gave a sign to me,  
 And yet I knew and came.

At first I said, "I will not bear  
 His cross upon my back;  
 He only seeks to place it there  
 Because my skin is black."

But He was dying for a dream,  
 And He was very meek,  
 And in His eyes there shone a gleam  
 Men journey far to seek.

It was Himself my pity bought;  
 I did for Christ alone  
 What all of Rome could not have wrought  
 With bruise of lash or stone.

*Countee Cullen, 1903-1946*

## 581. GOOD FRIDAY

This day upon the bitter tree  
 Died One who had He willed  
 Could have dried up the wide sea  
 And the wind stilled.

It was about the ninth hour  
 He surrendered the ghost,  
 And His face was a fading flower  
 Dropping and lost.

Who then was not afraid?  
 Targeted, heart and eye,  
 Struck, as with darts, by godhead  
 In human agony.

For Him, who with a cry  
 Could shatter if He willed  
 The sea and earth and sky  
 And them rebuild,

Who chose amid the tumult  
 Of the lowering sky  
 A chivalry more difficult—  
 As Man to die,

What answering meed of love  
 Can finite flesh return  
 That is not all unworthy of  
 The Friend I mourn?

*A. J. M. Smith, 1902-*

## GOOD FRIDAY

## 582. GOOD FRIDAY

There was no glory on the hills that day;  
 Only dark shame,  
 And three stark crosses rearing at the sky.  
 Only a whining wind,  
 And jeering,  
 And an anguished voice  
 Crying forgiveness.

Then darkness fell.

We sit today in cushioned pews  
 And for three hours we watch with Him,  
 Singing and praying,  
 Hearing quiet words.  
 There is a gentle rustle as we move in and out,  
 Too busy to stay long,  
 Or else too tired  
 To sit so long a time  
 In cushioned pews.

We see a golden cross  
 And pray to God  
 That some day,  
 In His own good time,  
 The world may do His will.  
 But we ourselves  
 Have little time to help—  
 Except to say a prayer  
 On cushioned pews.

The golden cross is all aglow  
 In candle flame.  
 It burns like flame.  
 Like flame it burns into my heart—  
 The golden cross has turned to fire  
 The candle glow—  
 Has set the cross on fire—  
 The burning cross up on the altar  
 Cries—  
 Cries out to me.  
 The flaming cross is burned into my heart!

The others have not seen.  
 There is the golden cross  
 And candle glow.

There was no glory on the hills that day;  
 But one stark cross  
 Against a vacant sky.

*Martha Provine Leach Turner,  
 contemporary American*



*Good Friday*

O Thou who art afflicted in the afflictions of Thy people,  
We bow before Thee in these holiest of hours, awed by the mystery  
of Thy suffering love.

That we should call this day Good Friday is a bafflement of lan-  
guage we can scarcely comprehend.  
And yet, the highest good we know is strangely centered on that  
lowly hill to which our souls repair when other signs give out.

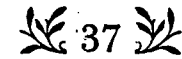
Blessed be Thy name.

Forgive us that with the cross as starting point we have made of  
Christian faith a bland and easygoing way of life.  
Forgive us that our preference runs to Bethlehem and Joseph's  
Garden, to poinsettias and lilies,  
and away from Golgotha, with its rusted nails and twisted thorns.  
Forgive us that we are more willing to be instructed or reformed  
than we are to be redeemed.

Open us, each one, to ever new and deeper meanings in our Sav-  
iour's passion.  
Grant that we may never be casual before that event which has  
taxed the skills of our finest poets and musicians,  
rendered preachers mute,  
and gained the grudging admiration and respect of those with  
little time for Thee.  
Keep us, rather, reachable and pliable,  
responsive to grace,  
willing captives of the wonder of it all.

Stir us now to such new intentions as will enable us to die to self  
and live to Christ.  
For, constrained by a love at once amazing and divine, we would  
embrace a weary and despairing world, and lift that world to  
Thee.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

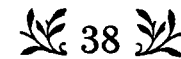


## GOOD FRIDAY

*God forbid that I should glory, save in  
the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

In thy cross, O Christ, we glory.  
In thy pain we see our shame,  
In thy love we find our hope.

Break through our hard and heartless  
ways with the sight of perfect good-  
ness put to death;  
Bring us back to our senses, Lord,  
And show us how the suffering leads to  
glory,  
And how the glory covers all our pain.



## GOOD FRIDAY

We thank thee, O God, for the life and  
death of Jesus, his presence with us now;  
help us to see him more clearly, to love  
him more dearly and to follow him more  
nearly, that his risen life may be in us; and  
as we die to the little things of the world,  
may we live with him in light and love and  
life.

LECTERN

We're coming to the closing minutes....probably  
it will be about 12:50 at this point...and I'll  
read a poem to two...depending on the time.

They will be:

"There Is a Green Hill Far Away"  
(No. 583)

"Gambler" (No. 588)

Closing Prayer: Theodore Parker Ferris. Page 38

ORGAN

The closing minutes are YOURS...for the "Crucifixion"  
by Marcel Dupre. (Third Movement from the  
Symphony, Passion of Christ.)

I have the notes you gave me last year and will have  
shared them with the people in the congregat on.

BENEDICTION

Depending on the time, I may offer a prayer or just a  
short benediction...and then turn and go out behind you.

"Go in peace. And may Jesus Christ, who for our sake  
became obedient unto death, even death on a cross,  
keep you and strengthen you this day and for ever."  
Amen

GOOD FRIDAY HOUR: 12 Noon to 1 pm

(April 1st, 1994)

ORGAN

Can you start playing around 11:50...for about 15 minutes? Music in keeping with the quiet and somber mood of Good Friday. Perhaps you might weave in Bach's "O Sacred Head Now Wounded". I shall plan to come in the door behind you...and take the seat across from you near the lectern. Any chance of a bit of Faure's Requiem?

LECTERN

I'll plan to go to the lectern around 12:05 and offer some scripture sentences (Book of Worship, pages 63 and 64)... followed by a Prayer and Call to Worship and the Invocation. About 3 minutes and after this I shall sit down and let you play softly two or three verses (without singing) the following Good Friday Hymns. They are:

ORGAN

No. 297 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"  
No. 298 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"  
No. 301 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross".

You'll note they are the same ones we had on Thursday night for the service...but that's OK...all familiar hymns and people like to hear them....this should go about 5 minutes and take us to about 12:15.

LECTERN

After the three hymns....I shall lead the congregation in a Good Friday prayer...and then proceed to read The Crown of Thorns (Pages 615, 616, 617, 618 and 620) from Hurlbut's Story of the Bible....about 10 minutes, I'd say. By the time I complete this it will be about 12:30.

ORGAN

What about "Were You There When Thy Crucified My Lord" coming in here....this should take us to 12:35. After it I shall return to the lectern and read some more...(Hymn 288, Were You There)

LECTERN

Here's where I shall turn to the Bible story again and read "The Darkest Day In All the world". (Page 621 - 626)

ORGAN

What about "O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done" (page 287) and "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" (Page 295)...just played quietly...a couple of verses of each one.

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Amen

## JESUS' LIFE ON EARTH

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Where the dear Lord was crucified,  
Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,  
What pains He had to bear;  
But we believe it was for us  
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,  
He died to make us good,  
That we might go at last to heaven,  
Saved by His precious blood.

There was no other good enough  
To pay the price of sin;  
He only could unlock the gate  
Of heaven and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has He loved,  
And we must love Him, too,  
And trust in His redeeming blood,  
And try His works to do.

*Cecil F. Alexander, 1823-1895*

### 584. MARY AT THE CROSS

And Mary stood beside the cross! Her soul  
Pierced with the selfsame wound that rent  
His side  
Who hung thereon. She watched Him as He  
died—

Her son! Saw Him paying the cruel toll  
Exacted by the law, and unbelief,  
Since He their evil will had dared defy.  
There stood the mother helpless in her grief,  
Beside the cross, and saw her firstborn die!

How many mothers in how many lands  
Have bowed with Mary in her agony,  
In silence borne the wrath of war's  
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When every hill is made a Calvary!

O pity, Lord, these mothers of the slain,  
And grant their dead shall not have died in  
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There, while they played with dice,  
He made His sacrifice,  
And died upon the Cross to rid  
God's world of sin.

He was a gambler, too, my Christ,  
He took His life and threw  
It for a world redeemed.  
And ere His agony was done,  
Before the westering sun went down,  
Crowning that day with crimson crown,  
He knew that He had won.

*G. A. Studdert-Kennedy, 1883-1929*

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, January 21, 1996

GREETING / VISITORS

- A. A word of warm welcome to the visitors...delighted you're here with us this morning.....and we hope that we'll get to greet you in a more personal way....be free in the sharing of your name. Fill out.....Come, worship with us...
- B. Doing the "Lord's Work" here at this busy corner....since 1837. Fourth building....roots of this church are deep in the soil... Minister in the name of Christ and it is in His loving spirit...
- C. Members: wear your name tags...go out of your way to welcome back former members Clu and Miriam Gulager...1957 - 1962.... also to greet the mother of new member, Keith Roberts. Rev. Anne Roberts, collage...Somerset, Mass.

PARISH CONCERNS

- A. Parish concerns are "lifted up" for you in the bulletin...review them carefully noting that the Finance Committee...January 25th.
- B. Next Sunday: SUPER BOWL BAKE SALE...benefit of our May All Church Picnic. Evening: Adult Fellowship SUPER BOWL PARTY. I have received no special word yet on who the winner will be....go up to the mountain top this week and will offer my prediction next Sunday.
- C. We're in the final minutes of the 1996 FINANCIAL CANVASS...and present to bring you up to date is KARL NEWLIN...who has been doing such a terrific job in heading up our Canvass....bring us up to date. What's the latest word...hopefully "Good News" to share.
- D. Thank you, Karl....I agree with you and Dan Boone and members of the Finance Committee that gives time and energy and concern to our financial concerns...if you believe in the Church...then you put it into your budget. Some of you haven't and we need your help. Let's complete the task...250 pledges and \$ 180,000 committed. "You count on the church and the church counts on you".

OFFERING

- A. Gifts are still being received for the special HUMAN RELATIONS DAY appeal....envelopes in the pews. Let us remember the words of Jesus:

"IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN IT IS TO  
RECEIVE!"

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Also said, "The least important fact of life is the score at half-time"....write that down..... 35 to 21....and...

YES....also the Sunday of our SUPER BOWL BAKE SALE...we have three Bake Sales between now and mid-May and what "comes in"...helps to pay for the bus for our Church Picnic.....many have baked for this Bake Sale and we are grateful....now they have come to Church to buy something that their church friends have made.....come on down and make a purchase.

ARE YOU SINGING Now, according to the bulletin, the boys and girls are going to sing....is that correct? And then we invite you to stay for the anthem by the choir.....and the Scripture Reading which today is being offered by two young ladies who have grown up here in our church - Alexis Roosa and Marisa Lombardo....they're reading and we want you to "hang out there" for the reading and then depart after they read....we'll announce a hymn for your departure....

No. 369 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!" (one verse)



FAREWELL SUNDAY

MINISTER TO A PARADE

You've heard me say many times over the years that we minister here to a PARADE of people... a procession of people...coming and going. In the 42 years I have been your minister, I have probably served, at least, ten different congregations.

We see another example of this parade of people...coming and going... today, as we say farewell to a number of people for whom today is their last Sunday....hopefully, not forever....but let me mention them by name and ask that they lift a hand so you may know who they are...

Dr. Keith Go and Dr. Jennifer Goh: returning to their native city of Singapore...with us just a year....

(They sent me a note this week which contained some lovely thoughts to share with you all... as well as the balance of their 1998 pledge of support....)

Dr. Kelli Underhill: a physician this past year at Sloane Kettering...moving now to continue her professional career in Philadelphia...first came through our doors a year ago...from Ontario. Promised to find a UM church for you there, Kelli...

Effie French is off to Athens for the summer....back in the Fall. Norman Wallace and Ishmael off to the Islands for the Summer....returning in September....Norman's a teacher in Brooklyn...

Fran Ellison who first came into our lives in 1968...1969.... and who have served us so well in so many different areas across close to 30 years .....UMW President, Coffee Hour Hostess... Coordinator....moving back to her home state of North Carolina... be sure to come down for the coffee hour where we'll have opportunity for additional words...some parting hugs and a bit of cake.

And so the parade continues....

PASTORAL PRAYER: January 21, 1996

O GOD, OUR FATHER - in the mystery and the wonder of worship, we would draw near to You. Make us sensitive to Your spirit and to Your nearness in these moments of prayer.

ENFOLD US with Your loving care.

SPEAK to each of us the word we need to hear, that special word that will lift us and make a difference in our daily lives.

MAY WE FIND in every act of our worship - in the sounds of the organ, the singing of the hymns, the anthems of the choir, the reading of the Scripture and the preaching of Your Word - in all of these may we feel Your spirit deep within us...at work...wrestle with us, O God, until we are conquered by Your love.

THOU GOD OF HOPE AND COMFORT...be near to those present who may be feeling the burden of age, or the pain of illness, or the lure of temptation, the anguish of indecision, or the inner stress of anxiety and uncertainty.

WORK THROUGH nurses and physicians, social workers and teachers, counsellors and psychiatrists, writers and lawyers, public servants and elected government leaders...all who write where others read...all who influence others for good to bring hope and healing, peace and justice to our life in this world.

OUR PRAYERS this hour reach out to include loved ones and dear friends from whom we are separated by distance, but from we are not separated by love and concern.

WE PRAY, TOO, FOR each other...for those sitting near us in the pews this morning...for those with whom we shall be talking to at the coffee hour.

Grant that that person may be blessed with inner peace and tranquility, with the perspective of the "higher ground" that worship so often gives to us.

LORD, GOD - FATHER OF US ALL...we pray that You will direct us in our worship. Enrich and purify our lives. Forgive us for our sins...for having done things we should not have done and also for failing to do that which we should have done. Make us ready for an adventure with Christ in a world that needs to hear His Word and to follow in His Way.

In the name of the Good Shepherd who gently brings us home, and who knows His sheep by name. In His name we pray.