

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, November 27, 1994

GREETING / VISITORS

- A. We take this moment to greet the visitors in today's congregation. Delighted....and we hope we'll have opportunity to greet you in a more personal way....be free....come, worship and come, work with us...
- B. You worship in a church whose ROOTS are deep....doing the Lord's work here at this busy corner of His Kingdom since 1837. Fourth building out of which....we minister in the name of Christ and it is in His..
- C. Members: wear your name tags. Make some new friends. "No strangers here...only friends who have not yet met".

PARISH CONCERNS

- A. Parish concerns are there for you in the bulletin. Review them on your own noting...."Hounds of Heaven", Tuesday evening, and a new book. Secure a copy from Mr. Bonwitt. "Whose Birthday Is It Anyway?" Note, too, that the Administrative Council has a meeting "in the works" for Tuesday, December the 6th.
- B. Envelopes for the Christmas Flowers and decorations are in the pew. The amount received usually determines what we do around the church in the coming weeks in terms of Christmas wreaths, trees, pointsettias.
- C. And our thanks for the generous response to our Thanksgiving appeal. Went over our budgeted goal and we are grateful for your response!
- D. A word regarding the Financial Canvass. We enter the FIFTH and final week. Would love to "wrap it up" by the end of this month. To date, we have received 150 pledges and \$ 125,000. Still need another 100 pledges - any amount - and \$ 50,000....to underwrite next year's budget. It's going well....I think we can do it. Let's go ahead and do it!
- E. Post Fair concerns. Three Sundays left to place your order for Christmas cards with Suzanne downstairs. Also holiday pecans are on sale. And thanks again to all of you who helped to make this year's Fair so successful.
- F. Today's preacher is Mr. William Bonwitt, our assistant minister. A second year seminarian at UTS here in the city, Bill Bonwitt joined our staff here in July and is wellknown already to most of you. We anticipate his message to us this morning and hope he's feeling better. Suffering from a bad cold this past week....he's a new grandfather, too....as I announced last Sunday.

DECEMBER APPROACHES

- A. December is approaching. The children will be with us every Sunday from now through Christmas. Lighting the Advent wreath. We have two or three baptisms "in the works"...so don't miss out on those beautiful moments.
- B. Two weeks from today, in addition to the baptism of Ilya Ryan DaCosta, we shall be receiving new members into the church. If any of our new friends are tempted with the thought of strengthening a tie with our church at this time, share word with me...with Mr. Bowwitt, or Doug McPheters (chair of our Membership Committee). We have between 12 and 15 who are leaning in that direction and there may be others.
- C. Our NYC church depend on the fresh enthusiasm and the energy and commitment of new friends....people "come and go"...."Lone Ranger" Christians can make a difference once they get tied in....we minister to a parade a people....as I have learned in the 38 years I have been pastor of this church! Said Wesley:
- "If your heart is as my heart is...then
come, give me your hand....."
- D. Next Sunday...community carol sing and the lighting of the trees on Park Avenue. Dr. Anderson of the Brick Church has invited me to help "throw" the switch that turns the lights on the trees....next Sunday. Hope to see you there.

OFFERING

- A. Jesus said:

"It is more blessed to give than it
is to receive". In this spirit then,
let us worship God with our morning
offering.

PASTORAL PRAYER: November 27, 1994

LORD, that we are alive,
that the ground is firm beneath our feet,
that rest can compensate for toil,
that food is plentiful and delicious to our taste,
that earth might be fair and all her sons be blest,

THY NAME BE PRAISED!

LORD, we thank You for dear friends who really care,
for ways that open when doors seem shut,
for the reality of forgiveness - human and divine,
for major purposes that make life's minor
irritations bearable,
for the assurance that more things are wrought by
prayer than this world dreams.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOURSELF

The ground and source of every good, and especially for
Your love that no resistance can diminish, and
no need exhaust.

With all your people in every corner of creation, we count
it joy to praise YOUR name, and
to give YOU thanks for the many blessings of life.

WE PRAY this day for those who are finding life to be hard.

Make us sensitive to those who feel pain,
who know stress and deep anguish,
knowing that it is a matter of grace and not merit that
we ourselves are not there.

WE PRAY for ourselves, ashamed that we have done so little with so much,
yet struggling to offer YOU a more obedient service.

Give us keener self-understanding - as keen as we can bear
at one sitting, lest we think of ourselves more highly,
or lowly than we ought to think.

Give us a sense of what is truly important in life, lest we
squander our time and waste our energies and money on
the tinsel of life.

Give us a due regard for our unity with all people, lest we
think in small patterns and exclusive ways and forget
that You are the Lord of all the earth, Lord of all
the people.

(over)

WE ASK FOR OURSELVES the most meaningful ADVENT SEASON we have ever had.

Drive us to our knees,
to the Book,
to an awareness of our sin,
to a careful searching of our virtues,
to a serious examination of words and terms so
glibly sung or spoken.

AND GRANT that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year,

We may have something more to show for our much
running about than tired feet, wrapped presents,
grumpy spirits, empty pocketbooks and regrets for
cards not sent and gifts not given.

All this we ask in the name and spirit of Jesus
Christ, born in the manger of Bethlehem.

ADVENT SUNDAY / ADVENT BANNER AND WREATH

ADVENT SUNDAY Today is Advent Sunday which marks the beginning of a new church year. Advent Sunday ushers in the Christmas Season. I always like to think that from here on it's OK for us to sing Christmas carols here in church....it's OK to start sending out our Christmas cards and do our Christmas shopping.

Advent Sunday is special for us...and that's why the children are down here with us....to help us light the first candle on our Advent wreath.

We have the first of our red Advent banners hanging over here on the wall. As some of you may remember from last year, each Sunday in Advent....and there are four Sundays....each Sunday has a special word or emphasis. Today the word is HOPE. And this is our HOPE banner.

I like to think that Jesus always brings hope into a situation... into a life. Without hope we would be in trouble. It's confidence in the future.

WREATH Now we're going to light the first candle on our Advent wreath. This candle speaks to us of HOPE.

MONIQUE BARTON is going to light our candle of hope for us...and that will be followed by a prayer and a carol.

"We pause in these moments to thank you, O God, for the light that came into our world long ago in the birth of Jesus, Your Son....and we think, too, of the HOPE that His spirit always brings into a situation, into a life.

We thank you for the red banner on the wall of our church that reminds us that HE continues to be the HOPE of our world. And for the touches of red and green that now begin to remind us that Christmas is coming, we thank you. And we thank you, too, for these boys and girls who give us hope and confidence for the future of our world. Bless them and their homes.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

CAROL: No. 216 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming". First and last verse

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ADVENT SUNDAY

Today is Advent Sunday. It marks the beginning of a new Church year...the first Sunday of the Christian calendar. As Christians, we can say to each other today, "Happy New Year!"

Advent Sunday is special and that's why the children of our Sunday School are here with us...to sing and to light the Advent candle.

The first of our four red banners is over here on the wall. The four Sundays in Advent all have a special emphasis. Today is hope... brought by the light of His coming. Jesus always brings hope and light whenever He comes.

ADVENT WREATH

For many centuries in Europe, this week before Advent Sunday was a time for the family to gather greens from the countryside and then to make the family Advent wreath. A lovely custom.

We have an Advent wreath, made possible for us by Krista Wolf... a member...and this is the 17th year in a row that Krista has done this for us and we are grateful.

Each Sunday we will have one of the children light one candle on the wreath. Today it is the candle of HOPE. And by the time we arrive at Christmas Eve...three weeks from now, all four candles will have been lit and will speak to us of the hope, the peace, the love and the joy that Jesus brings to us.

Allegra Johnson is lighting the candle of hope and I would suggest the children sing and then we'll light the candle and have a prayer together.

PRAYER

"We thank you, O God, for the light that came into our world in the Baby Jesus...and for the hope He always brings.

Bless these beautiful children...the homes from which they come...the mothers and fathers who love them and care for them....the teachers who teach them....to walk in Your way.

For these touches of red and green that remind us that Christmas is coming, we thank you. In the spirit of Christ, we pray. Amen."

HYMN

No. 216 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming". (Verses 1 and 2)

INTRODUCTION

Some of you may remember how JACK BENNY use to make America laugh....helping us to overcome our Depression blues....and then in the forties, helping us to deal with our Wartime anxieties....Sunday evenings, at 7:30...stretched out on the living room floor, listening to our radios...

Hating to stingy. Remember that episode where a burglar breaks into his home, part with and holds a gun to his head demanding, "MR. BENNY...YOUR MONEY OR YOUR his dollarsLIFE!" And there was complete silence....then a second time, "YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE". Again, silence....some thought their radios had gone off. Then a third time: "MR. BENNY...YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE"....

Then that marvelously timed, "I'M THINKING...I'M THINKING".

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DEVELOPMENT

Chances are that many of you are "thinking" about your pledge of financial support to the church for 1995...we hope you are.

Let me add some facts for you to reflect upon as you decide what your gift for the year ahead will be...

1. End of WEEK I....51 cards are "in"....12 more than last year at the end of the first week....and 20 of those 51 have taken "another step up in caring"....
2. Those 51 total: \$ 47,854. Less than the 39 received last year the first week....they totalled \$ 48,374. This means we're ahead on the number of pledges, but \$ 520 behind on the dollar amount.
3. Remember our goal: 250 pledges and \$ 172,500. Last year or this present year of 1994, we received 248 pledges and managed to go over the dollar amount which then was \$ 165,000.
4. But last year we also received 55 new pledges...which helped us out tremendously. Hopefully, we'll do as well this year.
5. Long ways to go...next Sunday is DEDICATION Sunday. It would be wonderful to do it all in one month and raise the budget.
6. In the transition from one year to the next - this year we shall probably lose by members moving away....25 pledges representing \$ 20,000. Our work is cut out for us.

CANVASS REPORT / COMPARISONS

For Period Ending WEEK ONE:
(Friday, 5 pm)

1995 Canvass:

51 pledges "in"

for

\$ 47,854.00

1994 Canvass / End of WEEK ONE:

39 pledges "in"

\$ 48,374.00

COMMENTS:

Running ahead of last year on the number of pledges received....ahead by 12....but \$ 520.00 behind on the dollar amount.

NUMBER INCREASED:	24
NUMBER DECREASED:	3
NEW PLEDGES:	0
REMAINING THE SAME:	24

CANVASS COMMENTS

7. Yesterday's mail brought several non-resident friends pledges...2 from SC....one from California. In all 2three instances, those people have been gone from NYC for at least 25 years...reminding me once again of ~~the~~ how much this church has meant to others across the years while in this city.
8. Those of us who are here will do our part, I'm sure...so we place this on your hearts and ask you to let your thinking and budget reflection lead you to action....today...this week...
9. Someone has said:

"HE GIVES TWICE WHO GIVES PROMPTLY"

My wife said I'm not sure I understand....smiling, I replied, "if you've ever been involved in raising funds for the church, for a college, for a community cause....then you'll understand....." Respond quickly and promptly and give J8m Perkins and the members of the Finance Committee the joy that comes from getting the message out and receiving a prompt and generous response. It helps.

10. Bless you and a special thank you to the 51 persons who have already responded. Let's add another 100 pledges between now and next Sunday!

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INSTRUCTIONS: Ushers, Christmas Eve

SECURITY

Always a concern on Christmas Eve! Watch out. Coats and collection especially are a concern on Christmas Eve. Someone should be in and around the narthex from the time of opening to closing.

CANDLES

Distribute with bulletins as people enter the church.

COLLECTION AND CANDLE-LIGHTING

Four men needed. Take to the Fourth Floor.

CLOSING-UP

Help PC. No custodian. Pick up candles, bulletins. Help PC get ready for Sunday morning.

LIGHTING / CHRISTMAS EVE (December 24, 1982)

The lighting for the Christmas Eve Service is most important in setting the proper mood of worship. I'd suggest the following light settings and cues for change.

7 - 8: We'll open the church around 7 and would suggest a low light in the sanctuary ... about 70.

8: When the choir and PC come up for the Call to Worship then the lights get turned up slowly to 80. As PC says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great LIGHT"...start to bring them up at that cue.

They stay at 80 through the early part of the service... about half an hour. If you think it's too bright, bring them down a bit...a soft, warm light is what we like on Christmas Eve.

But people need enough light to read the lines for the hymns.

8:30: Listen out for "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"...that's getting to the next cue. After we sing it, Lee goes to the lectern to read some scripture passages that speak of darkness and light...begin to bring lights down to about 70.

8:40: Around this time, when you start to hear "O Little Town of Bethlehem" you'll know that we're getting near the candle lighting...

After I give the light to the ushers then begin to pull the lights down very SLOWLY...so people aren't even aware.

As the candles of the worshippers are lighted, we bring the lights down to about 35...just a touch of light on the under part of the fixtures shows through.

PC will handle the lights in the chancel next to the organ... and will bring those down slowly and leave some light on the cross...

The choir sings "O Holy Night" in the semi-lighted church.

Then we all sing "Silent Night", semilighted..candle light.

PC does a Christmas Prayer.

Then all sing "Angels We Have Heard on High".

You may have to bring up the lights very slowly to give a bit of light for the people to see...not much...just a touch of light.

9:00 PC gives Benediction from back of Church in candlelight. Bring lights up to 50 at organ postlude for people to see.

70 ish
↓
80 ish
↓
75 ish
↓
35 ish