

NEEDY FAMILIES TO GET CHRISTMAS CHEER

HARLEM ORGANIZATIONS READY FOR FESTIVE HOLIDAY SEASON

Numerous Churches, Civic and Social Units Prepare to Make Needy Families Happy

Trying bravely to ignore the ragged seams, rips and patches put there by the year-round struggle against want, privation and discrimination, Harlem donned its own worn, festive attire and prepared for the holiday season this week.

The need for clothing, food and the pressure of exorbitant rents and scarcity of employment in Harlem this year have been the most important problems facing the community. Much has been said—little, actually, has been done to alleviate these conditions.

With churches, civic and social organizations in the vanguard, many groups in Harlem are bending every effort to make this Christmas season as happy as possible for needy families and underprivileged children in the community.

Yet these organizations realize that they are able to give only superficial relief—that what is needed in Harlem is opportunity so that the families they are helping this year might become self-sustaining citizens.

Many churches and organizations which have given to charity in the past are not able to do so this year because the very life of their institutions is being undermined by the present, acute economic crisis which is causing an unemployment situation comparable only to that of 1929.

Abyssinian Church. In divesting its Christmas program, Abyssinian Baptist Church, 132 West 138th street, of which the Rev. Adam C. Powell, Jr., is pastor, will distribute 300 baskets to the poor after a Christmas Eve service at the church at 8 p.m. Other activities for the Christmas season include Christmas music morning and evening on Sunday, December 26, which day is Youth Day at the church and young people will be in charge of all services.

Mt. Olivet Church. The Dorcas Missionary Circle of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 201 Lenox avenue, of which Dr. O. Clay Maxwell is pastor, will give about 100 baskets to the needy on Christmas Eve. The Christmas program at the church includes the singing

of carols and a Christmas play at 4 a.m. Christmas morning and a special sermon at 11 a.m. The following day, the pastor will preach the second and last of a series of Christmas sermons, the first of which was preached on December 19. On December 27, 28, 29 and 30, Christmas parties will be given for the children of the church.

Lutheran Church. The congregation of the Lutheran Church of the Transfiguration, 74 West 126th street, of which the Rev. Paul West is pastor, will give out baskets on Christmas Eve. The Christmas program at the church includes a midnight service at midnight on Christmas Eve, a candlelight service by the Joy Bell Chorus at 6 a.m., December 25; a Christmas program for the Beginners' Department at 7:45 p.m., Monday, December 27; a Christmas party for the young people of the church the same afternoon, and a program for the other departments of the Sunday school at 7:45 p.m., Thursday, December 30.

St. Philip's P. E. Church. Although baskets will not be given out at St. Philip's P. E. Church, 215 West 133d street, of which Father Shelton Hale Bishop is pastor, donations will be sent to the Hope Day Nursery, the people in Haiti and the children in China and Spain. The Christmas program at the church includes a carol service and midnight mass on Christmas Eve, the regular Sunday morning service, and, instead of the Sunday evening service, a pageant, "They Who Sat in Darkness Saw a Great Light," at 6 p.m.

St. James' Presbyterian. The Week Day School of St. James' Presbyterian Church, 409 West 141st street, of which the Rev. William Lloyd Imes is pastor, had a Christmas party and distributed gifts to the needy in the parish last Friday. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 22, 23 and 24, the deacons of the church will also distribute gifts to the needy. The Christmas program at the church also will include the regular communion service at 6 a.m., December 25, and on December 26 the Senior Choir will give its annual Christmas musicale.

Salem M. E. Church. "We will give out a few baskets Christmas week," the Rev. F. A. Cullen, pastor of Salem M. E. Church, 209 West 129th street, disclosed. On Christmas Day, Dr. W. A. Hughes will preach both in the morning and evening and on Christmas Sunday, there will be the regular Christmas services.

Williams Institutional. At Williams Institutional Church, 220 West 130th street, of which the Rev. T. E. Woods is pastor, the Epworth League of which William Harvey Johnson is president, the Senior Missionary Society, of which Mrs. Anna Burns is president, and the Junior Missionary Society, of which Mrs. Agnes P. Reid is president, will give out Christmas baskets and clothes to the needy on Christmas Eve.

The holiday program at the church will include a service at 5 o'clock Christmas morning, at which time the pastor will deliver a message on the "Birth of Christ," and carols will be sung on the street after the service. The choir will sing "Behold I Bring Glad Tidings" and "While the Shepherds Watched Their Flocks," on Sunday morning, and in the evening a musical cantata, "The Adoration," will be rendered.

All Souls P. E. Church. The children of All Souls P. E. Church, 88 St. Nicholas avenue, of which Father Rollin Dodd is pastor, sent toys and clothing to the City Mission Society on Sunday to be distributed to the needy children in the city. On Thursday, December 23, the play streets of the neighborhood will give a play in the Lyceum of the church; the regular mauger service for the church school and midnight mass, December 24; and Holy Communion at 10 a.m. Christmas Day.

St. Luke's P. E. Church. Although other churches throughout the community will not give to the needy at Christmas time, special services are being arranged for their parishioners and friends. At St. Luke's, 28 Edgecombe avenue, the Rev. F. R. Meyers, pastor, communion will be held at 11:45 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 9 a.m. Christmas Day. On the following morning, the "Missa Cantata" will be sung and in the evening, "The Nativity," will be rendered. A Christ-

Ready to Spread Christmas Cheer



THE ONE and only William "Bojangles" Robinson (on the extreme left) tapped a brand new step as he busied himself in the Thirty-second Police Precinct, 250 West 135th street, with distributing toys and more toys to needy children of the community. Next you see, in the upper part of layout (photo by Dummett), some of the children of Jean Palmer's Kindergarten waiting for the arrival of dear old Santa Claus at the school, 138 West 119th street. This group and their classmates will appear at the Hamilton Club, 113th street and Broadway, in a Christmas pageant before an all-white audience on Sunday night, December 26. Miss Palmer is on the extreme left of the photo. The school is conducted for children of pre-school age. Harlem Girl Scouts, shown in layout's lower half, are doing their share to make underprivileged children happy this season of the year. Busy at work making and repairing toys were these troopers when photographed last Wednesday at the New York Urban League Building. They are (left to right) Grace Shaded; Miss Mary L. Hall, captain of Troop 90; Goldie Jordan, June Daniels, Shirley Johnson; Miss Ernestine Coles, recently appointed field captain; Olive Benjamin and Julia Wilson.

trate in giving to the needy at Thanksgiving."

St. Ambrose P. E. Church. Elaborate musical preparations are being arranged for an old-fashioned Christmas service at 5 a.m. on Christmas morning at St. Ambrose P. E. Church, 9 West 130th street, the Rev. E. E. Duran, pastor. On that occasion the pastor will deliver a sermon, the subject of which will be "A New Christmas and a New Birth." There will be a full choral celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 26, and at 8 p.m. there will be a special carol service.

St. Martin's P. E. Church. At St. Martin's P. E. Church, 230 Lenox avenue, the Rev. John H. Johnson, rector, communion and the midnight celebration will begin at 11 p.m., December 24. The following morning, communion will be celebrated at 8 and 10 o'clock and at the earlier service, the crib will be blessed and the Girls' Choir will sing. Tuesday, December 28, is Holy Innocent's Day, at which time there will be communion for the children at 10 a.m.

Holy Cross Pro-Cathedral. At Holy Cross Pro-Cathedral, 122 West 129th street, where Archbishop Ernest is priest, carols will be sung and high pontifical mass will be celebrated at midnight on Christmas Eve. On the following day, children's mass will be at 9 a.m. and vespers at 8 p.m. The children's Christmas festival will be presented on December 28, Holy Innocent's Day, and the Crusaders

League will give a program on Friday, December 30.

Beulah Wesleyan Methodist. Christmas services at the Beulah United Wesleyan Methodist Church, 223 West 136th street, of which the Rev. H. Ingram Thoma is pastor, will begin with a sunrise service on

Christmas morning at 5 o'clock, at which time carols will be sung by the choir.

Services the following day will include a special Christmas sermon by the pastor in the morning; the choir will render a special cantata, "The Song of Good Tidings," at 4 p.m., and Christmas hymns will be sung by the congregation at 8 p.m. The Sunday school Christmas tree party will be held for the children on Tuesday evening, December 28.

Social Clubs, Etc. The Bugs Social Club, which gives an affair annually to raise money for Christmas charity, on Thursday delivered toys and fruit to boys confined to Harlem Hospital. They will also give baskets to needy families in the community on Christmas Eve. Other social and charity clubs which give Christmas baskets include the Utility Club, the Christmas Cheer, the Civic Club, the Tea Rose Club, etc.

Harlem Big Brothers. The Harlem Big Brothers' Association gave a Christmas party for young boys on parole at the Urban League, 204 West 136th street, on Wednesday, December 22, at which time gifts were distributed. The organization has sixteen boys from eight to seventeen years old in its care since being paroled by the Children's Court. Officers of the group are W. E. Simmons, president, and Nat Burrell, executive secretary.

Settlements and neighborhood houses always observe the Christmas holiday with special affairs and WPA recreation teachers have been busy for weeks rehearsing plays, prepar-

mas party will be given for the children of the church on Tuesday, December 23. "We are always looking out for the poor," the Rev. Mr. Meyers said. "So many organizations give at Christmas time, that we concern-

"Unto Us a Child Was Born..."



NARRATOR Barclay Triggs and carol singers in "Nativity," a Christmas play, which the WPA Federal Theatre Project is presenting on ninety-six street corners in Greater New York during Christmas week.

ing for parties and dances, drilling folk dance and carol singing. Among the private agencies where Christmas joy will shine the brightest is the Lighthouse, the community center for the blind of New York City, where, on Wednesday, December 29, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson will appear in an entertainment.

Utopia House. The Utopia House, 172 West 130th street, is producing a Christmas pageant at the Salem Parish House, 129th street and Seventh avenue, a Christmas play, "The Enchanted Candle," which was given on Wednesday, December 22, at 8 p.m.