The Clergy Corner

Rev. R. J. MacCumber Andover First Baptist Church IS IT SANTA OR CHRIST?

Andover First Baptist Church
IS IT SANTA OR CHRIST?

As we approach the Christmasseason again, this, another year, what is your reaction? Is it the rush, rush of last minute shopping? Worrying whether you will get the right gift for the right person? Mailing cards?

We have hardly taken time to be thankful, when Christmas decorations are in full swing, and Santa is arrayed in all His Glory!

Lets look at the begining. Santa as we think of him way back when he was known as Saint Nichols His work and practice was supposed to be for good. But what have we done to Him? Have we not made a God out of him? No??

"A Santa here, A Santa there, A Here a Santa, there a Santa, there a Santa, Everywhere A Santa!"

A Christmas store open the year around and who adorns the premise? A Nativity Scene? No! A large movable figure dressed in bright red, greets you at the store entrance. Then there's North Pole, with Santa's Village, Indians etc. Is not this a form of worship? "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me!" This is what God has told us, yet we actually place Santa on a throne, and worship him. Christmas means Christ's birthday, in which we celebrate the coming of a great and glorious King! Yet again, we pick out a coloring book for children, and it portrays Santa, His Reindeer Christmas trees, presents, everything to do with the season, but where is Christ?

You buy a kit to spray glass was on the window, again is Santa his reindeurs balls. On there might

where is CULIST?
You buy a kit to spray glass wax on the window, again is Santa, his reindeers, bells; Oh, there might be an angel, and we might even find a church in the background.
What of the gread which have

find a church in the background
What of the greed which has
developed in this line of thinking?
"Santa, Santa everywhere, Santa
Santa in my hair. Santa won't
you give to me all that I would
want to see." "The Spirit of
Santa." We might call it.
What of the Spirit of disappoint
ment arising from this very being?
A child goes to a department store
and talks with Santa, sits on his
lap and hears. Ho! Ho! Ifo!
We near nim sa; and what would
you like for thrigamas. The child
the, proceeds with an unending
list.

the proceeds with an uneading list. Proceeds with an uneading list. Proceeds of the pile of the parent to fill the child's cequest and to tell them South promised is not there then the parent has a real problem on their trade of explain to a tear swept face as to why Santa didn't fulfill his promise.

I wish we could return to the original Spirit of Christmas Christ in the Manger a babe ad ored by the simple Shepherds from the field, adored by the Angels from the highest heavens. Men from the highest heavens. Men from the lowest earth, Voices from heaven and earth joining together in Praise, to honor God at the birth of His Son Jesus Christ! A Holy, and somewhat of a Siteninght in reverance and not in revely. "Singing Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth Peace, good will to men!"

Won't you join with me, and make this your Christmas prayer?

Won't you join with me, and make this your Christmas prayer?

"Give me the true Spirit of Christmas, Lord, as was taught in Bethleham that Holy Night, and Sing again "O Come O Come Emanuel, and ransom capture Israel!"

Hospital Notes

Kimberly Richardson was admit-d to Jones Memorial Hospital,

ted to Jones Memorial Hospitai, Wednesday.
Mrs. Charlotte Caple, a patient in Jones Memorial Hospital, was discharged Thursday.

Mrs. Harold Tiffany, a patient in Jones Memorial Hospital, was discharged Thursday.

Bradley Graves, a patient in Jones Memorial Hospital was discharged Thursday.

Mrs. Ronald Kimball, a patient Hospital, wsa discharged Saturday.

John Dean Jr., a patient in Jones Memorial, was discharged Saturday. Howard McAndrew, a surgical

patient in Jones Memorial Hospital, returned home Saturday.

Mrs. Everett M. Childs, a patient in Jones Memorial Hospital was discharged Monday.

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