## ST. JOHN'S



## CHURCH



LENT AND EASTER 1989



#### "FAITH IN ACTION"

#### STEPHEN DENNIS MITCHELL

On Wednesday evening, February 1, Stephen Dennis Mitchell received an Award For Excellence from his peers in the Afrocanadian Club at Oakwood Collegiate. His mother, father and brothers Carl and Michael were present as well as his teacher and classmates from Annette Street School. Representing St. John's were myself, Br. William, Br. Orlando and Miss Irene Brooks.

Dennis had been nominated by his principal, teachers and classmates at Annette. Their decision was based on their personal aquaintance with Dennis and the excellence of his performance in a variety of categories, academic, athletic, leadership and social. All in addition to the fact that he is a pretty good and well-rounded guy.

It was a proud moment for his mother and for all of us at St. John's when the speaker ended the list of Dennis's achievements with the words "...and he is an alter boy at his parish church." Proud as we were; however, (and there were three clerical collars in the Mitchell contingent) we know that Dennis is much more in St. John's parish than just "an altar boy."

Many of you have watched him grow up. He is one of our most effective and respected ministers, always dependable, always there to participate and to help out. As an example of "faith in action," Dennis is exemplary. He lives his Christian faith, practising what he learns at home, in his parish, from you his fellow Christians, and, most importantly, from the depth of his own interior reflection and prayer.

We are thankful to the Mitchells for making us a part of their great day and of their lives. Dennis' achievements reminded me of my own adolescent days in the church, and what came to mind was a stanza of the hymn "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" which was always the hymn we sang at Youth Conferences and camps. The last stanza is as follows:

"They lived not only in agest past,
There are hundred of thousands still,
The world is bright with the joyous Saints,
Who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school
or in lanes or at sea,
In church, or in trains,
Or in shops, or at tea,
For the Saints of God are just folk like me,
And I mean to be one too."

#### FEBRUARY

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Young black people in Ontario are joining with young people throughout North America to celebrate Black History Month. For those representing St. John's Parish at Dennis Mitchell's Award Night at Oakwood Collegiate, it was a privilege to see a substantial part of Canada's future leaders, as more than twenty young people ascended the stage to receive their awards.

As Christians we can be proud that the theme, "I have a dream" comes from one of the twentieth century's greatest Christian preachers and Martyrs, the Rev. Martin Luther King.

The following poem was read at the awards programme, and, while its content is bitter gall, it is helpful in letting white people share the trial of tears that makes up as much of Black history and experience in the Western hemisphere.

Imprisoned in the belly of a ship
I discovered the rhythms of the ocean,
the ebb and flow of its nauseous motion,
its stormy temperament
its deadly verdict

Into its churning stomach brothers, sisters, entire generations met their end, hurled like unwanted cargo to lighten a load.
Helplessly I witnessed their demise.

Toiling on your plantations
I discovered the claws of the sun.
My back bore the lash of profits
My ankles wore the prosperity of foundries
A civilised Europe thrived on my humiliation
and branded my hide "a slave"

They murdered my name bleached my God force fed me this language how can I recite my pain?

No need for that Which beast knows pain? Which savage needs to complain?

Worse than a dog,
Worse than an endangerd specie,
I must eat the spit of commands;
Worse than a whore
I must swallow my pride,
Surrender to the master
this loveless sex
for I cannot afford to die,

Though death be nobler than this ritual indignity this deadly nigger curse called slavery,

I cannot afford to die,

not while my little ones
wait for me
to come home
and love them
and arm them to be free.

Anonymous

#### FAITH IN ACTION--CHILDREN'S STYLE

The children of St. John's are showing their "Faith in Action" through an ambitious project, which will run all through Lent this year.

By the time you read this, many of you may have already participated by hiring one or more of the children to help you with chores, babysitting, or whichever of their many skills met your needs.

That is the idea. The children are contracting themselves out to parish members and friends to raise enough money to buy a wheelchair for the church. While the adult members of the parish contribute to the building of the handicap access elevator, the children will complement this project by buying a wheelchair.

In case you have not yet availed yourself of this opportunity to get some spring tasks done at the bargain rate of \$3.50 per hour, don't fail to do so immediately. The children have made up a list of services that are available, and you may get this list, as well as the list of children who are participating from the church office, or from any of the Church School Staff. And if you have already participated, why not look around for another job that needs to be done, and give a child a call today?

Just in case you need some hints as to what the children might be able to do for you, here are some reminders:

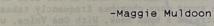
Older Children:

Wash windows
Wash cars
Clean basements
Ironing
Yard work
Reading
Shopping
Clean garages
Etc.

Younger Children:
Fold Laundry
Vacuuming
Dusting
Polishing silver
Walking the dog
Playing games
Making cookies
Sorting stuff
Etc.

If you need more information, call me at 466-9005.







#### FAITH IN ACTION DONATIONS

Please make all contributions to Faith in Action through St. John's by placing them on the offertory plate. They should be kept separate from other givings by:-

- a) making the cheques payable to:"Faith in Action" (St. John's, West Toronto)
- b) enclosing cash donations in an envelope labelled "Faith in Action", with your name and the amount.



#### THE SUPPLEMENTAL HYMNAL

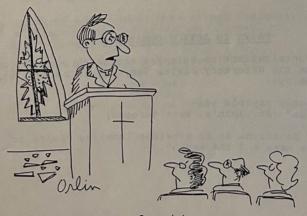
Since the joint United Church/Anglican Church hymnal was published 18 years ago, much worthwhile music has been written to reflect the changing needs and solid faith of Christian people. At St. John's, we wanted to use some of this music.

However, there was a problem. Most of the music is protected by copyright, and obtaining permission to use copyright material can be awkward and expensive. The best alternative was to find a supplemental book. After looking at a number of possibilities, we decided to try the Music Issue, the little gold-coloured book. There were several reasons for the decision:

- 1. COST: Nearly every book examined ranged from \$6 to \$20 per copy. The Music Issue is \$1.50 per year, with new selections included each year.
- 2. SELECTION: This booklet contains nearly 300 hymns. There is NO WAY we could use all of them. Careful choice will allow for plenty of scope in music, reflecting both the traditions and contemporary expressions of faith in our congregation.
- 3. ECUMENICAL NATURE: Music is one area of worship where co-operation among many churches frequently takes place. (In 1974, for example, Australia's hymn book, With One Voice, was published by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist Churches.) Some of the hymns in the Music Issue appear in several other collections. The composers of the hymns themselves come from several traditions, including Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Methodist and Anglican. Many hymns are simply from Christian writers who practice the words of the old hymn that ends "One Church, One Faith, One Lord".

It is my prayer that during the coming years we may rejoice in new hymns as well as continue to enjoy our rich musical heritage.

Sandra Nemenyi, Choir Director.



Isn't it wonderful how Sandi can hit those high notes!



#### LET US WELCOME TO DUR PARISH

Philipa McKew and Bill Walker
Mrs. Kelly Abraham
Mrs. Marilyn Dunne and Gil Lutes
Mrs. Joy Kennedy and Fred Addis and
Family
John Van Rhee and
Christopher, Matthew, and Nicholas
Kelly Yerxa
Sharon and David Bowman and
Jessica Rae
Margaret and Roger Arsenault,
Hamish and Alasdair
The Rev. C. Ann Griffin

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On Sunday, 22 January , we received into Christ's Holy Church through the

#### Sacrament of Baptism

Alasdair Maurice Dinsdale Arsenault Jessica Rae Bowman

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#### Funerals

David Clarke, father of Marilyn Dunne R.I.P. 26 December 1988

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CREATOR
OF ALL
YOU GAVE US
GOLDEN FIELDS
OF WHEAT
WHOSE MANY
GRAINS
WE HAVE
GATHERED
AND MADE
INTO THIS
ONE BREAD.

Over the past months we have experienced a new form of sharing and involvement as "Parish Hosts". This gives us an opportunity to participate directly in supplying and presenting the gifts of the people. It is hoped that everyone will take a turn and arrange a date that is near a birthday, anniversary or as form of thanksgiving. Kathy Gower is coordinating and will sign you up and



### JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS



Christian-Jewish dialogue is a relatively new, postwar phenomenon. On the Christian side of this dialogue is the awareness of the Christian share of responsibility for the Nazi murder of over six million Jews, as well as a renewed consciousness of the Jewish roots of Christianity and the Jewishness of Jesus.

Lent is a particularly important time to reflect on the historic and contemporary relationship of Christianity with Judaism.

Some pertinent aspects of New Testament understanding include the legalistic and degenerate state of Judaism at the time of Jesus, and the charge of deicide, as well as the traditional Christian affirmation of Christianity as the fulfillment of Judaism.

Contemporary questions include the silence of mainstream churches during the Holocaust; the Churches, Israel and the Palestinians; and the working together of Jews and Christians in various social issues and in combatting racism.

Jacoba Kuikman

The above will be the subject of the Lenten Study Programme on Tuesday, March 14.



## ILLUMINATIONS

Tickets \$5.00

All proceeds to assist installation of handicapped access to the church. A celebration of music and poetry based on themes in the vindows at St. John's Church

Sunday, March 5, 1989 2:30 PM St. John's Church West Toronto 288 Humberside Ave. 763-2393 Soprano Sandra Nemenyi

Accompanist Jennifer LaMarche

Choir of St. John's

#### GLENDONWYNNE HOUSE

Glendonwynne House is a halfway house for young offenders who have committed minor offenses. They carry with them a multitude of family problems.

I have been a volunteer at Glendonwynne House since December, 1987. My primary role is to interact with the residents, both within the house setting and at other times when they are permitted to go out into the community. I see myself as a friend and a 'big brother', and I am able to do so because I am there for them, not being on the paid staff.

When I take them out (no more than one under my supervision at one time), we try to do things that interest them. The gym, movies, art museums, bicycle riding, swimming at the pool or beach, going for a walk, having dinner out, etc. I also invite them to our church activities during the week or on Sundays. We have entertained some of the group at the Priory, and this past summer they were often around the Church and Priory mowing the lawns. This gave us added time together.

When Brother Charles Alobase, OHC, from Ghana in West Africa was here, I had him speak to them about prison life in Ghana where he had served as a chaplain. He told them especially about what prison life was like for teenagers, and spoke at length about the upbringing of teenagers in Ghana. These chats were an eye-opener for them and they asked many questions.

At times it is necessary for me to alert the staff about problems the boys have confided in me and on which they will need counselling. I always clear it with the boys first.

When the subject of the Christian faith comes up - usually from them - I use it as an opportunity to share some of my own personal experience with them. As is usually the case, they are full of questions about life and how they fit into it. It's a good jumping-off point for us. The whole area of AIDS is one such subject which I bring up and discuss with them.

Being available to them at any time when they want to talk is very important for our trust relationship. I attempt to share with them some positive alternatives for their lives. There are so many options for a fuller, happier life. Some will listen and respond while others do not.



Brother Orlando Flores, OHC

#### STOP 103 UPDATE

Your donations of food and money to the 'Deacon's Cupboard' (a.k.a. the basket in the Narthex) are greatly appreciated! Last year we donated 685 food items and \$1,324.25 in cash to the Stop 103 Food Bank. So far in 1989, we have donated 100 food items and \$88.00 in cash. This is about 25% more than last year at this time!

Please remember the hungry and homeless people of our city when you do your grocery shopping. Remember Jesus' instructions: "Feed my lambs."



#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We give a hearty welcome to new teachers, Elizabeth Berg, Laura Bray, Sharon Bowman, Heather Gay, and Lindell Mitchell, and returning teacher, Linda Craine. We really appreciate the contribution that all those involved in teaching our children make in the life of the parish. Other teachers are Sheila Crummey, Kathy Gower, Anne Ruta, Dean and Laura Samaras, Cynthia Stoddart-Webster, and Mabel-Anne Waters.

A special thank you to Rich and Pauline Payne, for their faithful music ministry each day of Sunday school. An example of their dedication is the fact that Pauline spent the entire day of the Christmas pageant writing music to accompany the songs on her keyboard. And she claims to never have written music before!

Also, thanks to all who have signed up as volunteers for the nursery during the Sunday service. Marion Barker has graciously agreed to take over the coordination, now that Carolyn Kerr has moved away. Carolyn also deserves thanks for her faithful efforts to keep the nursery staffed in the past.

Activities planned for the next few months are:

-Lenten Project (see separate article)

-A special Children's Good Friday Service, in the tradition started last year. This year we will do a children's version of the Stations of the Cross, walking through the last days of Jesus' life, with reflections and activities. Children 3 or over are included. Time: 12:00, March 24.

-Seder Dinner, Maundy Thursday, March 23, 6:00 P.M.

-Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday, March 26.

-Teachers Workshop, (sometime in April or May)

-All Parish Picnic, Sunday, June 11 at High Park.

More information will be forthcoming on these events.

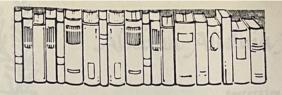
-Maggie Muldoon



DAY CARE UPDATE

The Day Care/Handicapped Access Committee voted to proceed with the recommendations of our architect to renovate our building and establish the Early Enrichment Day Care Centre; add an elevator and install handicapped washrooms on both levels. A building permit has been applied for and work will begin when it is received in about eight weeks and be completed in about twelve weeks.

Our covenant with Faith-in-Action is committed to these very worthwhile projects and it is hoped that we will be generous in our pledges.



Book Review by Sheila Crummey

THE COMING OF THE COSMIC CHRIST (by Matthew Fox, Harper & Row, 1988)

Matthew Fox is a Dominican priest who has recently been ordered by the Vatican to stop preaching and lecturing for one year. He teaches at the Institute of Culture and Creation Spirituality at Holy Names College in California.

#### "Creation Spirituality" - What Is It?

Fox maintains that "Creation Spirituality" is grounded in the Bible. It is an understanding of creation and life itself. He feel that Christian theologians have made original sin the primary focus for their understanding of man's place in the cosmos. Creation Spirituality focuses on the beauty and wonder of God's universe. It does not deny the doctrine of original sin. Rather it insists on keeping sin in a proper perspective. A person who is steeped in creation spirituality has a mystical understanding of life. Fox spends a great deal of time in this book explaining what he means by mysticism.

He offers "21 running, working, experiential definitions of mysticism". Although he admits that mysticism "is a right-brain experience" which is not really capable of definition, he attempts a definition anyway. To sum up these 21 running, working experiential definitions is also impossible but I will try.

Mysticism is an experience itself. A mystic trusts life, trusts the Creator and as a result, trusts oneself. A mystic is "radically amazed" by creation and responds to creation with a deep sense of awe. A mystic also sees the interconnectedness of all life. Mysticism is an affirmation of life and the world as a whole.

#### Who Is the Cosmic Christ?

Fox talks about "a shift from the quest for the Historical Jesus to the quest for the Cosmic Christ."

We have all been involved in the quest for the Historical Jesus. As Christians we learn about the Historical Jesus every time we open the New Testament. For me, there is no end to the wisdom one can gain by reading about the man Jesus and trying to understand his message. It is a lifelong task for every committed Christian.

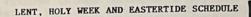
I don't believe Fox is belittling this task when he speaks about a shift away from the quest for the Historical Jesus towards a quest of the Cosmic Christ. Rather he is trying to enlarge our understanding of who Christ is and how Christ is present in the world.

Creation Spirituality is based on "panentheism" which is a belief that God is in Nature, and Nature is in God. The Cosmic Christ is to be found in all creation. For Fox, the quest for the Cosmic Christ takes place in the here and now. The Cosmic Christ unfolds before our very eyes every minute of the day. We need only be awake to this miracle.

The Cosmic Christ is "the pattern that connects". He is "the bearer of coherence" and the "principle of cohesion in the universe. He impresses upon creation that unity and solidarity which makes it a cosmos instead of a chaos".

Although Fox believes the Cosmic Christ has always existed, he also believes there is a "not-yet born Cosmic Christ". This is "the Christ of justice, of creativity, of compassion in self and society that yearns to be born and is eager to be born  $\underline{\text{in us}}$ ."

This book is a passionate call by Fox for humans to become aware of their role as "co-creators" in giving birth to the Cosmic Christ.



Lent

Developing Countries and the Debt Tuesday, February 28 Lenten Programme 8:00 p.m.

Friday, March 3 Victoria-Royce Presbyterian

8:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 5 The Church 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7 Lenten Prgramme 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 14 Lenten Programme 8:00 p.m.

Gerry Helleiner and Anthony Ruta

World Day of Prayer

Illuminations; A celebration of music based on the windows of St. John's Church Sandi Nemenyi, soprano Jennifer LaMarche organist

Gerry Helleiner and Anthony Ruta

Jewish-Christian Dialogue Jacoba Kuikman (Note: See page



#### Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 19

Liturgy of the Palms, Recitation of the Passion, Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, March 23 6:00 p.m.

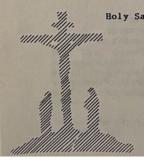
The Christian Seder, the Liturgy of Holy Thursday, and the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, March 24 12:00 noon

The Celebration of the Lord's Passion Children's Prgramme: The Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, March 25

The Easter Vigil, Baptism, and the first Eurcharist of the Resurrec-





# Allehia Allehia Allehia

#### Eastertide

Easter Day, March 26 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 1

Sunday, April 16

Sunday, April 23

Thursday, May 4 Ascension Day

Sunday, June 11

The Church 2:30 p.m.

The Eucharist of the Resurrection Easter Egg Hunt after 10:30 service

Rummage Sale and Home Baking

Forum Sunday

Guests: The Rev'd Betty Mamura, Assistant Pastor, St. Luke's United Churc, Parliament Street, and Petter Dill, Metro Toronto Association for Community Living

Concert

Mr. James Brown, classical guitar

All day visit in the parish by the Rt. Rev. Terrence Finlay, Bishop of Toronto Baptism, Reception, and Holy Eucharist in the evening.

The Feast of Pentecost

Sunday, May 14

Looking Ahead

tv aftraf

Parish Picnic Site 14, High Park



RUMMAGE SALE AND HOME BAKING

SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST 10 A.M. TO 12 NOON ST. JOHN'S PARISH HALL

GOOD USED CLOTHING, FLEA MARKET, BOOKS AND HOME BAKING

DONATIONS WELCOME



#### EASTER FAITH!

Preaching has fallen on hard times in Anglicanism by both clergy and laity - clergy in preparation and delivery and congregations in hearing and responding. The preached Word is a sign of the Resurrection!

"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we are all witnesses." These words are the climax and theme of the first Christian sermon, which Peter addressed to the crowd on the morning of Pentecost. He repeated them almost verbatim in his subsequent sermons and in his testimony before the Jewish authorities. Clearly, he believed the Resurrection of Christ to be the keynote of the Gospel. Many in the crowd responded to his sermon by asking, "What shall we do?", and about three thousand received Baptism that same day.

The Resurrection transformed their lives and made the preaching of the Gospel possible. The Resurrection gave them a Gospel to preach. Without the experience, they would have been able to tell women and men only of the tragedy which occurred on Calvary. The Christian message would have been one of despair.

The Resurrection was Christ's vindication. It revealed His triumph over sin and death. The resurrection transformed the disciples into the Church, the Body of Christ. Fellowship with the Risen Christ was for them and is for us the source of power for the Christian life. We live "in Christ".

Last Saturday morning (February 11) in another parish after a prayer breakfast a woman came to me with a problem. She had told her six-year-old son how Jesus had died on the cross. He remarked, "If Jesus is God's son, why did God let it happen to him?"

"I did not know what to answer," admitted the woman.

"Did you tell him what happened on Easter?" I asked.

"I never thought of that."

There is the tragedy of modern Christianity. We think too seldom of the Resurrection. We have almost forgotten the Risen Christ.

We come to know the Risen Christ in personal prayer and meditation, in the Preached Word of God, and in the Breaking of Bread in the Holy Meal.

They saw the Lord! The Apostles were witnesses. Our faith is dependent on their witness and preaching. We, too, can experience the Risen Christ, if we "have eyes to see and ears to hear". We are called to share this "Faith in Action".

William, O.H.C.





#### WELKOM AAN BOORD

This was the authentic Dutch greeting on Holland American Line's ship M.S. Nieuw Amsterdam when we sailed on January 14, with a number of the Blue Jays, their wives and some fans.

Three cocktail parties were held which were hosted by the Jays broadcaster Tom Cheek. On Sunday evening we attended Captain Adriaan Hess' formal welcome aboard champagne party followed by dinner in the beautiful Manhattan Dining Room.

On Monday morning we arrived at Playa del Carmen and later at Cozumel, Mexico. Our dining room waiters wore colourful ponchos while serving dinner consisting of Mexican dishes along with other choices. During dinner we were serenaded by Mariachi Cozumel. This same group of six or seven musicians again performed during an evening of Mexican style entertainment for the enjoyment of the passengers.

Tuesday being another day at sea, we took advantage of the sun and relaxed. In the morning our Jays group met in the Princess Theatre for a question and answer period with a film of their 1988 highlights. This was followed with a cocktail party in the Explorers Lounge where we had the opportunity to have photos taken together with autographs and informal conversation with them.

Our next port of call was on Wednesday at Ocho Rios, Jamaica where we chose to go on tour to the beautiful Carrinesa Gardens. Thursday saw us arrive at Georgetown, Grand Cayman B.W.I. where the Jays had their picnic and soft-ball game. Much fun was had by all during the ball game right up to the moment when time was called to get back to the ship.

The Captains Formal Farewell Dinner was a special event as the stewards paraded the Chefs special dessert. After the dessert our Indonesian waiters formed two long lines the length of the dining room and sang their own special good-bye song in Indonesian.

A final cocktail party was held on Friday. Draw prizes were given away and I was fortunate to win a dinner for two at Bardi's Steakhouse.

We enjoyed a great variety of live entertainment. The cruise director remarked on the large number of Canadians present and honoured us by having our national flag lead a parade of the flags of Holland, U. S. A. and the counties we had the flags of Holland, U. S. A. and the counties we had visited. After singing our National Anthem, the Maori farewell - "Now is the Hour" was sung to end the festivities and a memorable cruise.

From the original text by Ruby H. Pickin

Ed. Note: It was necessary to edit the foregoing due to our space limitations.





# KIDS' KORNER

## THESE SPELL THE SAME BACKWARD AND FORWARD

## MILDRED OLIVE HONORS

- 1. The first woman in the Bible (Genesis 3:20)
- 2. The mother of Samuel (I Samuel 1:20)
- 3. A king who ruled forty years (II Chronicles 16:13)
- 4. The very tiny lamb in Nathan's parable (II Samuel 12:3)
- 5. The Hebrew word for father (Mark 14:36)
- A village of Benjamin, in the valley where the craftsmen lived (Nehemiah 11:35)
- A prophetess in the temple who blessed the baby Jesus (Luke 2:36)
- 8. A man of the tribe of Asher (I Chronicles 7:38)
- 9. Part of a needle, which the camel could not get through (Luke 18:25)

MATCH THE EASTER EGGS

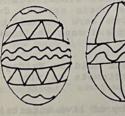
ONLY TWO OF THESE EGGS ARE

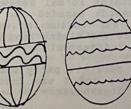
THE SAME.

CAN YOU FIND

THEM?

COLOUR THE EGGS















# ADVANCE NOTICE

Vacation Church School

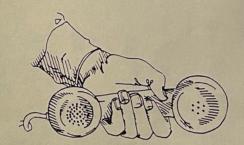
THEME: COME TO THE LIVING WATER

TEACHING BY BROTHER MICHAEL, OHC



# GIRL GUIDE COOKIES

ORDERS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN
FOR THESE DELICIOUS COOKIES.
PLEASE ORDER FROM A BROWNIE,
GUIDE OR PATHFINDER IN YOUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD, OR CALL:
SHARON BARNES - 767-9629(EVG.)
NAN WESTON - 766-6663



Care-Ring West Toronto

The Annual General Meeting of Care-Ring will be held at Windermere United Church on March 7th. 1989. There will be a slide show and talk by a representative of Wheel-Trans starting at 7.30 P.M. fllowed by the business meeting which will include the appointment of officers for the next year. Refreshments will then be served. All are welcome but please notify the office, tel 762-2444 if you are able to attend. The office is open from 9 am. to 12 noon weekdays.



May the Giver of all things good and true Shower his blessings down on you . . . Blessings to give you cheery days, Blessings to brighten dreary ways, Blessings that strength and courage send, Blessings that never, never end.



