



## “Little Lights are Shining” By Susan Exley

December brings special services, the advent wreath and lots of candles. It is so fitting during this season that I write about the red glass sanctuary light in the chancel with a candle always flickering. It was a gift in memory of Mrs. Mildred (Jaudon) Marchman.

Although we refer to the church as a building, it is also a living body composed of the people who are members. Dedicated persons like Mrs. Mildred shaped the future of so many young people at Holy Trinity. In the early days, a children’s assembly room, which was an unfinished area upstairs surrounded by classrooms, served as a Sunday School assembly area for children’s music and reciting Bible verses. There was a big piano painted an odd shade of green sitting away from the wall of the huge room that Mrs. Mildred played for us. We sang and sometimes marched around to “Little Lights are Shining” or another favorite. Taught by her to recite verses, one that comes to mind associated with Mrs. Mildred is **Matthew 5:16 ... Let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.** Whether Bible School, egg hunts, Sunday School, LCW, services or any activity was going on, Mrs. Mildred was taking part and often leading as pianist, teacher or choir member. She and her husband Mr. Mac were role model church members. Preachers came and went but our faithful steadfast members led us. Kindness and special little treats baked with love to serve at our activities come to mind when I think of Mrs. Mildred. She made cherry nut squares with a meringue topping and brought little cheese biscuits in a shiny penguin bun steamer on special occasions. It is always the little things that a child remembers that still bring a smile many years later.

I find it so comforting to look up every Sunday at the lighted red sanctuary light and find pleasure in memories of Mrs. Mildred. She would have been playing Christmas carols for us this month and I am quite sure she is seated at her piano in heaven playing “Joy to the World” for everyone there.