



## Christmas Regained

Christmas is a very happy time of the year, and yet, a sad time of the year for some people. An explanation can be found in the "Christmas Carol", by Charles Dickens. For most people, Scrooge is a mean, insensitive, stingy old man. Yet behind his "Bah, humbug" mask of hostile indifference is gross unhappiness. The First of The Three Spirits gives Scrooge glimpses of his early childhood when he is a lonely, neglected boy in a schoolroom. When he is a young man Belle breaks their engagement saying, "You fear the world too much. All your other hopes have merged into the hope of being beyond the chance of the world's sordid reproach. I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master-passion, Gain, engrosses you."

Then the spirit shows him a lonely, disgruntled, old man who has material wealth, but poverty in spirit. Ebenezer Scrooge has lost the ability to respond to his deepest yearnings. But, at the end of the story, Scrooge suddenly loses his meanness; his unhappiness and becomes a kind, happy man. Happiness as an instant replacement for sadness, without the struggle that accompanies such a change, can only be imagined or fantasied. The lasting happiness of Christmas is found in the acts of Christmas. Trusting. Hoping. Giving.

Trust is noticeable in the marked reduction of distrust and prejudice in relationships during the holidays. Sincere good wishes are extended to all, without concern for race, creed or color, with the genuine hope, that they will be accepted and returned in kind. We see this in such gestures, as two strangers exchanging holiday greetings, or as a brief truce in time of war. Such gestures stem from man's desire to trust without reservations, a quality known only by a little child. Hope is expressed by our genuine good wishes for the New Year, although undaunted hope is a quality known only by a child, who has never tasted disappointment.

In the act of giving gifts, we attempt to bring happiness to others, to take a chance in selecting a gift that will produce happiness for the person who receives it. Uninhibited giving or risking of one's self in a gesture to another person, is a quality known only to a little child who has never known rejection. We may never be able to reclaim the uninhibited abilities to trust, hope and give, that we once had. However, we can, in spite of the limitations in life, trust, hope and give of ourselves sufficiently to know happiness and contentment through the struggles of life...  
Chaplain Aitken.



## NURSE ANESTHETISTS GRADUATE



Congratulations to grads of the Duke School of Nurse Anesthesia, an intensive two-year course for registered nurses who want to specialize in the field of Anesthesia. The above young women will graduate on Jan. 10, 1968. Sitting left to right: Patricia Palmer, Marilyn Friedman, Mrs. Alma George, and Janice Beck. Standing left to right: Scottie Crowder, Imogene Weston, Mrs. Shirley Clemmer Blake, Miss Mary B. Campbell, Director School of Anesthesia, Winifred Doll, Kerstin Sjoberg, from Sweden, and Gloria Jackson.



## Elon Clark to Direct Art Evaluation Project

As of January 1, Elon Clark, Professor, Medical Art & Illustration, will be Project Director of an Art Evaluation Project in Duke Medical Center. Professor Clark has served the Center for thirty-four years, has extensive art training, is interested in this undertaking, and therefore is the logical candidate for the job. He has been relieved of his present responsibilities as Coordinator of Medical Art for a six month period and will devote full time to the project. Mr. Robert Blake, Associate Director of Medical Art, will be Acting Director during Prof. Clark's absence. The purpose of the project is to locate, identify, describe, appraise and catalogue all art objects owned or on loan to the Medical Center and to establish an adequate insurance program.

"We are most fortunate that we still have with us the very founders of our outstanding medical center," Professor Clark said, "and each of these founders has provided much to our history." But nothing has been recorded so far on the acquisition of our works of art - oil paintings, water colors, rare prints and bronze busts. Complete and accurate information on these objects is vital to our archives. This center is expanding at such a rapid rate that these objects can be lost, misplaced or damaged unless they have the proper regulations and care, along with an established protocol and outlined procedure for handling the acquisition of future works of art from donors or benefactors. This project will benefit Duke in keeping their properties in order, is regarded as a pilot study for a major undertaking on a university basis, and has been funded through the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.