

"JESUS AND THE TAX COLLECTOR"

A Sermon By

Philip A. C. Clarke

Park Avenue United Methodist Church
106 East 86th Street
New York, New York 10028
October 29, 1989

"JESUS AND THE TAX COLLECTOR"

INTRODUCTION

Jesus continually shocks us. It's no wonder the people of His day finally got rid of Him. He wouldn't be too popular in our city...at least not among the "better" folks in town. There are times when you feel that He preferred to mix and mingle with the disreputable, the rejects... the rubble of humanity.

On one occasion He said, "Two men went up to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector". Now the audience was suppose to hiss and boo when the tax collector's title was given. The IRS is not too popular with us, but at least most of the men and women who work there are honorable. But not so with the tax collectors in the time of Jesus. They were worse than scoundrels. They collaborated with the enemy. They worked on commission. The more they could gouge out of their clients, the more they pocketed for themselves. The Pharisees got a bad press in the New Testament, but there were, I'm sure, some fine, caring Pharisees. But the tax-collector. No way. That's another story.

DEVELOPMENT

Yet when Jesus tells this story the tax collector comes off as the hero. It begins, you'll remember, with the Pharisee praying his famous prayer:

"God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all that I get..."

Now our first response may be that this is not a bad prayer. The Pharisee wasn't like the riff-raff of society, and thank God for it! I am thankful for the kind of values that have been instilled in me, aren't you? My parents taught me to tithe when I first started working as a paper boy. Some of us could pray this prayer of the Pharisee with some justification and feeling.

But listen to the prayer of the tax collector. Standing far-off, he would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying "God, be merciful to me a sinner". You can almost see him. No illusions. No pretense. He knows what he has done and the kind of person he is. We'd call him a real SOB. He's so ashamed that he cannot even look toward heaven. His prayer is an honest one. "Lord, be merciful to me - a SINNER!"

Now Jesus said that this tax collector went back to his house justified, but the Pharisee did not. Why? The answer is found in the crowd that Jesus was talking to. I think verse nine holds the "key" to it. Listen to this revealing description of the crowd that Jesus was addressing:

"He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others..."

The kind of moral He was drawing was determined by the audience to whom He was speaking. If He had been speaking to a group of tax collectors, the Pharisee might have been the hero. But here He was talking to a group "who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others....". And that makes all the difference in the world. Still there are some important truths in this parable for any audience, some insights as to why Jesus liked sinners. Let's examine four of them.

ROOM TO GROW

In the first place, Jesus had a warm spot in his heart for sinners because they know they still have room to grow.

Notice again that beautiful description of the audience that Jesus was speaking to on this occasion.

"Some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous...."

These were the folks who thought they had already arrived...those who considered themselves a part of the "spiritual elite". Nobody likes people who are smug, sneering, self-important...better than the next guy...the "holier than thou" type.

Some months after his defeat in the 1984 Presidential race, former Vice President Walter Mondale was giving a talk about terrorism at the American Bar Association convention in London. I was in London that week in July of 1985. I remember reading that there was an explosion. Security men jumped to their feet and the audience stiffened. It was soon apparent that the noise had come from an exploding TV camera light. Unfortunately, this was immediately followed by fire sprinklers going into action, drenching the occupants of the room. The papers the next day said that Mondale looked around a bit drenched and said,

"Once you're out of office, you find there
is very little dignity in this world."

I liked that. It revealed Mondale's touch of humility. Everybody likes a person who has that touch of grace and humility regardless of his politics.

John Brodie, former quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers, was once asked why a super-star like himself should have to hold the ball for field goals and points after a touchdown. Brodie said, "Well if I didn't...the ball would fall over". No false pride. No obnoxious pretense. Brodie understood his place in the scheme of things. He was probably a very coachable player.

There's little hope for people who think they've arrived. Why should I bother to enter this pulpit Sunday after Sunday if you think you already know everything you need to know about Christ and faith? What a waste of my time and yours. Jesus came into the world to introduce people to a "new reality". There was no need for Him to waste His precious time with persons who thought they knew it all already. Jesus warmed up to sinners...He liked them, first of all, because they knew they weren't perfect...that they still had room left for a bit of growth.

DIDN'T LOOK DOWN ON OTHERS

And in the second place He probably warmed up to them because they didn't look down on others.

Back to verse nine again.

"Some who trusted in themselves that they
were righteous and despised others...."

That often happens, doesn't it. As Frederick Buechner once put it,

"The trouble oftentimes with religious people is that they
try to be more spiritual than God Himself...."

And when that happens we begin to look down on others.

There's an old story about a senior minister at a large metropolitan church who entered the sanctuary one day, knelt at the altar, and prayed, "Oh God I am the worst of sinners. I am nothing. I am a worm". Over and over he repeated those degrading words. His associate walked by and was very impressed by the senior minister's humility. So he, too, knelt at the altar beside him and prayed, "Oh, Lord. I am the worst of sinners. I am nothing. I am a worm."

And while the two ministers were busy praying, the custodian of the church happened by and overheard them. Impressed, he, too, went in and knelt down near them in front of the altar and repeated the same prayer, "Oh, Lord, I am the worst of sinners. I am nothing. I am a worm". And with this the associate minister stopped praying, looked over at the custodian, then with his nose slanted upward, he turned to the senior pastor and whispered, "Look who thinks he's nothing."

One of the chief reason that the medieval church put pride at the top of the list of the Seven Deadly Sins was that pride causes us to look down on others. And this is such a real temptation for deeply devout people.

In Frank Laubach's classic, Channels of Spiritual Power, he says one of the problems people have as they seek to follow Christ is that,

"The closer they draw to God, the more clearly they see the weaknesses of human nature. And the great temptation of one who is trying to be a Christian is to be critical of those who do not share his Christian ideals...how to hate the wrong...yet feel the love for and a tolerance for the one who does the wrong...is a problem every Christian must face. The problem does not grow less. It grows greater as one's dedication to God increases."

The Pharisee may have been superior to the tax collector in every way, but as soon as he began looking down his nose at the tax collector..making those comments, criticisms and judgements that we often are tempted to make about others...well, then it was all for naught.

Many years ago there was a French play about a group of persons preparing to enter the Pearly Gates. There was quite a mob of them. Some had been quite righteous. Others had not. Some of those who had been morally upright were outraged that the others were going into heaven. These moral misfits did not belong there. This was unfair. It was unjust. As the wait to go into heaven grew longer the anxiety and the anger of the righteous members of the mob grew, until finally some of them began to curse those whom they felt should not be allowed into the Presence of the Almighty. When they did that, they lost their place within the heavenly realm, for they had failed the most important test of all - the test of compassion. Jesus liked sinners because they did not look down on others.

DEPENDENT ON GOD

Moving on, in the third place, Jesus liked sinners because they know they must depend on God. Back to verse nine again. "Some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous." What a suitable text for a sermon on justification by faith. These self-righteous folks didn't trust God for their salvation; they trusted in themselves and their good works. We still do.

On this last Sunday of October we pause to think of Martin Luther. In the very first of his Ninety-Five Theses that he posted on October 31st in 1517, Luther was reminding all Christians that we are to rely on God, not on our own righteousness for our salvation. How quickly we forget.

Luther, of course, scarcely did better. Two decades after he had nailed his 95 Theses on the church door at Wittenberg, he confessed that he still felt the old dirt clinging to him of wanting to deal with God in such a way that he could contribute something to his own salvation. He still could not get it into his head that he was saved through sheer grace and that what was needed was a complete surrender of himself daily to that grace.

It was that same message of divine grace that warmed Wesley's heart in a little room on Aldersgate Street in 1738. In fact, Mr. Wesley was listening to the words of Martin Luther concerning salvation by faith alone when he had the life transforming experience that propelled him into the forefront of the great Revival movement of the 18th Century.

The Pharisee could not see that all his righteousness was like filthy rags in the presence of the righteousness of God. We can never be righteous enough to merit God's love. That love is freely given. Those who know themselves to be sinners know that they must depend on God. "Amazing grace".

NO ONE ELSE TO LIKE

And this brings us to the final thing I would like to say. Jesus liked sinners, primarily...because there is really no one else to like. In other words, we're all sinners. We've all fallen short. Let no one in this room brag before God about his righteousness. There's room at the foot of the cross for us all and all of us are there.

I came across a story about a man down in Knoxville, Tennessee who recently attempted to break in to a convenience food store...fast food store, that is. He slid down a roof air duct that serves as a vent for the frying equipment.

By the time he had gained entrance by this duct, however, he was pretty well covered with grease and powdered with a fire-retardant chemical that dries out the skin and throat and burns the eyes. Then, to make matters worse, when he tried to leave the store, he discovered that he couldn't get out through the dead-bolted doors and he could not climb back up the vent.

The next morning when the owner of the store walked in this man raced out. The owner recognized him under the grease and the powder and notified the police. Not only was the burglar caught, but he required some medical attention for the effects of the acid powder. End of story only to say this.

We comfort ourselves that we are not covered with the grease and the grime of thievery...or adultery...or murder. At the same time we ignore the more subtle powder of pride and prejudice and neglect of the poor. None of us are truly righteous. No not one. Not by a long shot. And that is why you and I can take comfort in the fact that Jesus warms up to sinners. Yes, He liked them. There is no one else to like, for that is where we all are.

So, a Pharisee and a tax collector went up to the temple to pray. One was a thief and a traitor. The other was one of the best people in town. Both were sinners. The Pharisee thought he had already arrived. So no further growth was

possible. He looked "down" on those who were not as far along as he was. He depended pretty much upon himself and his good works rather than the grace of God. A Pharisee and a tax collector. Both were sinners...but only one of them was aware of it. And so we're left with this question...

Where do we fit in? Thank God, Jesus warmed up to sinners...He liked them all. And I'm so grateful He did and He does. And hopefully...you are too!

PRAYER Make us sensitive to Your nearness in these quiet moments, dear God. Wrestle with each of us until we are conquered by Your love. May we hear Your voice speaking to us...reassuring us, challenging us, summoning us to dedicated and victorious living.

We ask this in the spirit of Christ who became what we are in order to make us what He is. Amen.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
October 29, 1989

ORDER OF WORSHIP
11 A. M.

ORGAN "Rhosymedre" Vaughan Williams

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN NO. 139 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (seated)

Help us, O Lord, who claim to be Christians.
Teach us our responsibilities to You and to others
in this world. Save us from loving religion
instead of You. Take fire and burn away our hy-
pocrisy. Take water and wash away the blood that
we cause to be shed. Take sunlight and dry the
tears of those we have hurt. Take love and plant
it in our hearts, that peace and joy may be made
real for all people everywhere. For we ask these
things in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ,
our Lord. Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION - WORDS OF ASSURANCE - LORD'S PRAYER

PSALTER	Psalm 4	No. 741
GLORIA PATRI		No. 71
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH		No. 883

ANTHEM	"Prayer to the Holy Spirit"	Lundquist
SCRIPTURE	Luke 18: 9 - 14	Page 911

PASTORAL PRAYER

PARISH CONCERNS

ANTHEM	"O Be Joyful in the Lord"	V. Williams
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PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH THE DOXOLOGY

HYMN NO. 453 "More Love to Thee, O Christ"

SERMON	"Jesus and The Tax Collector"	Mr. Clarke
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HYMN NO. 100 "God, Whose Love Is Reigning O'er Us"

BENEDICTION

ORGAN	"Hyfrydol"	Vaughan Williams
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*** Interval for Ushering

LAY READER

We welcome Gordon Bryant to the lectern this morning. A native of Island, Kentucky, a graduate of Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, with an MBA in Finance. Gordon is Vice President, Municipal Finance, at Lazard Freres & Co.. Here in the church, he is a member of the Administrative Council, the Finance, Pastor-Parish Relations Committees and is Co-Vice Chair of the Financial Canvass.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are given in memory of their parents, Myrtle and Herbert Dusendorf and Mildred and Irving Gartrell, by Joyce and Lee Gartrell.

GREETERS AND USHERS

The greeters today are Carl Condra and Tina Redwine. The ushers are Effie French, Jay Brown, George Crawford, Fran Ellison, Donna and Bruce Evans and Bob Gardner.

AN INVITATION

Coffee and tea will be served in the Russell Room following the service. Members and friends are invited to share in these moments of warmth made possible for us today by Jacque Notestine, Vicki Jandron, Sharon Johnson, Dee Schafffield, Linda Quinn and Lynn Clarke.

CHURCH SCHOOL AND NURSERY CARE

Sessions of Church School for children are offered Sunday mornings from ten-thirty to twelve. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available on the fourth floor.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

The Adult Bible Class meets on Sunday morning at 9:30. Duane Thompson is leading the class in a study of the book of Ecclesiastes. Coffee and doughnuts are available.

To look at us as we sit here this morning, Lord, it would appear

That our grip on life is firm,
That we are managing things well,
That we have come to terms with our fears and
frustrations.

And yet, in our eyes as in Your sight, we are not the masters of our fate that we pretend to be. Show us once again, dear God, the connection between our restless minds and our lack of faith in You.

Enlarge our trust that fearing nothing save the loss of You, we may take what comes our way this coming week...as those who have felt Your nearness...touched the bottom and know that it is firm, good and trustworthy.

Thus, in the spirit of Jesus, may we take away from here the secret of the joyful, care-free life you would have us live.

In the name of Jesus, who knows His own and gently brings us home to Himself. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER: October 29, 1989

Because we did not MAKE ourselves;
Because we do not KEEP ourselves;
Because we cannot FORGIVE ourselves....

Our hearts REACH OUT to You, O God.

We thank You for our recreation, preservation and redemption!

For hills to climb, burdens to carry...
For temptations to resist, fears to overcome.

We thank You for all that helps us in our pilgrimage in this life:

The remembrance of those who walked this way
in other years and did it well...
For signs of Your presence, often in unlikely places,
helping us to know that we are not alone...
The unanswerable logic of lives given over completely
to Your service in selfless love...
The work of Your Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds,
uniting for us the Jesus of History, the Christ of Faith.

With all that lies within each of us we would speak Your praise and
acclaim Your goodness.

On this OCTOBER WEEKEND when we are conscious of setting our clocks back,
we pray for all who are "hard-put" to come to terms with TIME...

The Young - for whom time seems to go so slowly.
The Middle-aged - who find themselves with too little
time to do all the things they wish to do.
The Elderly - who mourn the passing of time and live with
that anxious feeling that almost all the sand has dropped.

We pray, too, for those who can only think to "kill" time...

Those with vengeance in their hearts...who are carefully
biding time until the moment of revenge is at hand.
Those who are immobilized by indecision and uncertainty,
nervously marking time.
Those in penal institutions, doing time; those in hospitals
taking time to heal and recover.
Those who will not age gracefully...spending much money
and energy resisting time.

You have set ETERNITY in our hearts, yet given us clocks and calendars
by which to live. Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in
You. Help us to see our years as a hallowed trust...

(over)

"And all things...whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing...you shall receive. And as many as touched Him were made whole!"

"Wait on the Lord. Be of good course and He shall strengthen thine heart. For we dwell in the shelter of the Almighty. He is our refuge and our strength."

"We know that in everything, God works together for good with those who love Him!"

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint".

"God so love the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life".

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases".

"Thou wilt keep Him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in thee".

"In the name of Jesus Christ, I share with you the Good News: We are forgiven".

PRAYERS / LORD'S PRAYER

O Thou, who hearest prayer, hear our prayers...for others, as well as for ourselves. Touch with healing, O God...Father of us all, those whom we mention in our prayers this hour:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <u>Ada Kinney</u> | 2. <u>Daisy Herrisk</u> | 3. <u>Carolyn Broones</u> |
| 4. <u>Craig Radney</u> | 5. <u>Eric de Freitas</u> | 6. _____ |

...beloved members and friends of this congregation. Comfort the bereaved and the broken hearted among us...and especially be close to _____ who in recent days has lost a loved one. Abide among us as a healing benediction. Heal each of us at the point of our deepest need. We would remember Frank High...as he shares in an outreach concern to brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Answer the upspoken prayers now offered to thee on the altars of our hearts, spoken in the name and spirit of Jesus, who taught us to say when we pray.... For we ask all of this in the powerful name and lifting spirit of Jesus who taught us to say when we pray...

"Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the glory, forever. Amen"

FIRST INTRODUCTION

The week of toil has ended. Our day of rest is at hand. May the rest and the quiet of this hour of worship refresh our inner life. And may it renew in all of us a sense of God's holy and abiding Presence.

In silence, let each now pray as the heart may prompt.

SECOND INTRODUCTION

Remaining in a prayerful spirit, let us enter now into a time of silent meditation....a time in which we prepare ourselves expectantly...that the Spirit of the living God may be made real to us in this hour of worship.

In quietness, let each now pray as the heart may prompt.

THIRD INTRODUCTION

Remaining in a prayerful spirit, let us enter into a time of silent meditation as we come into the Presence of Him whom our faith declares to be the Source of all life and love, all peace and power, the Source of all hope and healing.

In silence, let each now pray as the heart may prompt.

FOURTH INTRODUCTION

Remaining in a prayerful spirit, let us enter now into a time of silent meditation. In these moments, let us ponder the pattern our lives have been weaving as we come into the Presence of Him whom our Faith declares to be the Source of all life and love, all peace and power, the Source of all hope and healing.

In silence, let each now pray as the heart may prompt.

MEDITATION

We rest our hearts in the Promise of Jesus who said:

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me, for My yoke is easy and My burden is light".

"Ask, and it will be given you. Seek and you will find.
"Knock, and it will be open unto you."

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, but by Me. If you love Me, you will keep my commandments"

"For I tell you...do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat...or drink...nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food? And the body more than raiment."

"But seek ye first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

"For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present...to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature - shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, Our Lord."

MORE ON THE CANVASS

So far, our 1990 operating budget has been carefully prepared these past two months...presented and adopted and now mailed out to our membership.

It was mailed out Friday and you should soon receive it. Think about it and talk it over with one of the canvassers...and let us hear from you.

OFFERING

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive". In this spirit, let us worship God with our gifts.

ALSO

- Friends from former days....

- Frank High has returned...good to greet our fellow member and dear friend...two weeks in Haiti...part of a work team.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, October 29, 1989

VISITORS / GREETING

We're always pleased to welcome visitors to our services of worship...and an invitation to worship with us on other Sunday mornings....perhaps even to find a church home here with us...is warmly offered. Our doors and our hearts are open.

If you're a visitor, be free in the sharing of your name with us. Fill out a visitor card. Or sign one of the Guest Books. Join us downstairs for coffee. Worship with us again. Work with us in the programs of service to others in which we are involved as a church.

We're primarily a "neighborhood" church...most of our friends and members are within walking distance. This is the fourth building out of which this congregation has ministered since 1837 - the year the church was founded. We minister in the name of Christ and it is in His loving spirit that we greet you and embrace all of you with words of love.

PARISH CONCERNS

We have quite a few parish concerns in today's bulletin, so review it carefully...noting the meetings coming along and the various activities and opportunities for spiritual growth that are offered.

Our thanks to those who shared in yesterday's rummage sale. The proceeds added up to over \$2,318.46. Well done. Collective efforts create miracles! Dianne Keller...Jan Ernst...providing such outstanding leadership.

And the Church Fair is edging closer...three weeks from yesterday. Support it with your "Fare" share of time and service. Note the announcements regarding the (1) pick up of white elephants, (2) need for entertainers, carolers and instrumentalists the day of the Fair, and (3) remember to buy your Christmas cards here and help the Church Fair proceeds.

The Adult Fellowship has planned an OKTOBERFEST event for this afternoon for the boys and girls of our Church. Carl Condras is the coordinator for it and would welcome your support of it...children and adults who enjoy working with boys and girls. Today at 4 downstairs.

CANVASS APPROACHES

Today we are "kicking-off" the Every Member Financial Canvass of the Church...with a luncheon meeting of the 60 canvassers. Heading up the Canvass this year is Bob Lewis, assisted by Ann and Gordon Bryant. We have three weeks - busy weeks - to contact everyone about their 1990 giving plans and the solicitation of pledges and gifts to underwrite our 1990 budget.

We've lost a good many members...moving away...and we're going to really have to stretch to do it this year. But I have the faith to believe we can do it. A church that loses fifteen strong, active and generous members in 6 months can't stand back and do nothing!

FATHEA:

CHARLOTTE

KITTESON'S
INT. CARE —

NICHOLAS

MAC SHANE

HARVEST FESTIVAL CHILDREN'S PARTY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

PAUMC RUSSELL ROOM
(basement)

ADULT HELPERS WELCOME TOO!

SPONSERED BY ADULT FELLOWSHIP

ANTHEM: "Prayer to the Holy Spirit"

"Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly guest,
descend with gifts divinely blest; make
Thee a temple in my heart, grant me Thy
grace and ne'er depart.

O hallow Thou each passing hour; re-
newing faith, increasing power, in sorrow
need, Thy comfort send, and blessed peace
when life shall end."

ANTHEM: "O Be Joyful In the Lord"

"O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands;
serve the Lord with gladness and come before
His presence with a song. Be ye sure that
the Lord He is God; it is He that hath made
us, and not we ourselves; we are His people
and the sheep of His pasture.

O go your way into His gates with
thanksgiving, and unto His courts with
praise; be thankful unto Him, and speak
good of His Name. For the Lord is gracious,
His mercy is everlasting; and His truth
endureth from generation to generation.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the
God whom heaven and earth adore; from men
and from the angel host be praise and glory
evermore. Amen."

ORGAN POSTLUDE

The organ postlude - a final offering
of our praise to God - is played after the
Benediction. Time permitting, we invite
you to share in the beauty of it.

"HOUNDS OF HEAVEN"

The "Hounds of Heaven" meet on Tuesday
evening at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall. Dee
Schaffield is serving as leader this month
as the "Hounds" continue the study of Maxie
Dunnam's book, Coping as Christians. New
friends are always welcome; old ones, too.

ALDERSGATE CLASS

The Aldersgate Class meets on Wednesday
evening at 7:30 in Fellowship Hall. Carl
Condra is leading the class in an over-view
of the New Testament. All are invited.

NAME TAGS

Be sure to wear yours at coffee hour.
If you need one, mention it to Dee Schaffield.
New ones are being ordered for new friends.

THIS SATURDAY

The Church Fair pick-up of white elephant
items will be this coming Saturday, November
4th. Sign up on the sheet in the Russell
Room or contact Duane and Brenda Thompson at
410-4053.

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

The Membership Committee will be meeting
on Thursday evening, November 9th, at 6:30.
The Education Committee will also be meeting
that same evening at 7:30 in Fellowship Hall.

THANK YOU

Our thanks to those who worked on yesterday's Rummage Sale. It was another successful Sale. Proceeds go to the Methodist Camp Service and to the John J. Risley Fund for the Homeless.

NOVEMBER NEWS SHEET

Lucy Dinnes will be glad to receive your articles and notices for the November issue of our monthly news sheet. Lucy's at the Christmas card table in the rear of the Russell Room.

FOR THOSE WHO SING

Members are always welcome to audition to sing in the Choir. Rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings at 6:15 pm in the downstairs Choir Room.

CHURCH FAIR ENTERTAINMENT

Those interested in participating, please contact Eva Patton (627-0268) or Sandra Van Cleve (952-5334). Soloists, instrumentalists and carolers are needed!

NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN

The date is December 10th and persons interested in strengthening a tie with the Church this Fall are invited to be in touch with Mr. Clarke as soon as possible!

1990 FINANCIAL CANVASS KICK-OFF

The 1990 Every Member Financial Canvass "kick-off" begins today. Twelve Team Captains have been recruiting canvassers to assist them in contacting each member and friend of the Church to encourage their financial stewardship. Our church's 1990 programs and ministries will be made possible by our returning to the Lord a portion of our substance, of His abundant gifts to us. (Read Matthew 6: 19 - 34).

The stewardship of our financial resources is an important Christian responsibility. The need for God's work through our Church is great. Our resources will be more than equal to the task if we will entrust our stewardship decisions to God through prayer and thanksgiving. (Read 1st Timothy 6: 17 - 19 and Psalms 24 and 100).

OKTOBERFEST TODAY AT FOUR

The Adult Fellowship Committee is sponsoring its second annual Oktoberfest today from 4 - 6 pm in the Russell Room. The party is for kids, but adult helpers get to share in the fun of carnival games and fall festivities. Carl Condra, coordinator.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Orders will be taken for Christmas cards at coffee hour for the next five Sundays. All orders must be prepaid. Remember there is no sales tax.

VISITORS: Sunday, October 22, 1989

Weather: partly sunny. Low fifties. Breezy, too.

Attendance: 140 adults in church plus 12 on retreat plus
25 children. Total: 177

1988: 158	1982: 188	1976: 147
1987: 180	1981: 165	1975: 172
1986: 147	1980: 180	1974: 155
1985: 208	1979: 191	1973: 146
1984: 165	1978: 190	1972: 163
1983: 181	1977: 160	1971: 119

1. IT Miss Cheryl Muncie: 235 East 95th Street
New York, New York 10128
Telephone: 735 -5714

Pink card. Letter. First United Methodist, Plano (?), Texas.
24 - 29 age group. Interested in Church. Greeted before service
in narthex. Coffee hour. About 5'4", dark hair. Met quite a
few folks.

2. IT Miss Joan D. Kotzenberg: 100 Beekman Street
New York, New York 10038
Telephone: 233 -0598

Pink card. Letter. Member of John Street United Methodist.
Coffee hour. Forties. May be "shopping around" for a new
Church home (PC).

3. IT Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Likis: 200 East 89th Street Apt. 25 G
New York, New York 10128
Telephone: 410 -5937

Pink card. Letter. Oriental couple greeted at door where
Sharon picked up their names and address. (Nice going, Sharon).
It looks like "Likis". No name for wife. He's about 33 ish.
Glasses. She's slim and about 5'3".

4. IT Miss Lizzie Mary Brought: 2340 7th Avenue
New York, New York 10030
Telephone: 690 -0998

Pink card. Letter. Signed card....Hickory Hill, Bronx. Church ???
Something about coming as a guest of Lynn Tucker...could be.
Anyway, go ahead with a letter and see what happens.

(over)

5. OT Miss Karen Starheim: Vienostad
Norway

It's doubtful if a letter would ever reach her...so no need to try. Travelling through....coffee hour. May be back for a second Sunday with us. Middle aged woman, architect, and interesting to talk to.

A NEW ADDRESS:

1. Miss Filomena Browne: 164 West 79th Street, 3 C
New York, New York 10024

Joseph Browne's daughter....she's still here, but rest of family has returned to Fiji. Make note of new address. She's a member.

BACK AGAIN

1. John Kasma - note spelling of name. Adult Bible Class.
 2. Gigi Harris
 3. Walter Schmidt - Adult Bible Class
 4. Angelika Hade - Walter's girl friend. Adult Bible Class.
 5. Daphney Thompson
 6. Isaac Newton - he sure looks like Jim Perkins
 7. Cynthia Koontz: off to California for a week or two.
 8. Vera Allick
 9. Mimi Hayasaka - brought Japanese friend with her.
 10. Boga - with uncle, Ben ???
 11. Gilson and Jean Zimmerman Grey
 12. Cory Abernathey - thinking about membership.
 13. Mary Kathryn Holden - three in a row.
 14. Jay Zimmerman
 15. Alex Lunn: third visit...coffee hour.
 16. Sandra Jung
 17. Al Thomas
 - * 18. David and Holly Moffett: 140 West 69th Street, Apt. 118. Recently married and second visit to us. New PINK CARD for them.
 - * 19. Glenn Wright: 3rd in a row. New address for Glenn. 170 West 74th Street, Apt. 512. NYC, NY 10023. Do a PINK CARD.
 - * 20. Cheryl Findling. Husband's name is Robert. She resembles Amy Ruttenberg. Fourth or fifth visit. Husband's a pediatrician ?? at Sinai. ?? 150 East 85th Street address is correct. New PINK CARD
6. IT Miss Yvonne Russell: 435 East 86th Street, Apt.#4F
New York, NY 10028

Pink card. Letter.