

# Church

## "This is my body which is given up for you; this do in remembrance of me" Sunday school lesson

### LOVE FACES THE CROSS

(Luke 22:1-2;7-23)

"This is my body which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me—This cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you." (Luke 22:19-20).

Jesus had come into the area of Jerusalem six days prior to the feast of the passover, and took temporary residence in Bethany, two miles from Jerusalem. On Sunday (Our lesson two weeks ago) He rode into Jerusalem as a conqueror. The happy passover crowd hailed Him as King, as indeed he was. On Monday, as he had done at the beginning of His public ministry, He drove the merchants and money changers out of the temple.

Throughout the days prior to His arrest, He taught in the temple to crowds of people who gathered spon-

taneously. His teaching was fresh and powerful, and it was personal. No doubt some in His audiences had seen Him on occasion in Judea, or Galilee, during the past three years. Nearly all, we may surmise, heard of His mighty works.

We can almost hear them exclaiming, "This Jesus of Nazareth casts out demons, heals the blind and the lame and raises the dead to life again." Sounds wonderful, doesn't it? Indeed it was for the moment. Yet, the storm clouds which had begun to gather many months earlier in Jesus' public ministry, had now moved over Jerusalem. It would be many days before the sun would shine again for Jesus' disciples.

### THE TIME AND THE TROUBLE

(Luke 22:1-2)

It is hardly possible for us Christians living today to fully compre-

hend the impact that Christ's Gospel had on Palestine in general, and Judaism's religionists in particular. When John the Baptist began preaching "the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand" he was the first prophet the people had heard in more than four hundred years; the people were hungry to hear "thus sayeth the Lord" once again.

The coming of Jesus with His teaching of love and forgiveness was disrupting organized religion. His followers and now numbered in multitudes wherever He went. The religious leaders counseled together and decided that this Christian movement had to be stopped for they were losing control of the people. To be sure, some of the leaders believed Jesus to be authentic, mainly however, they believed Him to be a Messiah

charlatan. The Scripture relates, however, that they plotted to kill Him.

### THE PLACE AND THE PREPARATION

(Luke 22:7-13)

It should be noted that Jesus was a Jewish boy, raised in a Jewish home. As such, He studied the Scriptures regularly. During His ministry He attended the synagogue, or temple, on the Sabbath—He taught in the temple. He observed the Jewish feast days of commemoration. At this time He and His disciples were in Jerusalem to observe the feast of the passover.

Here "passover feast" means "the Lamb" that was the main part of the passover supper; the passover celebration commemorated their delivery from Egyptian servitude. The meal was to be prepared in a partic-

ular fashion and preparation was made. Eating the passover meal was a family affair. Jesus was preparing to eat the meal with His Christian family, the twelve Apostles, and in an upper room in a house in Jerusalem.

### THE MEAL AND MEMORIAL

(Luke 22:14-23)

"And when the hour was come, He sat down, and the twelve Apostles with Him." This was the last supper Jesus would share with His Apostles. One theologian noted that every passover lamb killed through the centuries was a prophecy of "the Lamb of God which would take away the sins of the world." Jesus is our passover. The next day following passover, Jesus, the Lamb would be slain.

His blood saves us from the death our sins deserve. Following the pas-

sover meal in the upper room, Jesus set forth a memorial that following generations should observe. It is called variously, The Lord's Supper, Communion, Sacrament, etc.; it was to become a central feature in Christian worship. Jesus said, "This do in remembrance of me." (vs 19) (Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons)

## Area church news Chorus to perform

The First United Methodist Church located on the corner of Church and Road Sts., Elizabeth City, will present the Yale Slavic Chorus in concert tonight (Thursday), March 12th at 8:00 p.m. Admission is free.

The Yale Slavic Chorus, a group of twenty women from the Yale and New Haven community, was founded sixteen years. They sing Eastern European women's folk music all of it a cappella, in ten Slavic languages and dialects, including Russian, Polish, Macedonian, Croatian, and Bulgarian.

The concert format is lively and in-

formative, including translations in English, and history and anecdotes about the music they perform. They have toured extensively both in this country and in Bulgaria and are planning a trip to Yugoslavia for this summer. In the past, they have performed with such fine folk groups as the Chieftains, in Boston's Symphony Hall, and have been hosted by Robert J. Lurtsema on WGBH's Morning Pro Musica. They have found an enthusiastic welcome in Slavic communities throughout the northeast and midwest United States and in Bulgaria.

## Fellowship to meet

The Perquimans County Fellowship Union Meeting at Bay Branch Union A.M.E. Zion Church, Belvidere community begins services at 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Thomas

McPherson and St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church will be in charge of the worship. The Rev. Walter L. Leigh is host pastor, and the Rev. J.H. London is president and founder.

## First Baptist schedule

The First Baptist Church Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. with the superintendent, R.B. Gibbs, in charge. Morning worship starts at 11:00 a.m. with the Rev. London, pastor, preaching from the subject "Cooperating With the Holy Spirit" John 16:7. The senior choir will sing under the direction of Barbara Shannon, or-

ganist. The First Baptist Church will be guest of the St. Mark Holiness of Edenton, N.C. Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. The Rev. London will preach from the subject "Jail House Rock." The J.H. London Crusaders Gospel Singers will sing. Elder Henry Moore is the host pastor.

## Rocky Hock sets revival

The Rocky Hock Baptist Church will hold its Spring Revival March 15-20, with the Reverend Ralph Knight as the guest speaker.

The Rev. Knight, a native of Durham, North Carolina, has a BA from Wake Forest College and a M.D. from Southern Seminary. His first pastorate was with the Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church in Tyner. He has also served churches in several other places in North Carolina, as well as in Virginia and in Kentucky. After retiring in 1984, he filled in as

Interim Pastor in several local churches. He is now Director of Missions of the Chowan Baptist Association. He and his wife, Mavis, have five grown children and thirteen grandchildren.

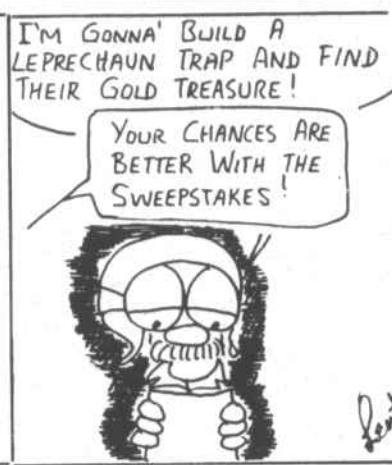
For good Gospel preaching, special music, and congregational singing, come and bring your whole family and worship with us. Everyone is invited! Services will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday and nightly at 7:30 p.m. Sunday through Friday. A nursery will be provided. Please join us!

## Hospice volunteer named

Susan Miller of Pasquotank County has been named Hospice Volunteer of the month for February 1987. Overnight stays and trips to Chesapeake General are just a few of the services Mrs. Miller performed as a volun-

teer. She is currently serving as Co-volunteer for two years. At least 55 hours of her own time were spent during February providing Hospice care.

## Scraps



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**Dear friends,**

Among the 'personal data' required on the deceased are: full name, birthplace and date, father's and mother's name, Social Security number, military service details, list of organizations and offices held. The latter information is valuable, not only for death benefits, but for participation in the funeral service. It is well for this data to be prepared in advance.

Respectfully,  
*Larry Swindell*

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## EVERYBODY NEEDS TO REPENT

Rev. John London  
Luke 13: 1-9

Jesus spoke this parable: A man had a fig tree growing in his vine yard, and he came out looking for fruit on it but did not find any. He said to the vinedresser, Look here! For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree and found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground? In answer, the man said, Sir, leave it another year while I hoe around it and manure it then perhaps it will bear fruit. If not, it shall be cut down.

The parable.

It is significant that Jesus used His remark about repentance in a brief parable about a non productive fig tree. The owner of the vineyard in which the tree grew ordered it cut down. Now that tree never hurt anyone. It was perfectly harmless. Like many "good" people, it was not making the world worse. But despite being given repeated opportunities, it had not produced fruit. It was not doing yfhe one thing for which it had been planted. Therefore, it should be removed.

We were created for fellowship with God, but we have turned away from Him and followed ways which may or may not have been obviously sinful, but they have not been His ways. We need therefore to repent, so that we can do the thing for which we were created-to be in fellowship with our Creator.

Repentance is imperative.

Father saying to his son, I want you to stop referring to the church as the Repentagon." But the little boy was right. The call to repent is a feature of our message that should not be hidden.

Jesus words to His audience in the Scripture before us shows us how imper-

ative repentance is. He did not say, Unless you repent you will be unhappy. He did not say, Unless you repent things will not go well for you. He said, Unless you repent you will all perish. Repentance then, is a matter of eternal importance.

More than guilt.

Obviously repenting is a human act, something which each one of us must do for himself or herself. But it is more than a weary recitation of our sins and shortcomings. It is more than a sense of sadness or an acknowledgement of guilt for our sins. It is, above all, a radical reorientation of our lives that gives God our central allegiance. It is allowing ourselves to be caught up in the way of Christ, and saying, ...It is His way that I choose. Frederick Buechner puts it well when he says, "True repentance spends less time looking at the past and saying, "I'm sorry, than to the future and saying, "Wow!"

The repentance that matters.

Grammatically, the word repentance is a noun, but in terms of our lives, it is an action verb. To repent means that we must act upon the awareness of our own sin. Sorrow over sin does little good if it only serves to make us ashamed. Many people are ashamed of their actions or their moral weaknesses. But shame alone can dishearten us, deflate our hope and aith, and leave us so disgusted with ourselves that we have not spirit left to do anything but sink deeper into our shame.

The repentance that Jesus calls for is the only kind that will do us some good. It is the kind that drives us first to our knees to say we are sorry, and then to our feet to walk with God each day.

## Cards of Thanks

People need people and friends need friends and we all need love and that's what you showed me. Thank you for your prayers, cards, telephone calls and all acts of kindness while I was a patient in Albemarle Hospital and at home. May God Bless You.

Patricia Hunter

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I want to thank the doctors and staff at the Chowan Hospital for the special care I received while I was in the hospital. Also, many thanks to my family and friends for their prayers, visits, ards, flowers and other acts of thoughtfulness.

Kines D. Copeland

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