

Folks and Facts

DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

Mr. Bill Edwards - Rededication of Life.
Mr. Wm. A. Powers - By Letter from Northwest Baptist Church

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We express our Christian sympathy to Mr. Ridley Garner and family in the loss of his father.

Thank You

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and many thanks for the visits, prayers and gifts.

God bless you!

Mrs. H. J. Wood

☆ ☆ ☆

My sincere thanks for the cards, flowers, visits, and to my pastor, while I was in the hospital.

Mrs. Ruby Bryant

BAPTIST MEN'S DAY

Many wonderful reports have come concerning the outstanding job of the laymen. The entire morning service was conducted by the men. Judge Preston Grissom brought a message vital to the issues of our age.

G. D. Williford assisted in the evening service with Scripture reading and leading the evening prayer.

THEOLOGICAL NEEDS

Southern Baptist Seminaries face a real crisis in the realm of financial need. The dollars do not go as far as in the past. We now have five and the demands are growing.

DO BELIEFS MAKE

A DIFFERENCE

Why is it important to know what to believe? Continuing a unit study on "Forming A Personal Theology," interested adults will discuss the subject "What Is The Church?" next Sunday Evening in the Fellowship Hall.

A feature of the activities will be four-minute informal talks on "The Purpose of the Church and What It Means To Me" given by a deacon, a choir member, a Sunday School Teacher, and a Training Union Member.

— True Gratitude Expresses Itself —
☆ ☆ ☆
☆ ☆ ☆

The Light of God surrounds me.
The Love of God enfolds me.
The Power of God protects me.
The Presence of God watches over me.
Wherever I am, God is.

The Record Speaks

Sunday School 512
Training Union 25
Tithes and Offerings \$1,442.90

CHURCH STAFF

Frank Hughes, Jr. Pastor
Mrs. Mary Morgan ... Church Secretary
Mrs. W. L. Fulcher Finan, Sec'y
Mrs. Harvey Whitehurst, Sr. Organist

CHURCH OFFICERS

N. J. Babb S. S. Supt.
Ridley Garner T. U. Director
Mrs. Noel Hobbs W.M.U. Pres.
Willis Bell Brotherhood Pres.
Dwight Holland Chm. of Deacons
Henry Krick Treasurer
Mrs. Annie Tayloe Clerk

MISSIONARIES

Mark Alexander Argentina

CHURCH PHONES

KI 5-4505 KI 5-1944

THE MESSENGER

of the
South Norfolk Baptist Church

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20th ANNIVERSARY

CHURCH HONORS ITS PASTOR

On February 9, 1967, at 7:30 P. M. a special program will be given in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

A special invitation is extended to each and everyone.

Lets make him feel that we really appreciate his ministry by our presence and also sharing in the love offering now being received by anyone on the committee.

Mrs. Mattie VanVleck

Mr. N. J. Babb

Mr. Ray Curling

Mr. Willard Fulcher

Mrs. Bessie Briggs

Mr. Henry Benton

R. Dwight Holland

Chairman of Deacons

**BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE
SUNDAY**

IT SNOWED !

One cannot but help but wonder WHAT has become of those Baptists we read about in the history books. We are told that they walked through snow two and three feet deep for many miles to get to a church house that didn't even have a fire in it. The history book also said something about icy creeks and footlogs, and a lot of other things. If the history book is true, I guess those Baptists loved the Lord very much, and I suppose they needed the fellowship of each other.

The Baptists of today don't have to do all those hard things. We could hardly be expected to leave steam-heated, storm-proof, weather stripped houses to get into a motor heated car and ride five blocks over well dragged streets to get to church. One would have to love the Lord and His Church very much to make a sacrifice like that.

Did somebody say WHAT did become of those Baptists who put forth so much effort to get to church? Did I forget to tell you—they went out with the hardships. How do I know? Well, we had only eight in our January Bible Study Monday evening and five Tuesday evening. From all appearances, we won't have any tonight—Wednesday—IT SNOWED!

I guess we will just have to hope and pray that it will be pretty, fair and warm this Sunday so we can show our faith by our works.
—Charles E. Parker

THINK IT OVER

1. How many times a month would there be no services at the church if everyone attended as you attend?
2. How much power would there be in the church work if every one prayed as you pray?
3. Would the church ever be able to meet its obligations if no one ever gave any more than you do?
4. What opinion would people have of your church if no one praised it any more than you do?
5. How far would the church get with its teachings and training if no one gave any more time to it than you do?

**HEAR
SERMON**

"SEVEN DAYS OF SOLITUDE"

Job 2:11-13, 3:1-23
11 A. M.

Sunday — January 29th, 1967

* * *

Who were the three friends?

The Quaker meeting.

Wishing He had died three times!

The grave and state of the dead.

**WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL
OF GIVING?**

1. THE "TIP" LEVEL. There are those who give a nickel or dime to the Lord in the same way they tip the waitress or the porter. It is just a little matter of appreciation for the Lord.
2. THE ENTERTAINMENT LEVEL. There are those who give only when they come to church. They give just like they give to the theatre, the ball game—they give when they go.
3. THE EMOTIONAL LEVEL. There are those who give only when they are emotionally stirred. This may be once or twice a year, according to feelings.
4. THE PROMISE LEVEL. There are those who pledge to give but neglect the promise. They will say that they have pledged, but they never pay.
5. THE BIBLE LEVEL. There are those who give their tithes and offerings as the Bible teaches.
We are praying that a vast group of our church members will give on the BIBLE LEVEL as we face the new year in our church financial program.—Baptist Bulletin.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

We should never lose sight of the little things in life. In our age we are likely to overlook the minor items when everything is centered on the reach for outer space.



For example, there is work for all, and something for even the small matters. A little piece of scotch tape is so insignificant. What is it good for? The other day in Killien, Texas, Capt. Charley Mitchell of the Police Department used a little piece of scotch tape to stop a dynamite bomb from exploding. The bomb was only seconds away from going off. A small piece of scotch tape was put over the second hand of the watch and it stopped.

This little piece of scotch tape probably saved several lives. Small, yet it was effective when put into service. The same was true when David met the Giant. He only used a small stone. But it was essential when put into service.

Every Christian has something to offer to Christianity. However, many play scotch and tape up their talents! We should not hold back the "dynamite" of service. Let the time clock proceed and offer what you have to Jesus. After all, the little things that you do around the church add power to the entire program.

RELIGION AROUND THE WORLD

A. There is great concern among churchmen over the escalation of the war in Vietnam.

B. Preliminary statistics for the Southern Baptist Convention in 1966 show decreases in baptisms and enrollments in some church organizations. Percentage decreases were baptisms, 4.2 per cent; Sunday School enrollment, .4 per cent; Training Union enrollment, 1.8 per cent; Womens Missionary Union enrollment, .4 per cent; Brotherhood and R. A. enrollment, 5.6 per cent. There was growth in the number of churches .6 per cent, and church memberships, 1.4 per cent.

C. High interest, 'tight money' curb church expansion plans — was the theme of the Executive Director of the American Lutheran Church. The total missions established in 1965 was 65. However, the number was cut to 38 in 1966 and this year has a prospect of dropping below 20.

D. Religion was exposed to new trials in Communist China. In Peking, Youthful Red Guards stripped crosses from church walls, smeared sacred pictures with black paint.

E. Dr. Luther Strickler, pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Norfolk, Virginia, died this past week. He had served the congregation for forty years.

F. Sari Holcomb, Tanyaania, writes, "Last Sunday one of the African preachers had walked for three days to fill the pulpit where he was asked to supply. He stood straight and dignified as he witnessed for our Lord in clean white shirt and a too-small suit. As he welcomed the new members, I saw his bare cracked feet. He wants to study in a Bible school. Make him an object of prayer."

G. Church attendance has been steadily if slowly declining since 1958. These annual figures, based on a National sample of adults, remained at 47% from 1959 to 1961, dropped to 46% in 1962 and 1963, then to 45% in 1964, and 44% in 1965. The all time highs were 49% in 1955 and in 1958.

H. "The Yearbook of American Churches 1967", gives a table tracing church membership according to percentage of population. In 1850 it was 16%. This rose to 23% in 1860, but fell to 18% in 1870. In 1890 the figure was 22% and for 1900, 36%.

Church membership rose steadily from 1900 and the largest increase in any decade of the present century was chalked up during the war-dominated 40's, when church membership grew from 49% in 1940 to 57% in 1950. The percentage for 1965 is 64.3.

I. Protestants were 27% of the U. S. population in 1926; 33.8% in 1950; 35.4% in 1960; and 35.6% in 1965. The Roman Catholic population rose from 16% in 1926 to 18.9% in 1950, to 23.3% in 1960 and to 23.8% in 1965.