

Christmas Eve Rites

Choir will sing "O Holy Christmas Morn," "Christmas Bell Carol" and "Earth Rejoice." Teresa Jolley will sing "Gesu Bambino." The Junior Choir will sing four parts from "What Gift Have I?"

The Senior Choir will sing the cantata, "Noel, Noel", under direction of Mrs. Aubrey Mauney.

at 11 p.m. followed by the Christmas meditation, "And God Said", by the pastor, and the lighting of candles at midnight. Featured as soloists will be Mrs. George Moore and Mrs. Ed Guter. Susan Plonk will be flutist. The Youth Choir will also sing, "Angels In Heaven."

The traditional Christmas Eve Service at St. Matthew's Lutheran church will begin at 11 o'clock. In the chancel of the church will be two large Christmas trees decorated with Christmas ornaments made by women of the church. Elaborately decorated, these Christmas ornaments are symbols for Christ which have been passed down through the centuries of Christian history. All are in white and gold, symbolizing the purity and majesty of the Son of God. Tiny white lights, reflecting the purity of the Saviour, illuminate the trees.

The congregation will sing Christmas hymns, and the choir will sing several anthems. There will be a solo by Miss Frances Summers.

The sermon by Pastor Charles W. Easley will be entitled, "HOW HIGH THE STABLE."

Yule Play Set Thursday

A Christmas play, "Dust On the Christmas Star", will be presented Christmas Eve night at 7 o'clock at Chestnut Ridge Baptist church.

The play is under the direction of Mrs. Wyona Pearson and the interested public is invited to attend.

Members of the cast will include: Jack Rayfield as John Sherman; Margaret Rayfield as Kate Sherman; Mary Grace Moore as Louise Baker; Ginger Nolan as Tammy; Bill Rogers as Ed; Jean Rogers as Linda; Mildred Moore as Jo; and Wylie Pitman as Andrews. Ushers will be Elsie Moore, Jean Falls, Billie Jean Rogers and Nancy Rayfield.

Special music will be rendered by the "Gay Trio", including Jean Falls, Nancy Rayfield and Sandy Rayfield.

Retailers

Most firms will be open until 9 p.m. Wednesday night but will close on normal schedule Christmas Eve.

With the exceptions of theatres and service stations, virtually all retail firms will be closed Christmas day.

Kings Mountain Drug Company will be open for prescription service from 2 to 4 p.m. Christmas afternoon. Medical Pharmacy will be closed all day. Griffin Drug Company will provide prescription service on call.

Late Classifieds

FOR RENT - Five-room house near Penley's Chapel church on Cherryville Road. All conveniences. Call B. D. Ratterree, phone 739-3114. 12:23-11m

Poem: Heart Of Christmas

By REG ALEXANDER

"It came upon a midnight clear," As so the lyrics tell, And songs proclaim the gospel news

The story known so well, Men and women, boys and girls Join to sing their parts.

Yet, it's so, true Christmas dwells Deep within our hearts.

A gift for you, a song to sing, A wonderland of snow

Yet recall the Christmas gift— One given long ago.

'Twas given by a loving hand To help us here on earth.

And angels in the glory realms Announced to men His birth.

The wise men from a land so far Found they the star in sky.

And followed it until it stopped O'erwhere the babe did lie.

The shepherds from the pastures near To see this child from Heaven sent—

He was the son of God. Now, Hark; and we can hear this day

The bells that peal their sound, Let's show good will, and have good cheer

And spread the news around, Let not a soul that you may meet

While going on your way, Pass by without the cheerfulness,

The gladness of this day, "Good tidings of great joy" have we.

So e're one do his part To set aside a special place

For Christmas in his heart

St. Luke's Story

them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not for, behold I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

LUTHERAN SERVICE

At St. Matthew's Lutheran church, next Sunday, the first Sunday after Christmas and also the Day of St. John, Apostle, Evangelist, Pastor Charles W. Easley's sermon title will be "Christmas Witnesses Two Days Later". The Junior Choir will sing Christmas anthems at this service.

Carolers Were Once Dancers

The first Christmas carols were danced to, according to Encyclopedia International. Carolers took hands and formed a ring, singing as they went round.

Oldest of all carols, it has been said, was that sung by the heavenly host when the birth of the Saviour was announced to the shepherds on the plains of Bethlehem. Probably, the practice of singing carols at Christmas arose in imitations of this, as the majority of carols declared the good tidings of great joy, and the title of Noel, nowell or novelle, applied to carols, would seem to bear out this idea.

BIRTHDAY NEWS...

"Nowell" or Noel" means birthday news or a "shoot of joy" for the birth of Christ.

The earliest carols were songs of the Nativity, the Incarnation and the Annunciation. Later, ones on shepherd themes and the Epiphany were composed, and there were also many of folk origin on the festivities of the Christmas season.

These latter included such songs as "The Holly and The Ivy." Many of the surviving old carols were originally part of the medieval mysteries and miracle plays.

FIRST IN LATIN

Christmas carols first were written in scholar's Latin. The Blessed Jacopone of Todi, of the Franciscan order, led the way to a wider enjoyment and appreciation of joyous Christmas songs by writing musical poems in the language of the common people.

The saint, who lived from about 1230 to 1306 A.D., had a good precedent for his interest in carols in St. Francis himself. To St. Francis is traced the creation of the first creche or manger scene and sang hymns to the Christ Child.

"THE BOAR'S HEAD"

"The boar's head in hand bear I, Bedecked with bays and rosemary."

"The Boar's Head Carol," source of this quotation, appeared in the first collection of English carols, printed in 1521, and is still sung on Christmas Day at Queens College, Oxford.

Other colleges of Oxford had their own versions of the song. "The boar is dead; lo, here is his head," remarked the carol sung at St. John's while "The boar's head in hand I bring. With garlands gay and bays singing" was the version heard at Balliol.

Even in early times, the "boar" romantically referred to as traditional at the feast was probably a pig. The wild boar is believed to have been extinct in Britain early in the 12th century.

FEAST OF STEPHEN...

"Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephen."

This familiar carol commemorates two famous men. One is King Wenceslas, who ruled Bohemia in the 10th century A.D. He was noted for his generosity to the poor, and practiced this generosity on Christmas and on St. Stephen's Day, December 26.

St. Stephen was the first Christian martyr, noted in legend as a follower of Christ who, at the time of the Nativity, had been in service of King Herod. When he was permitted to see the Star, he left Herod to serve the Child.

Today the "feast of Stephen" is remembered primarily because of the carol, "Good King Wenceslas." His day is now more commonly observed, especially in England and Canada, as Boxing Day, when presents are given to servants and others who have

rendered services throughout the year.

SHEPHERD MAIDEN...

Shepherds are familiar figures in Christmas stories and carols, such as "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night."

More novel, but equally established in tradition, is the story of the shepherdess who visited the stable on the first Christmas night.

"D'ou viens-tu bergere?" (or, "Whence Come You Shepherd Maiden?") was brought to Canada in the 17th century, by early French settlers. In the carol, a questioner asks the shepherdess where she has been and what she has seen, and she in turn describes the manger scene.

Yule Message Lives Anew

"And lo, the Star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was."

Matthew 2:9

"And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger."

Luke 2:16

From two who became His disciples come the words that tell the story of that Holy Night, the first Christmas. Matthew the tax collector wrote of the Star that shone in the east, and of wise men who followed it to find and worship Him.

Luke the physician wrote of shepherds watching in the fields and herald angels singing in the heavens.

At church services during this Christmas season the words of the tax collector and the physician will be read and studied once again, with ever-deepening meaning.

And as the story is told anew it is also reflected in the many observances of Christmas, both in churches and in homes.

The joyful sound of carols harks back to the first of all carols, the words of the heavenly host, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The glow of candles symbolize the birth of Christ as the Light of the World and it also mirrors the eternal gleam of the Star of Bethlehem.

The spirit of giving takes gold and silver from the gifts of the Wise Men, who brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to Him.

Above all, at Christmas, mankind experiences once again the reverence, wonder and rejoicing of the wise men, of whom Matthew says,

"And when they were come in to the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him"

KINGS MOUNTAIN Hospital Log VISITING HOURS

Daily 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., 3 to 4 p.m., and 7 to 8 p.m. Patient List at Kings Moun.

Mrs. Mary Della Short Mrs. Lytel Chandler Mrs. Lee Roy Davis Mrs. Willie Foler Mrs. James Gamble Mr. Willie Goode Mrs. Quillie Hambright Mrs. Dave Hartgrove Mrs. Charles Hord Mr. Noah Kinley Mr. Charles Lall Mr. Ruble Phillips Mrs. Blanche Poplin Mr. Willie Seawright Mrs. Guy Schofield Mrs. B. M. Shields Mrs. Irene Redmon Smith

ADMITTED THURSDAY

Miss Patricia Butler, Rt. 2, City Gary Wayne Carpenter, 118 E. Alabama Ave., Bessemer City, N. C.

Mr. Lucius L. Day, 405 E. Virginia Ave., Bessemer City, N. C.

Mr. Arvell McCall, Rt. 1, Waco Road, City

Mr. W. C. Summitt, 203 Lackey Street, City

ADMITTED FRIDAY

Mr. Barney McAbee, 1098 Second Street, City

Mr. John McKinna, 321 Waterson Street, City

Mr. George Clary, 31 Elm St., City

ADMITTED SATURDAY

Mr. Ronald Dobbins, 100 Dilling Street, City

Mrs. Thomas Lovelace, Rt. 3, City

Mr. James Earl Seism, 208 E. King Street, City

ADMITTED SUNDAY

Mrs. Grady Eugene Brackett, 205 E. King Street, City

Mrs. Marshal Burton, Rt. 3, Box 16, City

Mr. Andy Dover, 29 Bennett Drive, City

Mrs. Roy Lester Morrison, 301 S. 13th Street, Bessemer City, N. C.

ADMITTED MONDAY

Theresa Ann Chaney, 600 Mauney Ave., City

Scottie Falls, Rt. 3, Box 324, City

Jeary Dean Gold, Rt. 2, Cherryville, N. C.

Miss Donna Lynn Hardin, 103 North Sims Street, City

Mrs. Jerry Lipsey, Margrace Ave., City

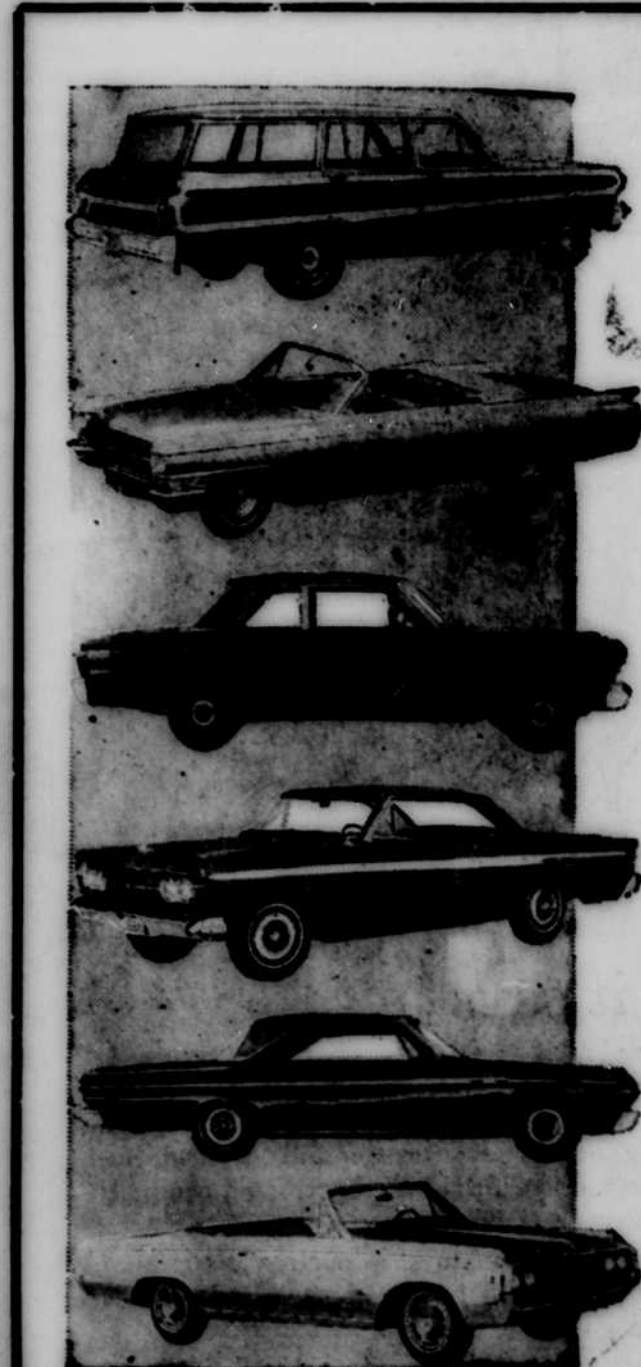
ADMITTED TUESDAY

Mrs. William Roper, Jr., 201 Talview Street, City

Mr. James Biddix, 205 Blanton Street, City



Finger Laundry



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Large advertisement for Kings Mountain Herald featuring a church illustration and the text: 'In the Spirit of Christmas Let us turn our thoughts to the first Christmas and capture in our hearts all the peace, love and understanding of that Day. In the true spirit of Christmas, we wish you a happy and holy Day and pray that the blessings of the season will truly be yours. Kings Mountain Herald'