

The Tower Chimes

The following four pages contain the January, 1969 issue of the Tower Chimes. The feature article for this issue was pictures of the Children's Pageant for Christmas 1968.

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Enjoy this glimpse into Christ Church's past...



the tower chimes

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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THE REVEREND FREDERICK P. LEFEBVRE, RECTOR

January 1969

The Relevance of Christianity for 1969

The cry to make Christianity relevant grows more urgent every year. As the world's problems mount, both Christian and unbeliever alike look to the Christian faith with more desperation. This past year has been particularly disturbing for both Church and society. The call for relevance comes from churchmen of widely varying theological positions. Although differing on what relevance is and how to achieve it, they agree that Christian principles must be brought to bear more meaningfully upon modern man, his problems and his aspirations. In the midst of the thunderous upheaval of our modern world with all its brutality, irrationality and immorality, people increasingly wonder whether Christianity can offer something to ease the pain and cure the malady. From all quarters comes the question, "If God is God, why does He let all this happen?" Christians are among those who are confused over the relevance of their faith to current problems.

If we believe what is written in Holy Scripture then by nature and definition Christianity is relevant to all aspects of man's life, but discovering the relevance of Christianity is something else. We have to break new ground as we seek to determine what bearing our faith has on any given situation. The trouble is that the world often thinks of Christianity only in terms of its search for problem-solving principles and persons. It seems we are engaged in a global man-hunt for a new Messiah, longing ever more intensely for someone or something to deliver us from all our problems. Our mentality is much like that of the ancient Hebrews who looked not for a spiritual saviour but for a political wizard to rescue them from all their worldly problems. Modern man thinks he knows what he needs most and that is solutions for his environmental problems, but God works another dimension. He offers us the potential for resolving our immense sociological difficulties, but He holds out for something far better - victory over evil itself. Our failure to deal with God on a metaphysical level as the ultimate ground of all being keeps us from discovering Christianity's real relevance.

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Children's Christmas Pageant and Party

On Sunday afternoon, December 22nd, the Children's Christmas Pageant and Party was held. The Y.P.F. presented the Nativity Story, narrated by James Kearney. Mrs. Charles Bursik assisted in the production and Robert Randall was director of lighting. Mrs. Adolph Anderson and Miss Mary Louise Greenway were in charge of the Church School party which followed the service.



What a swell party this is...



Parents seem to be enjoying themselves also



The Pageant Cast: Back row - Bill Mohrmann, Tom Paine, Shelley Bursik, Rachel Dodds, Dotsy Fleming, Ginny Dodds, Diane Storm, Gloria Modzelewski. Front row - Mark Mathis, Gary Leonard, Lee Boody, Julia Boody, Lewis Paine, Bill Ketelsen, Peter Stumpf, Jeff Casscells.



Mrs. Clark served tea and coffee to the parents



Children of the lower school sang Christmas carols



Santa pays a visit --- and is always welcome

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PLAYTIME SCHOOL



The Playtime School Party was a Huge Success



Santa returns to the Playtime School



Playtime School parents are served coffee by Mrs. Jervis

Christians must realize and affirm that God can intervene in the affairs of modern man but He doesn't always choose to do so. If we do not grant God that right, we end up with the image of a very small God. The search for relevance must take the sovereignty of God into account. Christianity, nonetheless, is man's greatest resource and only hope - more so in 1969 than ever before. The Messiah came and people who longed for him most missed him altogether. Similarly, we grope for a relevant Christianity not always realizing that we already have it. Churchmen must stop trying to pull Christianity along with history because it is above and beyond the tide of men and events and to try to deal with it merely in terms of how it fits in with the latest sociological hangup is to mistake its identity and degrade its applicability. Christianity is infinitely more than social first aid. Those seeking Christianity merely for its material serviceability will never really find it. The world might as well stop expecting benefits from Christianity as long as it is unwilling to accept its demands.

Probably the most relevant aspect of Christianity for 1969 is changelessness. Flexibility in ultimates is no asset, especially in our rapidly changing world. If the object of faith is subject to change, who can have faith in it? Faith must be placed in something that cannot be altered. Also peculiarly relevant for this year is the discipline that accompanies the Christian faith. No feat of lasting value is ever accomplished without discipline and the Christian faith brings with it a divine call to supreme discipline, actually more demanding than any human being can ever attain. God offers us the prospect and potential of good works but our eternal destiny does not depend upon how successfully we perform these. Indeed, if we utterly fail, as we so often do, there is still hope. God has made His forgiveness and His reconciliation available to all men

although they do not deserve it. If everything else comes crashing down, God will still be alive and concerned for the eternal welfare of those who are His as well as those who are not but ought to be. How much more relevant can you get than that?

Frederick P. Lefebvre
Rector

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**The Failure
In Life
Is Always
Criticizing
Others**

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Young Piljars



"I appreciate being nominated as president of our youth group, but I am afraid that I must decline on the grounds that I am too stupid!"