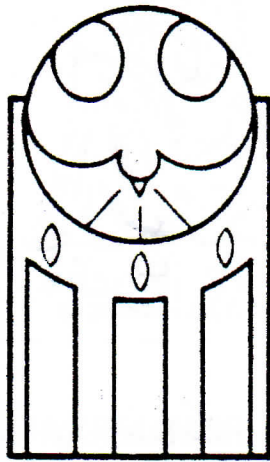


## **SPEECH REMEMBERED**

- Ruby S. Johnson

Back sometime around 1952 our oldest daughter, Janie, was just a tiny 4 year old when she had her first Christmas speech. Janie was so excited that she must have practiced that speech a thousand times. To this day I still remember that speech:

"Foxes have holes,  
Birds have nests,  
But the Son of Man  
Has no place to rest."



**CANDLE  
LIGHT  
SERVICE**

## **CHRISTMAS SINGING**

- Claire Sipe

I remember attending my first Mt. Zion Christmas Eve Service. The lights were all turned out. Everyone stood, holding a lighted candle. A solo singer roamed the church aisles, singing "Silent Night" with the congregation joining after the first verse.

## **GRANDMAW LAIL'S CHRISTMAS**

- Leslie M. Reed

The smell of fresh-baked bread, roasted turkey, dressing, giblet gravy, ham, sweet potatoes with marshmallow centers, mile-high red velvet and German-chocolate cakes, pumpkin pies, Christmas cookies, green beans, corn, slaw, cranberry sauce....combine all this with a decorated tree, presents for everyone, children's laughter, Santa Claus (Pop Odom in disguise), a small home so crowded that we ate in the kitchen, den, living room, bedroom, sometimes standing, sometimes sitting on beds, sometimes overflowing onto the front porch (if not too cold), or even to Uncle Ralph's house next door.... picture all this and you have "Grandmaw Lail's Christmas."

Ah, Christmas past! Sweet memories dance through my mind. Lights, sounds, and even smells come rushing back to me as if it all just happened. I can remember the anticipation - what seemed like endless waiting and the countless appeals to my mom and dad to "Hurry up?" so we could get to Grandmaw Lail's house.

You would think that a small house filled with so many noisy people would be a nightmare for Grandmaw. It was just the opposite, however. She loved it! She would cook for days in preparation for our Christmas Eve get-togethers. But the preparation started months before that. She began in July and August making her list to see that every child,