

'Itinerant Laborers' Brighten Buildings, Lives During Reid Memorial 'Work-Witness'

Seventeen members of Montgomery Presbyterian Church of Montgomery, Ohio spent vacation in Mooresville last week, and this community is far better for it.

Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church is especially grateful for the Ohio visitors. Here's why: For the past four years, senior high-age young people in the church near Cincinnati have devoted a week each summer to conducting a work camp. They have worked in Missouri, Minnesota and Michigan—and this year they worked in Mooresville. Their "vacation," then, wasn't a vacation at all, although the adult advisors and several teenagers who have part-time jobs used their regular vacation time to participate in the project.

Service is the name of their summer game. Paint brushes are their tennis rackets, a campfire vesper is their evening out, and Christian witness is their excitement.

The thirteen teenagers and their four advisors arrived in Mooresville the afternoon of July 26. They left in their church

bus early August 5. Between those dates they painted Reid Memorial inside and out, with the exception of the sanctuary ceiling, they made and installed shelves in the church study, they carpeted the study, they replaced loose brick and did general cleanup and repair at the church at 336 North Broad Street. They provided the paint, the materials and the willing hands. A few Reid Memorial young people joined them at work and Reid men and women secured sleeping and eating accommodations and assisted the visitors in getting settled.

For the most part, all Reid Memorial had to do was enjoy their company and the fruits of their labor. Accompanying the young people were Mrs. Lu Phillips, Mrs. Jeannette Brose, Rod Greene and Tom Simms. Greene and Simms are elders in their church; all are experienced youth leaders.

Young people taking part in the work camp were Gary Brose, Sandra Hamerick, Drew Johnson, Debbie Kleinhen, David McMahan, Gary Phillips,

Sue Popham, Jeff Powers, Lois Randsdell, Debbie Tubbs, Robin Young, Jenny Wilkerson and Pat Zieg.

"We wrote 18 or 19 presbyteries and asked about churches that could use our services," Simms explained, "and the Charlotte office was one of those replying. The kids sort of wanted to visit this area, so we corresponded further and here we are."

Their bus was acquired secondhand four years ago to provide transportation to and from the work camps, and for use in general activities within the 550-member church. It gave not a minute's trouble during the 550-mile trip here and, hopefully, it performed equally well on the return run.

Most of their time in Mooresville was spent working. The group did visit Duke Power State Park one afternoon, and they were guests at a lake cookout on another evening.

The Rev. John McKenzie, Reid Memorial pastor, turned the manse over to the visitors,

and he returned each evening to his home in Charlotte. The guests were assisted by church members in preparing meals in the church fellowship hall.

Reflecting on the week Saturday afternoon, Greene spoke for the group: "This is my first association with the work camp, and I can say it certainly has been a meaningful experience for me. I'm sure everyone in our group has gained far more from our being here than we have given."



CAUTION: GIRL PAINTERS AT WORK
Lois Randsdell, Left, Reid's Carol Brown



REV. McKENZIE, JENNY WILKERSON WORK IN HIS STUDY
The Room Got Fresh Coat Of Paint, New Shelving And Carpet



JEFF POWERS KEEPS ROLLING ALONG
'Accidental' People-Painting Discouraged



A SILHOUETTE OF SERVICE PORTRAYED BY JENNY WILKERSON
She Was Among 13 Young People, Four Adults Who Worked A Week Here



PAINT FROM THESE CANS BRIGHTEN CHURCH
Sue Popham, Left, Sandy Hamerick Clean Brushes



'MAN, IT'S A LONG WAY STRAIGHT DOWN'
Are The Sentiments Of Drew Johnson, Gary Phillips



MRS. PHILLIPS, MRS. LAWRENCE THOMAS, SUE POPHAM, ROBIN YOUNG
Reid's Mrs. Thomas Among Local Church Women Assisting Group During Their Stay

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