

**First Advent Address  
By Dr. Rondthaler**

**Story of Luke Made an  
Interesting Study**

Dr. Howard E. Rondthaler, President of Salem College and Academy made the first of his two pre-Advent talks at Y. P. M., Wednesday, December 10. After many announcements heralding the approach of the Christmas season were made, Dr. Rondthaler stated that he would attempt to interpret the story of the birth of Christ in the second chapter of Luke by means of an interesting study and reading of the chapter.

He predicted that each student would have a Christmas full of song, beauty, celebration and decoration; he suggested that the approaching holidays would be much happier and more successful if, back of the usual outward display, there were hearts full of the true Christmas spirit. Dr. Rondthaler led his audience back to the one original source of Christmas, the birth of Christ, by reading a part of the second chapter of Luke. This chapter has been read probably more times than any other Bible chapter, and has been carefully studied more than any other piece of writing in the world. Almost always the chapter is read as a whole. However, Dr. Rondthaler went into the heart of the story, search by sentence, word and syllable, with a reverent scientific spirit to discover some of the hidden meanings of this beautiful narrative. He took an intensive approach, and measured the story, grammatical construction by grammatical construction, word by word.

Luke, a physician, wrote this version of the birth of Christ with linguistic accuracy and ability, having heard it many times from his fellow-townsmen. His story differs in many ways from the same story written by other authors. In this chapter absolute evidences of Aryan linguistic origin are to be found. His affectionate fidelity of Luke, who, in the village dialect, transcribed a literal story of Christ's birth, and the loving tenderness of this scientific-minded physician are noteworthy. Dr. Rondthaler compared this story of Luke's which links modern civilization with an ancient Rome, to an antique milestone in London which ties the imperial city of Caesar Augustus to faraway modern London.

Luke, unlike John, gave the definite scientific, historical background of time that the modern questioning world needs. In his telling of a spiritual story, Luke mentions details, such as Roman laws, winding roads, the occupation of the shepherds, that give a more than adequate setting for the story. With instinctive accuracy, historic dignity, literary ability, and loving understanding, Luke brought forth this masterpiece which generations of men have lauded and loved.

Dr. Rondthaler showed that the Greek influence was noteworthy in the story and commented favorably on the author's fitting choice of words. Renard has said of this story which was well interpreted in the Chapel period, that no story on earth equalled it in its matchless beauty of theme and delicacy of presentation.

**Concert Given by  
School of Music**

**Varied Program Handled With  
Skill and Artistic  
Sympathy**

The advanced students of the Salem College School of Music were heard in a fine program of piano, organ, violin and vocal music at Memorial Hall last Monday night. This outstanding musical event of the season thus far embraced pupils of Dean Charles G. Vardell, Ernest L. Schofield and Hazel Horton Head.

The opening number was a Bach "Prelude and Fugue in C Major," played by Miss Ruth Marsden, organist. Miss Marsden demonstrated her ability to cope with the contrapuntal intricacies of this majestic work.

Miss Elizabeth M. Clougherty was heard in Handel's Sonata in E Major for violin, a number rich in melodic beauty and typically Handelian in its sturdiness and eloquent content. Miss McClaugherty gave an intelligent and sympathetic interpretation, showing at all times fine sense of color.

Mrs. Harold Swain, Mezzo-soprano, sang "Beloved, It Is I," by Aylward and "Immortals" by Walker. In both of these numbers Mrs. Swain displayed to fine advantage a powerful voice of dramatic quality.

In Schumann's Nocturne in E Major, Miss Agnes Pollock achieved real romantic effect in her interpretation of this miniature novel.

"Her Rose" by Coombs and the fitting "Boat Song" by Harriett Ware were sung effectively by Mrs. Charles O. Delancy.

One of the high lights of the program was the D Minor Concerto op. 23 by MacDowell. Miss Dorothy Thompson gave a splendid performance of this famous composition.

Miss Elizabeth Rose pleased her audience with her selections, "If Thou Wert Blind" by Johnson and "Corals" by Treharne.

The organ Sonata in F Minor by Rheinberger, played by Miss Mary Ann Mathewson was an appealing number. Miss Mathewson displayed a genuine understanding of Sonata form.

George Dickleson, violinist, was heard in the Romanza Andalus by Pablo Sarasate. This number gave Mr. Dickleson an opportunity to demonstrate his excellent technical equipment.

Isis's "Etude in D flat," known as "a sigh," with its richness of tinting gave Miss Elizabeth Willis ample scope for her musical powers. The rich contralto voice of Mrs. J. Russell Perkins was heard in "Possession" by Sharpe and the popular "Hills" by La Forge. Mrs. Perkins sang both songs with sincerity and a discriminating use of contrast.

Miss Annie Sue Sheets sang "Una Voce Poco Fa" from Rossini's delightful opera, "The Barber of Seville." Miss Sheets possesses a clear high coloratura voice which she used effectively.

The program was brought to a close when Miss Millicent Ward, accompanied by Dean Vardell at the organ, played the Allegro Affettuoso movement from Schumann's Concerto in A Minor. This gorgeous work makes great demands upon both the tonal and technical resources of the pianist but throughout the hauntingly lovely melodies and intricate rhythms, Miss Ward proved herself quite equal to the occasion.

The accompanists for the vocal and violin numbers were Miss Ruth Marsden, Miss Dorothy Thompson and Miss Nancy Ann Harris.

**Impressive Pageant  
By Salem Academy**

**Christmas Carols Sung in the  
Medaeval Spirit**

A Christmas pageant of impressive dignity was given by the members of Salem Academy in Memorial Hall on Thursday afternoon. Beautiful Christmas carols were sung in the medaeval spirit. The tableaus of "The Holy Night" was a splendid reproduction of Correggio's painting, in which the shepherds were worshipping the Christ-child. The program of the Christmas Caroling included:



- PRELUDE—Noel Polonaise
- Miss Ruth Marsden
- GOOD CHRISTMAS MEN RECITATIVE
- FOURTEENTH CENTURY Melody
- BINGO A TORCIS JEANETTE, ISABELLA
- Old French Carol
- BORN IS HE
- Old French Folk Tune
- PROFESSIONAL
- "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
- "Adeste Fideles"
- THE FIRST NOVELL
- Traditional Melody
- THE ANGELS AND THE SHEPHERDS
- Bohemian Carol
- CHRISTMAS STORY—(Luke 2, i-xv)
- Miss Eleanor Chase
- TABLEAU—"Holy Night"
- Correggio
- Mishew Crudup
- Jane Dewire
- Arabella Putnam
- Sadie Root
- Margaret McLean
- Lo, How A ROSE 'ER BLOOMING
- Sixteenth Century Melody
- MARCH OF THE KINGS
- Provençal Carol
- THREE KINGS OF THE ORIENT
- Hopkins
- Lunsford
- Polhemus
- Rondthaler
- WHAT CHILD IS THIS
- Old English Melody
- O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
- Redner
- HESI, MY DEAR
- Johann Sebastian Bach
- SILENT NIGHT
- Haydn
- RECKSONAL—Joy to the World
- Handel
- POSTLUDE—Chorus of Shepherds
- Lennon
- Miss Ruth Marsden

**Members of English  
Forum in Vespers**

**Christmas Program is Delightfully  
Varied With Songs  
And Recitations**

The Spirit of Christmas was the theme of Vespers Sunday night, and was impressed on those present by a beautifully appropriate service. The audience was first invoked to reverent worship with the playing of the prelude, Chopin's lovely "Valse" by Wanna Mary Huggins. Then followed the opening sentence of the choir, the responsive reading of the Scripture foretelling the birth of Christ, and the hymn, "It Came Upon the Mid-night Clear."

The English Forum which formerly entertained Salem so well at Y. P. M. took charge of the rest of the program. Each girl read with

**Interesting Origin of  
Christmas Celebration**

**Salem Clings to Old Christmas  
Customs of the Moravians**

The celebration of Christmas is essentially the same throughout the Christian world, but each locality has its own set of precedents for its observance. We are particularly fortunate here in "The Christmas City" that we have come to know and to share in the rich heritage of Christmas traditions that were brought to Salem more than a century and a half ago by the first Moravian settlers.

In Salem, the putz, for one thing, is as much a part of the season, as are Santa Claus and the Christmas tree. "Putz" is no more than the German word for decoration, but the single word, plus seven hundred years of development, brings to our minds visions of the past. We see St. Francis of Assisi, building in his little Italian chapel the entire Christmas story in miniature, so that his poor, illiterate parishioners might, by the aid of the physical representation, come to know better the Bible story which they could not read. How the simple peasants loved the little manger and the candles and the stars of the Wise Men. No wonder that they kept up the custom long after God St. Francis had passed away. As the years rolled along, they could not read the customs with them into the far land of the barbarians—into Germany and France, and there, too, the people liked to see in miniature the scenes which they were told about as Christians. Of course, there were no Protestant churches, then, but after a long time, Martin Luther told people that they should be allowed to read all of the Bible; that many of the customs which they had observed were wrong. After that the grown people did not need the putz, for they could now read the great Gospels in their own language, but they clung to the old Christmas custom especially because the children loved it. Sometimes, they would add to the Biblical scene in the putz. There would be a rural scene, showing a farmhouse and chickens; or there would be a city with its houses and churches, and some people led about the nativity scene, but when they did that, they omitted the real putz.

The German Moravians brought the delightful custom to Pennsylvania, and they came to Salem and at this Christmas season, in dozens of homes, you will find, at the foot of the Christmas tree, perhaps on a raised platform, a wonderful putz. There will be the nativity scene—the manger stable and the singing angels; there will be the shepherds and the wise men, and in the distance, the domed roofs of Bethlehem. When you see a putz, stop before it and say, "Here is a bit of the past that has come down to us."

Christmas cakes" belong to the tradition of the Christmas that we cherish, too. They are delicate, patterned, brown spice cookies, cut in all sorts of shapes—hearts and diamonds, of course, but maple leaves and oak leaves! flowers and men and women and little boys and girls and all of the animals in the Noah's Ark. They could be made throughout the year, of course, but the anticipation of the savory odor that heralds the first "batch" would be lost. "Christmas cakes" are made with great care from treasured recipes, always at the same time, and always in the same way. They are as much a part of the season as the putz.

A well-known author has called Salem the city "Where the Star Still Shines." in a physical, as well as in a spiritual sense, she could not have chosen a more appropriate name. Whoever you see this year you will see, hanging on the porch, the many-pointed red or white stars that, like

**Interesting Topic Subject  
Of Debate**

**Pro and Con of Quarter and  
Semester System Discussed**

On Tuesday evening, December ninth, Sigma Omicron Alpha held its regular monthly meeting. The subject was one peculiarly pertinent to Salem: Resolved that Salem shall have the quarter system instead of the semester system of school. With the quarter system, there are four quarters of three months, during the year; three in the ordinary school term and the fourth during the summer. During each quarter three subjects are studied five of six days a week and what is ordinarily carried through a semester is finished in twelve weeks.

The affirmative was taken by Frances Douglas and, in the absence of the second speaker, Mr. McDonald, while Anne Plesley and Mary Banner Fulton took the negative position.

The first speaker, on the affirmative took the position of the scholastic advantages of the quarter system. She stated that since the subject was studied every day, there was more concentration given it. In this way a mastery of the subject was more easily attained, and a well rounded view of the subject gained.

The points the negative upheld were: the rarity of the quarter system since the semester out numbered it twenty to one, and the consequent trouble of transfer of credits. She next stated that from a psychologist's standpoint, slight respite from a subject enabled one to grasp it better. The semester method permitted variation, and not such a narrow view of culture.

The second affirmative speaker emphasized the practicability of the quarter system. It fits into the scheme of holidays far better than does the old method. In the former way a course is finished before Christmas, the examination is taken and the vacation free from the worry of the final. It to be endured two weeks after returning. The same is true of the Easter holidays. The summer courses fit more easily into the winter program. The quarter system enables a student to graduate in three years, a thing quite difficult to do in the other method. Then in the case of a failure, the student does not suffer the double penalty of repeating the course a whole year after flunking it, and of having to continue the course suffering the limitation of not having grasped sufficiently the first semester.

The second negative held to the difficulties of the administrative changes necessary, involving greater expense and a larger faculty.

The impromptu debate considered the following serious subject: Resolved that a monale is more useful than spats. Essie Hendricks upheld the honor of the spats while Louise Stevenson defended the monale.

