The whole concept of stewardship is basic for an adequate understanding of the essence of the Christian gospel. The United Stewardship Council has adopted the following definition: "Christian stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities, and material possessions, based on the conviction that these are a trust from God, to be used in His service for the benefit of mankind"......It is this basic idea of the absolute ownership of God that forms the background of this message. When an individual accepts this idea, the whole emphasis of his life changes--the emphasis is not placed on what he OWNS but on what he OWES......We come to a deep and abiding sense of God's ownership of all that we possess, and realize that He has entrusted us with the use of what we call possessions without giving up His ownership......

Consider what we spend for insignificant things, and we will see that we give far too little for worthwhile causes. A survey made by the Golden Rule Foundation reveals that in a single year Americans spent on cosmetics and personal care $2,200,000,000; on cigarettes and cigars $2,700,000,000; on movies and other recreation $5,500,000,000; on alcoholic beverages with many a headache and bad morning afterwards, $7,100,000,000; on gambling $10,000,000,000; and contributed to churches and to church charities a sum far below any of these--$900,000,000. (CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN)

These statistics are startling. Now I am not saying we should totally refrain from luxuries. But I am saying that if we are Christians, following in the way of the Lord, then God's work must come first--before cosmetics, cigarettes, expensive clothes, etc.....You would consider it idolotry of the lowest form if, in place of the Cross, you should find on the altar of the church a bottle of perfume, a carton of cigarettes, or a pair of tickets to the Coliseum--you would rise up in wrathful denunciation; and yet, I say that these are the things which have supplanted the Cross on the private altars of many Christian hearts. 

I make no apologies for asking for financial support for the church. The Church has a just claim on your active, practical, and financial support if for no other reason than that your home is better, your community is better, your nation is better as a result of the existence of the Church. With all of its faults--and it certainly has them--the Church is man's strongest ally in his struggle to discover life at its best. 

Some of you will say that you support many charities and causes outside the church. I have nothing but highest of praise for these charities which are doing so much to alleviate human suffering. I support them strongly myself. But which requires primary support and is most deserving of it: the Church, which (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3, COLUMN 1)
THE DEXTER ECHO

Official Publication of the
Dexter Avenue Baptist Church
655 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama

Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., Minister

Wednesday, November 6, 1957
Volume II Number 8

GEORGE W JONES, EDITOR

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The Dexter ECHO is a bi-weekly publication
of the church in the interest of the membership.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Your church envelopes have by this time reached you. If they have not, please call
the church office and give the information to the Secretary who will make the
necessary follow-up. Dr. King has expressed his delight at the response to his plea
for increased pledges for the new year. He proposes a study to show the type of re-
response and therefore urges every member who has not already done so, to submit his
pledge card for the year so that he may anticipate something as to possible contribu-
tions for this year's budget.

MISSIONARY UNIT #1 SPONSORS CONTEST

Of general interest to the entire congregation is the announcement of a contest
sponsored by Unit #1 of the Womans Missionary Society which pits Mrs Beulah Par-
er Brewer, vice-chairman of the Unit, against Mrs. Fannie Mae Doak, Unit Chair-
man. Each of these ladies is a hard work-
er, and there will be great interest in
this effort to see which of the two is
the more popular among the membership
of the church. Mrs Brewer is vice pres-
ident of the August Club (and also a past presi-
dent); she also is a long-time member of
the finance committee of the church. Mrs
Doak represents one of the pioneer members
of Dexter and is active in the choir and
in the general program of the church.

The contest will close on Monday, Novem-
ber 25, at the 1609 Franklin Street resi-
dence of Mr. and Mrs W J Sheppard. One of
the ladies will be crowned "Queen of Unit
Four" with appropriate ceremonies and
with an interesting program.

Proceeds from the affair will be used for
carpeting of the church's foyer and of
the staircase leading downstairs. The
hope of these ladies is that this work
may be completed and paid for by our an-
niversary in December.

The Holy Communion service has become one
of the most inspiring of our services.
This month the sanctuary was almost full.
More of our people seem now willing to
make the special effort to come in the ev-
ing for this service of one hour once per month. The beautiful and impressive
worship is not filled with announcements
and other things to distract from the ri-
tual and from the solemnity. The ECHO
urges every member to come out for our
December Communion and give God a chance
to bless us as we commemorate the sacri-
fice of our Lord.

MRS JO ANN ROBINSON HONORED

The Emanon Club honored Mrs JoAnn Robin-
son, vice-chairman of our Social-Poli-
tical Action Committee, on Sunday, November
3 by presenting her with a plaque
"for unusual community service... and for
great interest in human rights". The
presentation was made by the club presi-
dent, Mrs Arthur O Glass, who lauded
the honoree for her many community contribu-
tions. The honoree is a member of the
faculty of the local college.
THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S (Continued)

was the source of all charity and which will be the source of many more, or the individual charities themselves? ... We who are members of the church are the lighthouse of the world. We are responsible for one task above all others—to keep the light of the gospel burning. All else must be secondary; and no amount of spending or righteous philanthropy will excuse us from the faithful fulfillment of that task....$2,300,00 to pay for the fuel that will keep the light of the gospel burning in Dexter! Yes, we can do it! As you prayerfully consider this, make your pledge—not to me, not to the officers—no, not even to the Church; but to God. Make it so that you would be unashamed to stand in His presence and present it to Him personally.

Stewardship means not only giving our money but also our time. It is everything from regular attendance to an effort to let everybody you meet know how deeply you feel in debt to the Church. It is being willing to come and sing and teach and wash dishes and serve on committees and then to give the Power of God's Spirit a chance to change your life and make you what you have never dreamed you could be.

The church has always put us first before anything else. It took us in as babies, before it knew who we were, what we might be, what we might have. It called us "children of God" and received us into its arms; it walked beside us in good times and in bad times; was a bulwark against the world, the flesh, and the devil. It prays for us when we go astray, welcomes us back as a loving mother when we come to ourselves; it is with us in sickness, sorrow, and death. Every other organization we join first ascertain who we are, what we have, what our social standing is; asks if we will 'fit in', what we have to offer, etc. How different is the Church which says "I don't care who you are, what your background is, what you have. You are a child of God and as such I welcome you without reservation; I offer you all the privileges and blessings; and I shall belong to you and to you me now and forever. Pray for Dexter, work for Dexter, give for Dexter.

"Showing them the image on the oan. He said, 'Render to Caesar the things which are Caesar's and to God the things which are God's.'

FINANCIAL PLAN FOR ANNIVERSARY ADOPTED

Mrs. Thelma Austin Rice and Joseph H Gilchrist, co-chairmen of finance for the observance of the eightieth anniversary of our church, have submitted the following proposals which were unanimously adopted by the general planning committee in a special meeting held at the church last Wednesday night:

To whatever funds you now have for the $100.00 Anniversary Gift expected from each monthly club, ADD A BONUS. To reach our financial goal, each adult member is asked to do one of the following things, more than one, if you like:

1. Tithe for one week
2. Contribute 5¢ for each of the 80 years
3. Contribute 8¢ for each of the 80 years
4. Contribute 10¢ for each of the 80 yrs
5. Contribute by some other way that you and your Club have already proposed.

Each youth member is asked to do one of the following things, more than one, if you like:

1. Contribute 1¢ for each of the 80 yrs
2. Contribute 2¢ for each of the 80 yrs
3. Contribute 3¢ for each of the 80 yrs
4. Contribute 4¢ for each of the 80 yrs

Cooperation from each member and from each of the month clubs will assure us of our sought goal of $2500. for this momentous occasion in our history. Other members of this committee include Miss Verdie Davie, Mrs. Mary Lou Williams, Jerome Morris, and F. W. Taylor, Sr.

Professor T. H. Randall and Mrs. Elizabeth M. Arrington are general co-chairmen for the observance which has been set for culmination on Sunday, December 15, with Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, eminent president of Howard University, Washington, D.C., as the speaker. Details of the program will be made in a later release.

PERSONAL

Mr. Simuel W. Austin, Jr., former Dexterite and son of Mrs. Henrietta Austin, has been ordained a deacon in the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, of which Dr. Theodore Jemison is pastor. Mr. Austin follows in the footsteps of his late father whose name he bears and who served Dexter for many years as a deacon. He is a member of the faculty of Southern University, Baton Rouge and is very active in the community.
INTRODUCING

We take this method of introducing to our readers the new members who have come to us since our last release. We welcome each of them to our fellowship:

WILLA KILEEN ANDERSON, Alabama State College, Daughter of Dr & Mrs W E Anderson. Candidate for Baptism.

ANGELA BEVERLY, 1100 S Hall Street; Daughter of Mr & Mrs C C Beverly. Candidate for Baptism.

CYNTHIA and LINDA JAMES, 1110 S Hall St.; Daughters of Mr and Mrs Kisha James. Candidates for Baptism.

Miss Hattie Dixon, staff member Alabama State College. Through Christian Experience at New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, Prichard, Alabama.

JOHN FEGIN, 865 E Grove, teacher at Carver High School; Under Watchcare.

Miss LURLINE FLOURNOY, Alabama State College student; Under Watchcare.

Mr ARTHUR ODELL GLASS, 278th W Edgemont; Candidate for Baptism; from St John AME Church, Montgomery.

Mrs ALTHEA THOMPSON THOMAS, 1103-A Willcox; teacher Booker T Washington High; Candidate for Baptism; from Mt Zion AME Church, Montgomery.

Miss ANER YOUNG, 122 East Grove; Student Alabama State College; Under Watchcare.

"Only a step from the street
From the noisy strife of the town,
But O what hands to lift the load--
What glory streaming down!"

McKinley Avenue Baptist Church
1584 McKinley Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama

OCTOBER CLUB BIRTHDAY PARTY

A very delightful affair was the all-club birthday party given by the October Club at the newly-remodeled residence of Mr & Mrs Julius J Alexander, 873 Hutchinson Street on Friday, October 25.

The lovely game room was ideal for the entertainment of the members and their guests both before and after the delectable dinner which was served in the dining room and the living room thrown en suite. Broiled chicken, broccoli, potatoes, peas, hot rolls, coffee, tossed salad, ice cream and cake— all cooked to satisfy the most fastidious—made up the menu. Soft music from the "hi-fi" delighted all and evoked much comment.

Members present were Mrs Cynthia Alexander, Mrs Clarissa Daniels, Mrs Thelma S Morris, Miss Frances Pollard, Mrs Geraldine Preston, Mrs Idabelle Smiley; J T Brooks, Edward C McCall, Osie Motley. Guests enjoying the club's hospitality were: Mmes. Elizabeth M Arrington, Sadie Brooks, Vivian Everett Matthews, Bertha McCall, Fannie Grubbs Motley; Julius J Alexander, Jerome Z Morris. Mr Edward McCall is the club's new president, succeeding Mrs Mary Lewis Morgan. Mrs Idabelle Smiley and Mrs Julius Alexander were in charge of arrangements.

PERSONALS

Trustee J S Sharpe, Commander-in-Chief of Prince Hall Consistory #19 Scottish Rite Masons, was an official delegate to the United Supreme Council Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the 33rd Degree Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction of the U S held at Richmond, Virginia, October 20-22, 1957. He reports a very inspiring session.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
Form 3547 Requested