

ANNALS OF PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 1969 - November 30, 1970

December 1969, the first month of the Plymouth Church year was filled with the happiness of the Advent Season which was expressed through a variety of activities. On December 14 immediately after Sunday morning worship the congregation came outside of the front door for the dedication of the outdoor bulletin. The service was brief but impressive. Mrs. Mary Alice Dearing of the Bulletin Board Committee presented the key to Mr. John Babbage of the Trustee Board who in turn passed it to Rev. Robinson. The latter gave it to Mr. William Hughes, chairman of the Church Council who accepted it on behalf of the church. The pastor made challenging dedicatory remarks to the congregation. Mr. Lyman T. Johnson, Chairman of the Deacon Board gave the closing prayer.

On the afternoon of the same day from 4 to 6 p.m., Rev. and Mrs. Robinson gave a reception in honor of their first-born Patricia Lei and her husband Mr. Julius Hobson who had married during their Thanksgiving holiday in Washington where both attend college. The presence of the maternal and paternal grandmothers of the bride added to the pleasure of the occasion. The women of the church were especially glad that the lower auditorium which they had so recently redecorated was the scene of the affair.

Mrs. Alferna Bryant wore a broad smile on her face at Sunday morning worship on December 21. The reason was not hard to guess, her son James Bryant, though not yet in Louisville had arrived in this country from Vietnam. On the next afternoon, December 22, the Sunday School Christmas party took place. As usual it was a gala affair, reflecting the ingenuity of Mesdames Wise and Griffin and others of the Sunday School teachers.

The climax of the Yuletide Season was the Christmas Eve program of Music of the Christmas Season which was culminated with a candlelight service as the hour of midnight ushered in Christmas of 1970. Mr. Mayfield, organist and chorister, and the choir along with some guests were magnificent, reflecting meticulous training. There was yet another cause for pride in the Plymouth parish. This was the fact that in the list of performers in The Nut Cracker presented at the Brown Theater on December 29 and 30 was the name of Mariellen Dreher, young ballet dancer. Of course her parents were proud of their daughter. Why wouldn't they be?

Missed from the Christmas musicale were Dr. and Mrs. Lloyd Alexander and Mrs. Mary Alice Dearing and her daughter Frances. They were joined by David Dearing, a student at Yale, in Miami and spent their holidays on a Caribbean Cruise. With the exception of David who returned to New Haven, the party came home refreshed and relaxed.

Present at the service of Sunday morning January 5 was Attorney Starks of Norfolk, Virginia, grandson of Mrs. J. A. Starks and son of Mr. Gordon Starks also a Plymouth member before he moved to Virginia. Also in the audience were Mesdames Hackett and Brown of North Carolina, mother and sister respectively of Mrs. Pearl Herring. Rev. Robinson was in Geneva, Indiana, attending a conference on January 6 and 7. He later attended a retreat on January 21. On Friday, January 23, Plymouth's Officer Major William Hughes participated in a panel with other officers on TV in a discussion on Police Relations. Needless to say he made an excellent contribution. Rev. Robinson was elected President of the Plymouth Settlement House Board for 1970. He was also chosen chairman of the Steering Committee of the Kentuckiana Conference. January brought its measure of sadness. On January 7, Miss Bonnie Anderson lost her mother. Plymouth Church extended heartfelt sympathy

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to this bereaved daughter who returned to Louisville for the final rites. Then on January 30, after a brief illness Mrs. Mary Bullock, a lovely person and a long time member of Plymouth passed into the beyond. At her funeral which took place on February 3 at the church, the pastor spoke of the many manifestations of her deep faith in God before her death. The entire congregation mourned with her entire family and especially with her beloved Tanya, now a student in one of the state universities, who had grown up in Plymouth Church.

The first week of February brought joy to the entire parish when the announcement was made that the Louisville Jay Cees had named as one of the three men of the year the Rev. Irvin Moxley of Grace Presbyterian Center, a brother of Plymouth's own Mrs. Thomas Moxely. Rev. Moxely often supplied the pulpit when Plymouth was without a pastor. On February 8 at 5 p.m. Plymouth was host to the city wide NAACP meeting which was sponsored by the Louisville Ministerial Coalition.

One of the highlights of the whole year was the uniting with Plymouth on February 15 of Mr. Benjamin Carter and his wife Mrs. Paula Carter. The former came by letter from Mt. Carmen Methodist Church of Greensboro, North Carolina and the latter from Bethany Baptist Church of Frankfort, Kentucky. Mr. Carter is a member of the chancel choir. The following Sunday the installation of the church officers for the year took place. The entire list appears in the report of the nomination committee. Mr. L. K. McCullough was later chosen chairman of the Board of Deacons and Mrs. Sarah Collins of the Board of Deaconesses. At the request of the pastor, the chairman of the nominating committee, Mrs. Rosa W. Wise, presented a new official group--the Stewardship Committee. The membership included: Mesdames Abbie Fife and Lucy Larke, Miss Virginia Winlock, Messrs Leroy Jones, Leonard Smith and Thomas Moxely and Dr. G. D. Wilson.

The Lenten Season, meanwhile, had begun on Ash Wednesday, February 11. A film Petreat and Decision was shown at the first meeting. The messages of February 11 and February 25 were given by lay members Louise Matthews and Dr. G. D. Wilson. The Rev. Mitchell Curry of Emanuel UCC, Lexington preached on February 16.

The lenten period was saddened by the death on February 27, after a brief illness of Mr. Wiley Daniel Sr., long a dedicated deacon of Plymouth. As was said at his funeral, he was great because of his goodness. He and his wife had reared their children in this church. His passing brought sorrow to all who knew him.

On March 4, Plymouth visited West Louisville U.C.C. for Lenten services. Rev. Robinson delivered the message and the Plymouth Choir sang. The following week Plymouth was host to West Louisville with the Rev. MacHarg of that church at the pulpit and the West Louisville choir in the choir loft. Then on March 18 the youth of Plymouth under the capable direction of their leader Mrs. Winifred Moxley presented the program.

March was indeed a busy month for the pastor. The day after the Lenten Service at West Louisville Church, he had a meeting in Indianapolis. The same week, according to the bulletin, he spoke in Washington before the Health and Welfare Council on the subject Hurts That Need Healing. There was another busy member of Plymouth at this time in the person of Mrs. Mae Street-Kidd, State Representative for the 41st Legislative District. She was busy working for the Mae Street-Kidd Housing Bill for low income families.

One of the pleasant memories of March is that of the presence on March 5 of Mrs. Ann Long Benboe, former choir member. Mrs. Benboe who now lives in Florida was accompanied by her adorable young son and her grand-father, Mr. Percy Newbrant Sr., who had been absent from church for sometime due to illness.

There was more sadness during the Lenten Season. For deaths came to



Mr. James Shavers of New York City, an uncle of Mrs. Pearl Herring and to Mrs. G. P. Hughes, mother of Plymouth's police official, Mr. William Hughes. Mrs. Hughes had been a cheerful invalid for several years. She was once a talented musician serving as organist of one of the local churches. The sympathy of Plymouth parish was extended to Mrs. Herring and to Mr. Hughes. Word also came of the death of Mr. D. C. Owens whose father, the late Mr. D. C. Owens Senior, had in years past been an ordained deacon of the church. Then, on March 20, Plymouth lost its third member of the year--Mr. Norman Leroy Williams, among whose immediate survivors are Mesdames Rosa Wise and Winifred Foley. Born into a family which now boasts three generations of active workers in Plymouth, he had been unable to attend services for many years due to ill health. Those who knew him best will recall his patience, kindness and eagerness to render service when and where he could. The sympathy of the church went to the family.

Maundy Thursday was celebrated by the Church School Sacrificial Meal. Then there followed in the sanctuary a "Celebration of Thanksgiving" led by the pastor with readings by Messrs David Dearing and Louis Harper and Mesdames Lucy J. Larke and Clarese Tyree. Easter was as always an impressive service. The flowers brought by members to be dedicated by the minister in memory of deceased loved ones were never more beautiful. The Easter promise of resurrection was comforting to all. The April days that followed with budding trees and flowers were symbolic of the life after death.

On Mothers' Day, May 10, Plymouth had as special guests members of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Many of the charming young debutantes who had been recently presented by the sorors were also in attendance at morning worship. The church was indeed happy to welcome these and other visitors. On May 22, Church Women United observed Leadership Development Day in the lower auditorium. The meeting was sponsored by the Ecumenical Action Planning Group. Mrs. Evelyn Vance was "gardener" while Mrs. Carolyn Hulse served as "plow-horse". The ladies "dug in" at 9:30 a.m., had a coffee and chatter break at 11:30 and "plowed" until 12:30. Indeed the highlight of May was the birth on May 22 of a dear little baby girl to Mr. and Mrs. James Haun. Mrs. Haun will be remembered as a child of Plymouth--Myrtle Davis whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. James K. Davis. The church was happy with the Hauns.

June 1970 might well be termed as "Recognition Month" at Plymouth. The June 7 bulletin of the church carried the names of six pupils who were promoted to the Junior High level and six to the Senior High. The Senior High graduates listed Denise Bowers who was the ranking student of her class, Denise Guess, Craig Williams, and Dwight Williams. From professional schools were William C. Brummell Jr. who was awarded the L.L.D. degree from Rutgers University and Harold R. Howard, the D.D.S. from the University of Louisville. These six were presented cash gifts. There were military as well as academic honors to be noted during the month. One of the pleasant surprises of June was a visit from Lieutenant-Colonel Frank McNeil, one born into the Plymouth fold, son of the late Deacon Thomas McNeil and his wife. His rank bespoke the fact that his ability had been recognized. His own family of wife, two daughters and a son were accompanying him from Germany to Texas where they would remain while Lt.-Col. McNeil went to an assignment in Viet-nam. Mention has already been made of the return of Information Specialist James Bryant from Viet-nam. It was learned that he was about to receive a special citation, an oak leaf cluster for his contribution to the progress of the war. (It arrived later.) Then in the September 21 issue of the Courier-Journal and Times there appeared a military honor roll. Heading the list of recipients of the Bronze Star was the name of Army Staff Sergeant Terry H. Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. James K. Davis and husband of Mrs. Francine Winstead Davis. Thus these two young men who had also been born and nurtured in the Plymouth fold received military honors. Sgt. Davis attended worship services soon after this honor roll was published, but slipped out before his friends could speak to him. June 19 was a great day for on it was born to the Franklin Jones a darling baby girl. Mrs. Jones was Plymouth's Carrye Bowers. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Bowers thus became the first of Plymouth's new grandparents of 1970. On



June 20, the Sunday School celebrated Fathers' Day with a delicious meal which some of the dads had helped prepare and serve. Thus the mothers had an opportunity to be guests. As usual, a good time was had by all. Congregations to the leaders! Rev. Robinson designated June 28 as "Recognition Day." The Honorable Mae Street Kidd, Lyman T. Johnson and Jesse P. Warders were cited for their various contributions to the civic life of the community and to the cause of civil rights. The program was held immediately after morning worship with Mr. Thomas Moxley, chairman of the Church Council presiding. Mrs. Ethel Robinson, chairman of the program explained the purpose of recognition. Glowing tributes were paid to Mrs. Kidd, Mr. Warders and Mr. Johnson by Dr. Milton Young III, Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander and Mr. Frank Stanley respectively. Deacon Chester Wright added words of praise to Mr. Johnson on behalf of the Board of Deacons and Mr. William Summers presented citations from the office of His Honor the Mayor of Louisville. Mr. Summers paid a touching tribute to the friendship shown him in his early youth by Mr. Johnson. The program was followed by a beautiful reception in the lower auditorium. Finally, Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Dockery presented charming Glenna and her groom, Mr. Leslie Edwards.

On June 18 the Kentuckiana Conference held in Indianapolis was attended by the pastor and Mrs. Elmira Brock. The latter brought back a very complete report which regrettably cannot be reproduced in detail. It is hoped that she will share it with various adult groups of the church. From July 26-29, Mesdames Mary Leake and Rosa Wise attended the Laity Conference also in Indianapolis. The latter served as registrar. Both ladies attended the Mission Institute on September 18 in Elizabethton. At this meeting Mrs. Hortense Young conducted one of the workshops. On September 28 Mrs. Wise returned to Indianapolis for the Evaluation of the Laity Conference. Mrs. Leake attended a Spiritual Retreat at Cedarmore near Bagdad, Kentucky on October 16-17. Attendance at such conferences greatly enhances church leadership.

Many of the Plymouth fold traveled on foreign soil in 1970. In late winter Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Stanley took their annual Caribbean cruise. A little later Mrs. Hortense Young visited several European countries. Mrs. Lloyd Alexander and her daughter Miss Audrey Ann Belmear, Mr. Edmund Bolan and Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Gay attended the Exposition in Tokyo and also went to other places in the Orient as Hong Kong, the Philippine Islands, and of course the fiftieth state of Hawaii. There were also many out-of-town visitors to Plymouth Church from time to time during the second half of the year. Among these were Mrs. Mable Pleasant of Oakland, California, charming sister of the pastor's wife and four dear former members of the church: Mrs. Lois Morton Turner, Chicago, Illinois; Mrs. Anna Mae Beasley Smith, Detroit, Michigan; Mrs. Birdie Black Delaney, Washington, D.C.; and Mr. Raymond McReynolds of Lexington, Kentucky. Mrs. Delaney and Mr. McReynolds are former members of the chancel choir.

The summer months however brought their share of sadness. In early July Mrs. Jeannie Payne lost her father, Mr. Harry Clayton. On July 23, Mr. "Ike" Catchings a friend and former employe of Plymouth Church passed. On August 12 Mrs. Wilma Furman a relative of the Wilson sisters of Twenty-first Street and of West Broadway died in her home in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Then on Augst 23, the death angel came again to the family of Mr. William Hughes taking his sister Mrs. Margaret Lee Hughes Roberts. The entire church sympathized with the bereaved members.

On the brighter side Mr. Frank Stanley Sr. was very happy over the fact that his son and namesake had been granted a full scholarship to study law at the University of Southern California. The Courier-Journal of August 7 carried the news that a Plymouth's own Carl R. Hines had been named director of the Housing Opportunity Center of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. The Sunday School picnic on August 22 was as usual enjoyed by all attending. Last but by no means least, Plymouth Church received with joy the glad tidings that Deacon and Mrs. Lyman T. Johnson had become grandparents during the month of August, thus explaining Mrs. Johnson's visit to Philadelphia. To their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hutchins of that city a fine son, Imar Lyman Hutchins had been born.



On the first Sunday in August, those in attendance at morning worship entered the church through a new front door which resembled the original so well that few noticed. The Robinson family took a two weeks vacation in August. The pulpit was ably filled by Chaplain Mitchell C. Johnson of Fort Knox on August 2 and 9. The congregation enjoyed hearing him and meeting Mrs. Mitchell.

September 6 was Homecoming Sunday. Many who had been vacationing out of the city were present. On September 13, a business meeting was called after services at which it was voted to draw \$8000 from the church funds to be used in helping finance the renovation of Plymouth Settlement House. September 29 new furniture was moved into the pastor's office. It was the gift of the energetic Plymouth Guild and will be dedicated later. Congratulations Guild!

On Sunday, October 4, it was announced that the Robinson family had moved from the parsonage into their own home at 4232 North Western Parkway. On October 2, had come news of the death of Mrs. Mable Pleasant, Mrs. Robinson's beloved sister who had visited here in August. The entire congregation sympathized with their pastor's wife. Thus began a season of sorrow for Plymouth as within the month of October, four more homes were visited by the grim reaper. On October 13, after a long illness Mrs. Nettie G. Cooper died at Red Cross Hospital. She will be remembered as a positive person, strong in her convictions. She who was a faithful member of Plymouth Church and Sunday School. The entire congregation grieved with her husband, Mr. Vernon L. Cooper. Then, on October 19, the entire city was shocked by the almost sudden death of Mr. Rufus Stout who though belonging to another church, attended frequently with his wife, the former Leah Webb of New Albany. Mrs. Stout had joined Plymouth shortly after marriage. Mr. Stout had come by for his wife after church the day on which he was stricken. He was an outstanding man, widely known and active in community services. His wife who bore the shock of her loss with Christian fortitude had the sympathy and admiration of all. On the day of Mr. Stout's death in Louisville, Mr. Ellis Whedbee died in his sleep in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the home of his foster daughter. Mr. Whedbee had been born into Plymouth Church fold and represented the third generation of membership in his family. He was well known as a former science teacher and track coach at Central High, as well as a Boy Scout Leader. He had attended Plymouth until he was too crippled by bursitis. Many mourned his passing. Just one week later Deaconess Madge Irvin Boalware succumbed after a few days of hospitalization. She had joined Plymouth Church upon moving to Louisville. Hers was a beautiful life in every sense of the word. She was a consecrated Christian, devoted to family and friends, and dedicated to her work as supervisor of the Rachel Harris Branch Library. A grief-stricken Plymouth, as well as many others shared the sorrow of her bereaved husband, Dr. Theodore Boalware, and her other relatives.

Despite the preponderance of sadness in October, there were rays of sunshine. Dr. Hazel R. Bolan was notified by Pi Theta Lambda that she was one of its four delegates selected to attend the White House Conference on Children in December. On Sunday, October 11, the Courier-Journal and Times carried an article with headlines Ex-Louisvillian Designs Gandhi Exhibit. That ex-Louisvillian was Mr. Kenneth V. Young, a graduate of Central High and of the University of Louisville who is now a designer on the Smithsonian Institute staff. Mr. Young's wife is the former Morissa Foley, daughter of Deacon and Mrs. F. T. Foley. The infant daughter of the Youngs was christened in Plymouth Church as were her mother and her grandmother. Mr. Young has received many congratulations from far and near on the exhibit which marked the centennial of Mohandas K. Gandhi's birth. Dr. Milton Young III, a Plymouth member, participated in a panel which was heard during the month in a broadcast on the subject of pollution. He is a member of the Anti-pollution Committee and is a recognized authority on the subject. Congratulations to Dr. Young.

On October 15, many Plymouth families enjoyed the annual Laity Dinner which is sponsored by the C. S. C. (Congregational Service Club). Delicious food and fine fellowship were abundant. The game Nameo, conducted by Mrs. Helen Long, and guaranteed to acquaint strangers has become a favorite feature of this affair.



November brought sorrow to a Plymouth family when Mrs. Frances Jackson, mother of Mrs. Edward Maxey (Beryl or Jackie Maxey to her friends) died in Stamping Ground, Kentucky. Mrs. Jackson was highly regarded. Rev. Robinson, many church members and other Louisville friends attended the final rites in Stamping Ground. Their presence plus the many messages from those who could not go were a solace to Mrs. Maxey. Plymouth lost two members in November. Mrs. Arline Booker Dent has joined the church of her husband, while Mrs. Lillian Richardson has not changed her membership, she has moved to Cleveland to live with her son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. Q. F. Montgomery.

Other reports of the month were of a more cheerful aspect. Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander went to New York City to represent the Louisville Association of Social Studies Teachers at their national meeting which convened on November 23.

The E. T. Woolridges looked very happy on their November visit not only because their son Theodric Jr. (Teddy) had last year in his junior high school year won highest honors in science which would entitle him to a scholarship to General Motors Institute; but also because Teddy's brother Mr. Stephen Samuels and his wife (both members of Plymouth) had become the proud parents of a baby girls. Mrs. and Mrs. Evan Guess were equally happy over the November birth of a little daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Atwood Guess. November also made grandparents of Mr. and Mrs. Lacomis C. Curry. A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Curry of Cleveland. Mr. Curry himself was one of Plymouth's babies. The number of new grand-parents in Plymouth is increasing.

Plymouth Church hosted the Union Thanksgiving Day Service this year with Rev. Robinson delivering the message and with special music by Plymouth cancel choir plus guests from Zion Baptist under the direction of Mr. Mayfield. It was a glorious day. The main floor of the sanctuary was filled and some seats in the balcony were occupied. There were many favorable comments upon the sermon, the music and Plymouth hospitality.

The final event of the church year was a reception on November 27 in the lower auditorium to which Mrs. W. C. Burmmell Sr. invited members of Plymouth and other friends to greet her son Attorney W. C. Burmmell Jr. and meet his very attractive bride, the former Miss Jeanette Faucette of Greensboro, North Carolina. It was a lovely party; and while the young couple was being felicitated upon their marriage, many took the opportunity to congratulate the groom upon having passed the New Jersey bar and having secured employment as clerk to a superior court judge. Thus ended the year December 1, 1969 through November 30, 1970 in the annals of Plymouth Church history. It is hoped that in 1971, the number of new members uniting with the church will exceed that of those lost by death and separation; and, secondly, that parishioners long absent, unless physically unable, will resume attendance at worship services.

Respectfully submitted by:

F. Louise Matthews, Historian