



A quilt has to be stretched just so on its frame. Here Fern Keith (in zig-zags) adjust the clamps on the quilt Mrs. Keith and some friends are completing in the library as a centennial project.

Our Churches Congregations prepare for Christmas season

By REV. JAMES CARDER
Stouffville United Church

As our churches help their members share in the preparation for the celebration of Christ's birthday, many services and programs will centre on that important event. In addition to the Sunday services our church family will meet on the evening of December 4th for a pot-luck supper — always a joyous celebration. Then the Sunday School staff and students will present a Christmas variety program. This is an opportunity for all to become involved.

Through our White Gift service we will share with the less fortunate in Toronto. On December 11th our C.G.I.T. will lead in a beautiful Vesper service. All will enjoy the singing of Christmas carols. The Lemonville

Community will add an extra dimension by presenting a 'nativity in puppetry' entitled "Birth of a King" and Christmas music on Dec. 16th in our church.

Our choir will present a Carol Service, "A Night of Miracles" on Dec. 18 and our congregation will share in the Christmas Eve Communion service. Thus throughout the month we hope to prepare ourselves for a more worthy celebration of Christmas.

We trust this emphasis will help to balance the materialistic aspects of Christmas which often rise to a peak and are gone. Some may even miss the abiding note of Christmas that should brighten the whole year. The Truth of Christmas is, that God has identified Himself with man in redeeming love.

"God with us." This is the heart of Christmas. And in the days and weeks before us we do well to think of its marvel, motive and message.

This can be a time to recapture some of the wonder of this event that may have grown dim for us. Let us remember that 'in the fullness of time' God sent His Son that man might understand the nature of God. God's gift was an expression of His infinite love for man. "God is love." And love must express itself. Therefore, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). Thus the motive behind the Incarnation was God's redeeming love.

The heavenly host sang, "Glory to God in the highest." (Luke 2:14) In Matthew's Gospel we read, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." He is, 'God with us.' Thus we can say with Christina Rossetti: Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine. Love was born at Christmas. Star and angel gave the sign.

That is the abiding message of Christmas. May we celebrate it with faith, joy and hope, remembering the Babe of Bethlehem became the Christ of Calvary and our Risen Lord.

Ballantrae ladies host dinner

BALLANTRAE — The ladies auxiliary of the Ballantrae Community Centre are holding their annual Christmas Dinner for all senior citizens in the area at the centre on Friday, December 2, at 5:30 p.m. A roast beef dinner will be served at 6 p.m. followed by a Christmas concert during which the Beavers, Cubs, Ballantrae school children and The Sweet Adelines will entertain.

Senior Citizens are most welcome and are invited to call Noreen Morrison at 887-5254 if they wish to attend. Rides will be provided for those needing them.

Minister returns from trip

The minister of the Melville United Church has just returned from three weeks in the Caribbean where he addressed church assemblies, councils, clergy conferences and schools. Under the auspices of Christian Discovery and The United Christian Ashrams, Mr. Hunter carried a tight schedule of meetings in Jamaica, Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent before conducting a four-day mission in Inverness, Florida.

He brought a major address to the United Church of Jamaica Synod meeting in Montego Bay. In Savanna-la-mar he was guest of the Anglican Church and spoke daily in the cathedral. In Jamaica, he said, unemployment runs at 52 per cent. Most education is under Church auspices, as on the other islands. Youth make up more than 40 per cent of the population of most islands. Violence is down and tourism is up in Jamaica. But all social problems are not solved. Most islands are governed by a system of democratic socialism. People do have a vote but freedom is limited. Many islands have a benevolent dictatorship. In Kingston, while government officials were arguing it out in the assembly, there was a riot on the streets over the same issues. One person was shot. There is a great deal of personal

protection required still. Most city houses are locked in several ways with strong bolts on every door. Doors and windows are barred, properties are surrounded by stone and iron fences with steel gates. In addition, most homes have two guard dogs. Still there is thievery, damage and violence.

The Churches are crowded on Sundays. People long to sing, can quote Scripture freely and look to the Church for leadership and guidance on practically every question. Some Churches provide a verandah on three sides for people who are not permitted (for various reasons) to enter

a church, or who don't feel well enough dressed. But they participate in the services just the same.

An educational official pled with school principals and teachers to provide young people with a purpose in life. He cited the fact that most violence and unrest comes from not having any life-goal.

Mr. Hunter said that he felt the danger of a vacuum being created amongst youth, not only of the Caribbean, but also of Canada. It is up to the Church to provide that meaning and purpose in life which alone can prevent the vacuum into which can rush any

ruthless kind of dictatorship program. We can be proud of our missionaries, of the witness of the Churches all through the Caribbean. They have proclaimed the Gospel, built schools, established hospitals and medical services, introduced welfare programs, given people dignity, goal, meaning and joy. And it is still going on. And growing.

In January, Mr. Hunter will be taking 54 persons to Hawaii on a Christian conference. He will be guest of the American Air Force and has been invited to speak at the dedication of a new Chapel at Pearl Harbour.

Several from the Markham area will be accompanying him. Later in January he will take a larger group to the Annual Christian Conference in Bermuda.

Ray Ferguson dies

Ray Ferguson, a devoted family man who spent most of his life in the Markham Stouffville area died Oct. 24, at his home after a lengthy illness.

Born in the Stouffville area he attended School at Ringwood and assisted on the family farm in his early years. After his marriage to the former Myrtle Armstrong the couple lived at Wexford, and ten years ago they moved with their family to Buttonville.

He was employed by the York County Board of Education and for several years was a member of the maintenance staff at Markham District High School until health

prevented his continuing.

A service was held Thursday, Oct. 27 from the O'Neill Funeral Home, with Rev. Allen Hallett of Brown's Corner's United Church and Rev. Harold Frid, a former family pastor at Zion United Church, conducting the service. Interment was at Stouffville Cemetery, and pall bearers included Donald and Kenneth Ferguson, Leslie Smith, Burton Wood, Matthew Montgomery and Bud O'Sullivan.

Mr. Ferguson leaves his wife Myrtle, son Terry and daughter Carol, of Buttonville, his mother Mrs. Margaret Ferguson of Parkview lodge,

Stouffville, brothers Wilfred of Stouffville and Douglas of Udon, and predeceased by Edwin.

A DAY THAT SHALL NOT BE FOLLOWED BY NIGHT.

The dominant features of life in this latter part of the 20th century are anxiety and frustration. In spite of all science has learned about our world, it has not been able to teach us how to live together. The more we discover about the past, the less ideas we have of where the future is taking us.

The message of the Bahá'í Faith is that comprehension of the meaning of what is happening in the world depends on understanding of God's will for our age. Over 130 years ago, Bahá'u'lláh, Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, revealed God's will for today. God's purpose, He said, and the underlying impulse behind the sweeping changes that are revolutionizing our world, is the unification of the entire human race.

As God's purpose is carried out, two clear processes stand out in sharp



contrast. The first is basically destructive. Through its influence all the barriers that divide man are being broken down: religious, racial, social and national. And it is painful, as in childbirth pain accompanies the emergence of new life.

The second process is constructive. At its heart lies a Divine Plan created by Bahá'u'lláh to demonstrate beyond all possible doubt the practicality of the brotherhood of man. Through it a global community has begun to take shape in which man's rich diversity is accepted and praised. The building of its new institutions, with its new laws and new spiritual resources is the greatest adventure of our age, and of all ages. There is a part in it for every man, woman and child on earth.

There is a part in it for you. Bahá'u'lláh's Plan: a promise kept.

The Bahá'í Faith — A Promise Kept.

The right and duty of the individual to investigate truth for himself is a basic principle of the Bahá'í Faith. For further information, please write:

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Church Services

CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN
254 Sunset Boulevard
Sunday, Dec. 4, 1977
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
9:30 a.m. — Holy Communion Rev. W.F. Edney
Church School, Nursery Services provided.
REMEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION 9 P.M.

STOUFFVILLE UNITED CHURCH
Rev. J.L. Carder B.A.B.D.
Sunday, Dec. 4th, 1977
11 a.m. — Worship - Baptism Sunday School 7 p.m. — "Christmas around the World" by the Sunday School.
10 a.m. — Inter-Congregational Class
11 a.m. — Nursery, Kindergarten Primary & Jr. Classes
Mon. 7:30 p.m. — Explorers -- 8:00 p.m. C.G.I.T.
You will be welcome

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Ted Green 640-4195
Sunday, Dec. 4, 1977
10 a.m. — Morning Worship: Advent II, "Christmas Is... Remembering", Sacrament of Communion
11:15 — Church School, classes for all children and teens.
Come and Join Us This Sunday

UNIONVILLE GOSPEL HALL
2nd Street at Hwy. 7
LORD'S DAY
Breaking Bread 9:30
Sunday School and Bible Class 11:30 a.m.
GOSPEL Meeting 7 p.m.
Wed. Prayer — Bible Study 8 p.m.
All Heartily Welcome

BLOOMINGTON CHRISTIAN GOSPEL CHURCH
Rev. C. W. Sorley
Sunday, Dec. 4th, 1977
9:45 — Sunday School
11:00 — Morning Worship
Tues & Fri. 7 p.m. — Pioneer Girls
Wed. 8 p.m. — Prayer — Bible Study.
Watch "SHARE" on Global TV Sunday 7:30 A.M.

SPRINGVALE BAPTIST CHURCH
Gormley-Stouffville Rd. At 6th Conc. (Kennedy Rd.)
Rev. Tom Hamilton Phone 887-5651
Sunday, Dec. 4th, 1977
10 a.m. — Sunday School
11:00 a.m. — Morning Worship
7:00 — Evening Service
Wed. 7-8:15 p.m. — Family Night, SkyForce-Children's Program.

BETHEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Hwy 48 just north of 47
Rev. Howard Minkar Pastor 640-5555
DECEMBER 4, 1977
9:45 a.m. — Bible School
11 a.m. — Morning Worship
7 p.m. — Evening Worship.
Mark McLeod, young evangelist fellowshipping with young people Saturday night, speaking & singing at both services on Sunday.

ALTONA MISSIONARY CHURCH
Pastor—V. Klauwe
Sunday, Nov. 27, 1977
10 a.m. — Sunday School
11 a.m. — Morning Worship
7:30 — Evening Service
Wed. — Prayer Meeting 8:00 p.m.
You are cordially invited to the Missionary Church

GORMLEY MISSIONARY CHURCH
Rev. Cecil Rosenberger Pastor
Sunday, Dec. 4th, 1977
11 a.m. — Mission Sunday
7:30 p.m. — In charge of MYF group.
Wed. 8 p.m. — Prayer Service
A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU ALWAYS

BAKER HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor-James Shantz
Sunday, Dec. 4th, 1977
9:50 a.m. — Sunday School
11 a.m. — Morning Worship
Wed. 8 p.m. — Prayer — Bible Study.

MCCORMACK MEMORIAL CHURCH
Highway 48 at Vivian
Rev. C.W. Sorley Pastor
9:45 a.m. — Morning Service
11:00 a.m. — Sunday School
7:30 p.m. — Evening Service
Thurs. 8 p.m. — New Life Hour
Tues. - 3:30 p.m. — Pioneer Girls
Tues. - 7:00 p.m. — C. S. Brigade

GOSPEL HALL GOODWOOD, ONTARIO
3rd Line & 47 Hwy.
LORD'S DAY
Breaking Bread 9:30
Sunday School and Bible Class 11:30 a.m.
GOSPEL Meeting 7 p.m.
Mon. - Bible Study 8 p.m.
Thurs. - Prayer 8 p.m.
Please No offerings taken
ALL WELCOME

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SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45
Exciting Programme for children of all ages presented by Bible School students of E.P.B.C.
MORNING WORSHIP 10:30 A.M.

BIBLE COLLEGE DAY
2 exciting services with Rev. W. MacPherson & students from Eastern Pentecostal Bible College.
10:30 & 7:00 P.M.

'WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME'