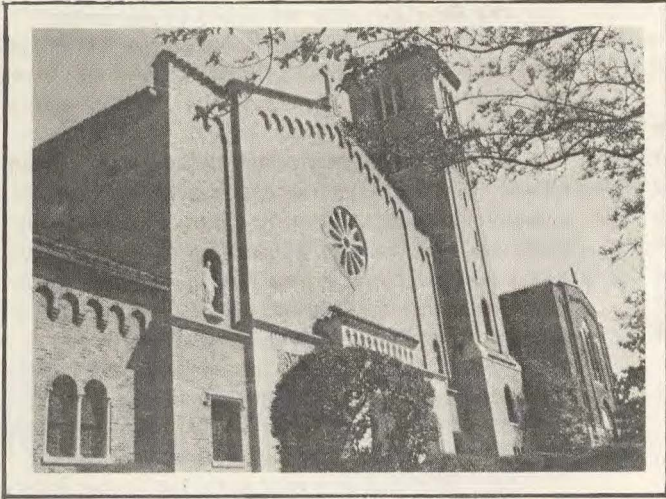


# The EVERGREEN NEWS

*A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Action Association*



## **HELP WANTED: STUDENTS NEEDED**

This frequently read summer-time employment caption seems to be the solution to the crisis confronting a neighborhood institution. Merely passing by, one cannot readily detect the apprehension of parents and patrons concerning the continued operation beyond the coming year of the yellow brick schoolhouse at the corner of Jackson and Belvedere. St. Teresa (Little Flower) School, a neighborhood landmark since it opened in 1930, has experienced a drastic decrease from its 235 student capacity during the past three years, and accordingly incurred sizeable deficits. Enrollment slipped to 169 pupils last year, which appears to be a critical level, and the declining trend must be reversed in the coming year or closing seems to be inevitable. The purpose of this article is to inform the community of this situation and hopefully solicit some support to assure its continued operation for many more years on the belief that it is an asset to our neighborhood, whether our children attend there or not.

In earlier times, Little Flower School primarily served the Catholic children residing in the Vollintine-Evergreen Community. However, it now has the most ecumenical and integrated student body of any private school in Memphis and caters to children from all sectors of the city regardless of creed and/or race. Supporting this assertion is last year's enrollment revealing approximately 35% non-Catholic and 60% black students at this church sponsored and supported Grades 1-8 school.

Through the years the school has had a reputation for academic excellence. Many of the doctors, lawyers, judges, teachers, nurses, priests, et cetera presently serving in our city spent some of their formative years in these classrooms. It was one of the very first private elementary schools in the city to receive state approval (accreditation) and still maintains that rating. The success of current students as well as recent

graduates attests to the level of learning going on there. Achievement test results for the fourth grade had spelling scores amongst the highest recorded. Above average test results in math and reading are also reported to be the norm instead of an exception throughout the student body. Little Flower graduate "Trip" Brady, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Brady, Jr. (1511 Tutwiler) and a sophomore at Catholic High, was a Grand Prize Winner in the Memphis-Shelby County Science Fair this year. Another recent graduate Frances Turner, daughter of Jesse and Allegra Turner, will be president of the Student Council at Immaculate Conception High next year and previously was selected "Tennessee Sophomore of the Year for 1976-77" on the basis of her all-around academic and leadership abilities. Numerous other former students have excelled in high school and college recently after receiving their basics at Little Flower. Texas A & M graduate engineer Katie Conway, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Conway (855 University) and Joe Simi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Simi (846 N. Willett) who was chosen "Carrier-of-the-Year" by the Memphis Publishing Company while continuing his studies at Memphis State are good examples.

In addition to stressing the four R's (reading, riting, rithmetic and religion), Little Flower has had a tradition of success on the athletic field. Championship caliber play has been demonstrated through the years. Major leaguers Phil Gagliano and his brother Ralph Michael, sons of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Gagliano (845 Dickinson), both began their baseball careers on the Little Flower sandlot. Football heroes have included the likes of All-American Mike Fracchia who, as an Alabama running back, was voted "The Most Valuable Player" in the 1960 Sugar Bowl. Teams compete in the Parochial League and are divided Grades 4-6 and Grades 7-8. Boys presently play football, basketball, and baseball; the girls field teams in volleyball, basketball, and softball. During the past year the pee wee boys won championships in football and basketball, the junior boys in basketball, and the junior girls in volleyball and basketball. Because of declining enrollment it is becoming increasingly difficult to field these various teams from the ranks of the student body. Therefore, in compliance with league regulations, players are frequently recruited from amongst neighborhood children in public schools to fill out the teams.

Another tradition that enhances the appeal of Little Flower is the highly visible "family affair" that is going on there. This past year children from ten families were attending the same elementary school their father or mother had attended previously. An even better illustration is the number of volunteer grandmothers involved in the library, tutorial assistance, and the serving of the daily hot lunches.

Little Flower is still a good school and an active learning center. Nonetheless its future is clearly in jeopardy unless financially related problems are corrected to some degree or other in the coming year. Grants and donations can and should be sought after. However, more students seems to be the obvious solution. This would not only lessen the size of the operating deficit, but would make the school more viable since it is presently under enrolled. A campaign to recruit new students might prove to be a fruitless task unto itself when the number of prospective school-aged children generally residing in Mid-

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**McLEAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

town Memphis likely to attend a private school is considered. Nevertheless, believing Little Flower has something unique to offer, it seems it would be worth the effort for parents and patrons to organize and save the school.

The principal for the coming year will be Sister Marie Celine Osbourn, SCN, who has been the sixth grade teacher for the past two years. She will be in the city most of the summer and will reside at the parish convent. Inquiries regarding registration should be directed to the parish secretary in the rectory, 1644 Jackson, or by phone, 276-1412. Maximum tuition rate, in accordance with the Diocese of Memphis System of Catholic Schools, is \$650 per child; however financial grants are available.

**CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS**

Many of the churches in the neighborhood have special events planned this summer to fill the long summer days. A listing follows along with the telephone numbers for your convenience in making reservations or obtaining more information.

**McLean Baptist** — Fellowship Dinner every Wednesday night at 5:45 (reservations must be made by Tuesday of each week. \$1 per adult, .35 per child) Musical — Bert Brixey will be rehearsing a show with elementary age children following supper each Wednesday. The show will be presented at the end of the summer. Parents wishing to enroll their child in the rehearsals should call the church. "Celebrate life", a modern musical presentation of the life of Christ will be put on in August though no date has been set yet. 274-3766

**Evergreen Presbyterian** — Vacation Bible School June 26-30, 4 yrs. - 6th grade. Time 9:00-11:30 a.m. Teachers and children will be exploring fresh ways of praising God through songs, storytelling, crafts and fellowship. Register Monday 8:30 a.m. or call the church before the 26th. 274-3740

**The Church of the Good Shepard** — Annual Ice Cream Festival, June 29th, 6pm-9pm, 725-9768

**First United Lutheran** — French Night, June 18th, potluck, bring your favorite French dish; Ice Cream Social, 3rd Sunday in July. 527-8362

*We have two new ministers in our area:*

**Springdale Methodist** welcomes **Rev. Elton Andrew Watlington** to the Church following Annual Conference. Final preparations are being completed in the parsonage for his arrival.

Rev. Watlington graduated Cum Laude from Lambuth in 1950. His major was English and he minored in Biology. He received his Masters in Divinity from Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, in 1955. He served pastorates while he was attending school in Pleasant Hill, Ky., on the Brazil Circuit in Trenton, Tenn. and in Elroy and Camp Douglas, Wisconsin. From 1972-75 he served as pastor of the Ripley Circuit. His major work has been as a missionary to Peru with the Board of Global Ministries. He served there from 1956-72 and from 1975-1978. He and his family will bring many rich experiences to share with us from those years of service.

Rev. Watlington is married to the former Janice Threadgill. She, too, is graduated Cum Laude from Lambuth. She majored in Home Economics and minored in Business Administration.

They have four children. Mrs. Martha Morris is an RN at the UT College of Health Sciences. Joe Thomas Watlington is attending Medical School at UT. Mary Emma Watlington is a teacher. John Andrew Watlington is 13 and will be attending Junior High here in Memphis. Andy is quite proud of his dual citizenship in Peru and the U.S.

**Trinity Methodist** also has a new minister. **David M. Hilliard, Jr.** was born in Memphis. He was raised in Trinity United Methodist Church until his family moved to Obion, Tennessee. Dave answered the call to preach immediately after completing high school at Obion. He enrolled in Lambuth College in Jackson, Tennessee and received his B.A. degree from that United Methodist institution in 1956. He attended seminary at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, where he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1959. In 1977, he enrolled again at Vanderbilt and is presently studying toward a Doctor of Ministry degree.

The first charge Dave ever served was the Camp Ground — Quito — New Bethel Charge in the Brownsville District of the Memphis Conference while in college. He was appointed to the Barren Plains Charge in the Tennessee Conference while attending Vanderbilt. Following seminary, he returned to the Memphis Conference and served the South Fulton Circuit for three years. After that, he moved to Concord Church in

**Episcopal  
Church of the  
Good Shepherd**

1971 Jackson (at University)

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 A.M. - Mass

9:30 A.M. - Church School

10:30 A.M. - Choral Communion

WEDNESDAY SERVICE

10:00 A.M. - Mass and Bible Study

THE REVEREND FATHER

CHARLES H. SYKES

**First United Lutheran Church**

1542 Jackson

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 A.M.

DIVINE WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

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Paducah, Kentucky for six years, and then to Dyer, Tennessee for another six years. Dave comes to Trinity after five years as pastor of Oakhaven United Methodist Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dave is married to the former Patsy Heacon from Madisonville, Kentucky. She is a talented and faithful co-worker with him in the ministry. They have four children. Mark is nineteen. He begins his Junior year at Vanderbilt this fall. Jennie is sixteen and will be a Senior at Central High School. Holly is ten and will be in the fifth grade at Snowden. Hank is six and will begin the first grade at Vollentine.



## Brad McMillan's Open House

Do you harbor a deep, dark desire to see how an artist really lives? Or to see for yourself if it's true Brad hangs from the ceiling during the day and only comes out at night? How ever base your curiosity concerning our neighborhood artist of the cute but weird, Sunday, June 25th, is THE DAY. Brad shows all at his open house from 1 to 5 pm. Original drawings never before seen in the light of day, famous and notorious water colors and prints will be displayed in the abode at 1906 Mignon. Brad and his wife, the lovely Carolyn, invite all their friends and neighbors to come by. Those who knew Brad b.c. (before Carolyn), please be assured that the Mignon address is much civilized, ordered and really quite charming (yes Virginia, there is a miracle!) Don't miss this, as it's sure to be the event of the season — bet you didn't know we had one, season, I mean.

## Renovate in '78

VECAA was very fortunate at its last meeting to have Melinda Hurst speak to us concerning First Tennessee's ambitious new loan program for VECAA and other areas. The program concerns itself primarily with renovation of older homes, a subject near and dear to our hearts.

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As most of us know, money for renovation has been difficult to obtain in the past. First Tennessee has set out to change this in a big way.

The bank, in cooperation with VECAA and Mid Town Council, has established a program to provide financing for renovation or home improvement projects in the VECAA area and other areas of Midtown. First Tennessee has designated two of its branches in our area as special lending centers for this program. At each of these branches there is a lending specialist who has been trained for this type of financing. The bank has committed to give every possible consideration to loan requests for these purposes. In our area the Midtown Lending Specialists are:

Melinda Hurst  
Summer Ave. Branch  
2424 Summer  
Memphis, Tenn. 38112  
523-4862  
Reba McComic — 523-4730  
Mike Lamon — 523-4731  
Jim Terrell — 523-4732  
Crosstown Branch  
1338 Union  
Memphis, Tenn. 38104

The Specialists ask that the following information be included with the application under this program. This will speed up the procedures considerably.

- 1) Completed application
- 2) Either a copy of construction bid from contractor or list of improvements to be made.
- 3) Legal description of property (warranty deed-title policy)
- 4) Original purchase price of home and date bought. Also selling price of comparable housing in your area if available.
- 5) Balance of mortgage and name of company financing the home
- 6) Description of home (bedrooms, bath, garage, whatever work has been done on own)

The availability of this type credit is critical to the continued viability of the VECAA area. We appreciate the support First Tennessee has given us in developing this program.

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Memphis City Schools 454-5228

DIRECTORY OF  
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VECAA — Irvin Sachritz at 276-6216 or 526-6431.  
The Evergreen News — Rick Thomas at 278-2210  
or 725-0680.  
Real Estate — Joe Hough at 274-5551 or 396-3130.  
Social Services — Kathryn Baker, MSW, at 276-  
2970 or 725-0680.  
Schools — David Vincent at 275-0248.  
Services for Senior Citizens — Ed Pulik at 272-  
7408.

# Pam Gaia



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
District 89

General information about this program may be obtained from any of the lending specialists or Carl Holmes, 278-2746.

So come on everybody! Now is the time to replace that driveway, add that bath you've been wanting or that paint you may be needing. Let's spruce up and "renovate in '78".

— Carl Holmes

The following is a reprint from a mini-magazine First Tennessee put together on Mid-Town:

### "Neighborhood Associations"

Civic activism is a way of life in Midtown Memphis, partly out of care for amenity in community living and partly out of the necessity of urban change. Almost every neighborhood has its own peculiar needs, and a neighborhood association to deal with them.

They are justly proud of their records. They have stopped white flight and started commercial revitalization, written their own historic papers and managed federal grant programs. Midtown neighborhood groups have joined hands with the City's community development office in designating three core areas for special government assistance. There are valuable lessons in their work, for each other and the whole city.

The Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association was formed in 1969 to ease the area's racial transition. At the time, black families were buying in the community, and there were pressures from zealous realtors for white persons to sell. Deterioration of the housing stock had become noticeable, financing for home improvements difficult to secure and excessive commercial encroachment a problem. Therefore, VECAA.

The association first attacked the climate of fear in the neighborhood. One homeowner called on another, a community newspaper was published and widely distributed, some realtors were prosecuted for unlawful practice. Together, blacks and whites stabilized the area and became not only neighbors, but friends.

In the ensuing years, VECAA worked aggressively with

the school board to devise a desegregation plan which permitted students in the community to remain in their local schools. The association succeeded in blocking a State Highway Department plan to remove large sections of the tree-lined medians on Jackson Avenue. It has convinced the City Council to prohibit truck traffic on its residential streets, conducted its own survey of housing code violations and, working with other neighborhood groups, obtained a Federal National Mortgage lending program for the area.

Many, if not all, of the Midtown citizen groups have similar stories to tell.

Annesdale Park has recently won a national historic designation as the first subdivision in the South.

Cooper-Young has completed researching and writing its own history and is cooperating with the City and local financial institutions in a Community Development Home Improvement Loan Pool. It also is among the Midtown neighborhoods directing an active neighborhood watch patrol.

The Central Gardens Association long ago hired its own planner and as a result is today a showcase of quality living for the entire city.

The Mid-Memphis Improvement Association is active over a broad reach of the city core and publishes its only monthly newspaper.

Annesdale-Snowden developed the first citizen-initiated, citizen-implemented neighborhood plan approved by City Council that "downzones" the entire area.

Rozelle-Annesdale instigated a project to revitalize its commercial district along Lamar Avenue. The neighborhood group assisted merchants in forming their own association. From that, a development corporation has emerged which is putting together a promotional package to draw people into the neighborhood. Merchants are attacking problems in parking, security and safety. A spokesman said, "We didn't know much about all these things, but we just jumped in anyway."

That would be a fair summary of the way Midtown Memphians do things. Together, and unafraid.

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