Dr. Rhea and I unite in extending to you all our most cordial Christmas greetings with best wishes for another inspiring year. Westminster Choir College is on the threshold of a new and greater period of service. Our prayers are that as we set up plans for the future of the college we may have your constant prayers that God may bless and guide us this year as He has in the past.

J. F. Williamson

FUND DRIVE STARTS JANUARY 15, 1958

The annual Alumni Fund will this year set as its goal the sum of $10,000.

As the Fund was first envisioned, the proceeds of its earnings were to be directed toward the needs of the Choir College. In the three short years of the Fund's existence, its purposes have widened to include not only gifts to the school but also the financing of all national alumni functions. For every dollar contributed by you this year, about half of that amount will be returned to the graduates in some way. The following is the proposed budget for this year's fund:

- $800 will be spent on this year's "Newsletter" which we hope will keep you better informed on topics which are of interest to all graduates of the Westminster Choir College.
- $3,000 will be the sum given by the Fund toward the Placement Director's salary. Part of the problem that we have had through the past five years in placements was due to the lack of a full-time Placement Director. As part of the agreement between the Alumni and the Administration on obtaining a Placement Director, we agreed to supply some of the money necessary in securing a full-time person. I am sure most of you, if not all of you, will agree this money is well spent.
- $1,200 will be used for operational expenses of the Fund, the Alumni Association and the Alumni Festivals. This includes the purchase of some new equipment now being used by the Fund and the Choir College alike (a new addressette machine).
- $500 work scholarship to be offered each year in accordance with the voting of the Directors. The work in this case is secretarial duty to be handled by a part-time student.
- $4,500. In the coming academic year we shall have a new President on campus. In most colleges throughout the country there would be a President's home in the offering, but unfortunately at the Choir College there is no such thing. It is the intention of the Fund this year to turn over as large a sum as possible to the Choir College with one stipulation; that the Board of Trustees con-

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 3)
EDITOR'S COLUMN

We sat recently in Solowey's NY restaurant and read the sign over the doorway: "occupancy by more than 328 persons dangerous and unlawful." 328 is a number very close to that of the WCC 1957 student body, and the thought came to your editor "are we living dangerously ENOUGH?"

Four weeks ago, I visited the choir school of St. Thomas Church in NYC. Two fine buildings comprise the physical plant; 13 dedicated and able persons the faculty, and 40 fine boys the student body. The newer building, at W. 54th St., was erected in 1954 at a cost of over $500,000. The general endowment of this school is in excess of $825,000.

Not too long ago I received in the mail a statement from the University here in town about their annual giving. As recently as 1941, only 15% of the Alumni were contributing, and the sum of their gifts totaled approximately $75,000. Now Princeton is famous for its splendid Alumni giving, grown up within the intervening years to the point where $1,000,000 is annually EXPECTED by the Administration, from a contributing 72% of the Alumni. They have grown up.

We are approaching now the season of Him who came to save, and will soon commemorate the birth of Him who taketh away darkness. Celebration and thanksgiving, with music as their handmaiden, will everywhere be apparent. Consider the effect of Christmas tide upon professed atheism...an effect considerably caused by the beauty of this season's appropriate music. Should we not then use these quiet days to consider this question: who will propagate this music, who perpetuate the observance of the nativity of the Incarnate Word thru' harmony, melody and rhythm?

The work of YOUR college was dreamed-of many years ago, consider-

RECENT WCC AND PRINCETON TOWN NEWS

Of the recent performance of Debussy's "Demoiselle Elue", the NY Times said "...the women's chorus from the Westminster Choir sang with delicacy of ensemble tone"; and of the "Messiah" recording..."the Westminster Choir sings wonderfully".

We were privileged to have on campus recently Mr. J. C. Penney who addressed the student body at Thursday Chapel, Nov. 21st.

Robert Frost, 83, distinguished "dean of American poets" read from his own works, in the University's McCoish Hall, Thursday, Dec. 5th.

Princeton town received 9 inches of snow in the Dec. 4th blizzard.

Paul Smith ('55), Barbara Hilbish ('50) and Virginia Switten ('44) assisted in the presentation of the "Christmas Oratorio" by the Princeton Society of Musical Amateurs, Dec. 15th.

Mathilde McKinney's new "Christmas Cantata", written especially for the Princeton High-school Choir, will highlight the 10th anniversary appearance of this group in the University Chapel, Dec. 19th.

The Sarah Lawrence Chorus joined the University Choir to present a "Magnificat" by Thomas Tallis, "Cantata #118" by Bach, and the "1st Confessor" Palestrina mass, also Dec. 15th.

Mrs. Barbara Connolly Lewis, formerly assistant conductor to G. Wallace Woodworth of the Harvard & Radcliffe Choral Societies, will reach the Princeton Adult School course in Choral Singing.

The Columbus Boychoir gave matinee and evening performances on Dec. 21st, in McCarter Theatre, featuring "Amahl and the Night Visitors", preceded by the singing of carols.

On Wed., Dec. 11th, the choir of Trinity Church, augmented by members of the Princeton Music Club, presented "Command Thine Angel" by Buxtehude, under the direction of Thomas Hilbish ('48). Raymond Rudy, organist-choirmaster, played several solos demonstrating the different qualities of the new organ. LaVerne Jackson, organist of 1st Methodist Church gave the first performance of "Fantasie-Toccata" by Mathilde McKinney. Duets from two Bach cantatas were sung by Thelma Young and Barbara Hilbish. Ethel Colton ('36) violinist, assisted.

In a most unusual series of three concerts, the Friends of Music at Princeton are presenting "A Twentieth Century Cycle of Violin Sonatas" played by Joseph Szifert, violinist, accompanied by Carlo Bussotti, pianist, in Proctor Hall of the Graduate College.

Maria Tallchief, prima ballerina of the NYC Ballet, and Walter Terry, dance-critic of the NY Herald Tribune, collaborated in a lecture-demonstration at McCarter Theatre, Dec. 16th.


The 15th century Nativity play "Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors" was presented in the Westminster Choir College Playhouse Dec. 10th.

Westminster Choir College sponsors a Korean orphan. If any Alumni care to send him a Holiday card, please send it to: Kim Ho Sik, Adoption No. 8431, Home No. B 226, Orphan's Home of Korea, c/o Christian Children's Fund, Kwang Wha Moon, P. O. Box 278, Seoul, Korea.

ably LESS years have seen the planning of its program, and it is only within the lifetime of THIS alumni newsletter that its destiny has been defined. Westminster, with its program of ministering thru' music, serving the church, school and community, has been a leader, an example often copied. With the decision to build on our present property, an air of permanency and stability was secured, and with the backing of its alumni, WCC is now ready to apply

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 3)
NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

Beverly Mercer ('53) and William Steward ('52) were soloists with the Amarillo, Texas, Symphony, December 8th, singing the Bach "Christmas Oratorio". Westminster Choir will visit the campus of Wayland Baptist College, where Bill and Bev are faculty members, February 21st, for a concert and vocal-clinic.

An article in the November issue of "Diapason" mentioned that two busloads of Westminster Choir College students attended the October 17th recital of Marcel Dupre at St. Thomas' Church, in New York City.

2nd Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, of Atlanta, Ga., where G. Stanley Powell ('51) is Minister of Music, recently contracted for a large Moller organ.

Concordia Music Corp. announces the publication of a new anthem, "O Father All Creating", by David Fetler ('50).

Richard H. Brewer ('52), in his third year toward a Ph.D. at UCLA won the Atwater Kent Fellowship in music. Dick heads the Music Ministry at Highland Park Presbyterian Church where Howard Swan and Leonard Martin ('32) were two of his predecessors.

John Homer ('54) directed the choirs of the Union Reformation Service held October 27th at Trinity Methodist Church in Chester, Pa.

From Catalina Methodist Church of Tucson, Arizona, came a beautiful brochure for their "Loyalty Sunday" observance. One of Dick Lapo ('54)'s eleven choirs was pictured. Catalina boasts over 550 people involved in a comprehensive music program!

November 18th saw the first meeting of the newly organized Southern Appalachian Alumni Association. In attendance were Mr. and Mrs. John Boesenhofer ('53), Mr. and Mrs. S. David Smith ('49), Milton Ellison ('51), Edwin May ('53), Mrs. Paul Edwards ('35), Kenneth McSween, George Trulx ('50), Emmett Hart ('48), and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Cable ('54). Plans were made to have the touring choir in Morristown, Tenn., on March 6th. (Ed's note: Congratulations to all you hard working people; the Associations are

ATTENTION ALUMNI!

The BALLOTS, inserted in the Newsletter were mailed on Wednesday, November 27, 1957 and should have been received in time to return to the Alumni Office by December 10th. Many have reported on their ballots that they were not received until December 9th. In order that all may still have an opportunity to vote we are extending the count of the ballots until January 15, 1958. Thank you.

John T. Clough
Director of Public Relations and Alumni Affairs

ADDRESSES UNKNOWN

Ambrust, Joseph, B.M., '52
Dyck, Henry, B.M., '47
David, Mrs. Hildegarde Odler, B.M., '51
Fulton, Mrs. Billie Marshall, B.M., '44
Gallu, Mrs. Harriet Trangmar, B.M., '42
Gast, Theodore, B.M., '49
Jacobs, Richard C., B.M., '42
Emurian, Henry, B.M., '32
Renn, Euticus, B.M., '37
Speer, Klaus, M.M., '39
Stover, Ross, B.M., '53
THE TEMPO OF HYMNS
Arnold Leverenz

Why is it that the hymning experience in most worship services is so upsetting to me? I am not referring to the degree of participation by the congregation. I believe that the source of my discontent resides in the tempo which the organist sets for the congregational singing.

I am prepared to admit that I may have some prejudices and fixed habits after ten years in the Ministry of Music. I am not ready to admit, however, that the tempos I prefer are bound up entirely with my subjective opinion. The right tempos for hymns are dependant upon many factors, not the least of which are text, mood and sympathetic rapport with the congregation.

There are four types of organists whom I have encountered in this past year and a half of worshipping in a great variety of worship services. (On Sundays when not preaching, I am making an objective study of elements in worship services - from liturgy to sermon.)

Organist A plays beautifully. The preludes and postludes are superb and the interludes a joy to hear. But when it comes to the hymns, then, what in the world happens anyway? In the first place, the minister selects hymns that may fit the theme of his sermon or may satisfy his theological needs, but the tunes are both unfamiliar and hard to sing. Furthermore, three hymns are selected which are almost totally unknown to the congregation. Now, add to that a tempo that would make the Ride of the Valkyries seem tame and I've had it! My freedom to worship has been usurped by an organist who is bent upon curing the congregation of singing too slowly. If I, as a pretty good singer, musician and theological student can't appreciate that much unfamiliarity in one dose to say nothing of being utterly breathless by rushed tempos, how can the congregation be expected to embrace the hymning experience with gusto?

Organist B is a wonderful musician who has been infected with the Interpretation Disease. He introduces the hymn with great fanfare and usually the right tempo. But what happens when we take a breath in rhythm and prepare to sing? He drops the organ support down to a whisper and causes most people to crawl into their shell for fear that their voice will be heard by the person standing next to them. The tempo then begins to drag slower and slower with each stanza. Usually, however, he finds a novel registration or tremendous dynamic change for each stanza which leaves green music students fascinated and the rest of the congregation confused, irritated or just completely passive.

Another favorite trick is to vary the tempo within the stanza or from stanza to stanza. Believe me, you've got to be on your toes in this service!

Organist C is a dear old soul who means well. She has played the organ for twenty years. She has never had an organ lesson although I hear that she is a good pianist. (She's learned how to use her feet on her own and her selections of registrations are on the pretty side) She's so nice that she allows the congregation to set the tempo for her. She sits on the last chord of each stanza as if her fingers had become glued to the keys. She stretches out the Amens to at least twice their proper length and plays them very, very softly.

Organist D is young and pure. Nothing is dearer to his heart than Bach's music and the sound of a brilliant baroque organ. He plays at correct tempos, but somehow everything is so correct that all spontaneity has been lost. The break he makes between each stanza of the hymns can be adequately likened only to that between movements of a great concerto. Here is formalized rigidity which warms not the heart.

Does it seem to you that no organist could satisfy me? I have worked with two who satisfied me completely in regard to tempo. What do you think about it? Why don't you express your feelings, convictions and/or solutions on the tempo problem by writing to me? The address is simply Plainsboro, N. J.

FUND DRIVE STARTS
(Continued from Page 1)

Consider this sum as a donation toward such a building as the President's home. The money may be used at their discretion without being tied up for a long period of time while awaiting this new building, but the intention is to place emphasis on the need for such a building on campus.

The future of the Choir College is unlimited, and we mean that in an honest and realistic way, but its future is directly connected with the interests and actions of the Alumni body. The proposed budget for 1957-1958 is by no means an exaggerated one. It is quite modest. The Fund officially begins on the 15th of January, when you should be receiving a letter from your Class Agent. You can do more than write out a check in answer to his letter because giving money is only a small part of what we are trying to do. When you have finished writing out the check, why not contact other alumni in your area to see if a festival is planned - to see if an Alumni Association exists - to see if you are carrying on the work in your church or job in the tradition and manner you started out to - to see if there are some young people in your area who would like to follow a career in the Ministry of Music. These are some of the ways in which all of you should be giving.

The entire Staff here at the Choir College wishes each and everyone of you real Christmas joy and the promise of a truly good New Year.

Carl H. P. Dahlgren
Executive Director
Westminster Choir College Alumni Fund Association

New Arrivals Department
Richard Frederick, to Joline Humphrey ('53) Mills, Nov. 6th, 1231 Jefferson Ave., Winston-Salem, N. C.

Elizabeth Anne, born to Lois Whitacre ('51) Giles, August 30th, 902 Charles St., Middletown, Ohio.
NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

(Continued from Page 3)

the life-blood of the Alumni Fund, and your college.

Dick Lapo and Dick Raub ('55) are to be congratulated for the splendid job both are doing on their respective Class Letters.

Calvin Marsh ('41) received notice in the December 3rd New York Times for his premier performance of the Season in "Barber" at the Met. Said the critic "...Calvin Marsh gave a creditable account of himself".

Donald Mathis ('56) has set a most ambitious program for the Ministry of Music of St. Petersburg, Florida's First Presbyterian Church. A forty piece orchestra has been recruited from the congregation, and will accompany the choirs in the following tentatively scheduled list: Schubert: Mass in G; Schuetz: Christmas Story; Buxtehude: Praise Zion; Brahms: Requiem and Alto Rhapsody; Gounod: Gallia and St. Cecelia Mass; Bach: Holy is God; Mozart: Requiem, plus Humperdinck: Hansel and Gretel; Beethoven: Choral Fantasia; Brahms: Liebeslieder Waltzes; Weil's Down in the Valley and a concert version of Aida. This in addition to five hymn festivals, and pageants of Thanksgiving and Christmas. (Ed's comment: !!!)

Mildred Dilling, internationally famous harpist, will participate in the December 22nd Candlelight service of Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims, directed by Henry Pfohl ('29).

James T. Anthony ('56) was organist for the Wadesboro, N. C. Community Concert presentation of the "Messiah" December 8th.

Seven choirs of 1st Presbyterian Church, Amarillo, Texas, will participate in the open house held in Fellowship Hall. L. Campbell Bunting ('49) will direct.

H. Wells Near ('52) and Grat Rosassa ('57) have sent in attractive brochures of the respective Christmas activities of Latrobe, Pennsylvania Presbyterian and Fort Myers, Florida, 1st Methodist Churches. Both are using the Augsburg format.

Elmore's "Incarnate Word" was performed by choirs directed by Robert Clawson ('53) at St. Mark's Methodist Church, Brooklyn, December 15th. Incidentally, 'Tulsa' 's choirs will again this year sing at Grand Central Station in New York City on December 17th.

The 9-choir Choral Union of St. Paul Methodist Church, Muskogee, Okla.

FESTIVAL NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

At this writing, Washington, your capital, is just recovering from what has officially been called the heaviest snowfall in 15 years. It wasn't very bad really (it was about 11 inches) but to us here even 2 inches is something to write home about. But today it is raining and the snow is about gone, and can. Let's really put it over this year. Write to me at: Whitford L. Hall '33, 1st Congregational Church, 10th & G Sts., N. W., Washington 1, D. C. directed by Frank Hunter ('50), accompanied by twenty-two instrumentalists, will present a Candlelight Vesper on December 15th. (Ed's note: Frank has made an orchestral arrangement of the Butcher setting of "Let All Mortal Flesh". The Butcher version raises the roof... I'd like to hear what Frank adds. Thinking of orchestra acc., I'd also like to hear the instrumentation of "Gallia". Note to Don Mathis in Florida: is this possible?)

From Robert Gotwald ('51) came two lovely programs of church events on December 1st and 8th. The Northeast Ohio Westminster Choir College Alumni Association put on quite a Junior Choir Festival at Cleveland Heights' Church of the Saviour. Many of these Alumni plan to journey to Kent, Ohio, when Westminster Choir is there. Incidentally, Bob's church is right up there with Ben's when it comes to quality of brochure and quantity of service music offered on an individual Sunday.

STUDENT BODY OPINION

We watched your dream ("Some day we will have it!") come true. We watched it grow from the breaking of the ground to the opening of the doors. Probably those who have the greatest appreciation for the men's dorm are those who lived in the Cottage, and those who lived in the Ranch House with a practice room on either side of them. To describe the building, or to express our appreciation in words to you is impossible. On behalf of the student body I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the alumni who helped make the furnishings of this dormitory possible, and to Dr. John Finley Williamson, the man who had the faith, the vision, and the determination to make this dream a reality.

Richard Izquierdo
President of student body
WESTMINSTER CHOIR TOUR 1957-58

Mon. Eve. Dec. 9 Long Branch, N. J.
(Community Concerts)

(Catonsville Con. Assn.)

Tue. Eve. Feb. 4 Kent, Ohio (University Auditorium)
(Kent State University)

Wed. Eve. Feb. 5 Ashland, Ohio (Memorial Chapel)
(Ashland College)

Thurs. Eve. Feb. 6 Grand Rapids, Mich. (Central High School Au-
ditorium) (evening rehearsal with orchestra.)

Fri. Eve. Feb. 7 Grand Rapids, Mich. (Civic Auditorium)
(Symphony Orchestra)

Sat. Eve. Feb. 8 Berrien Springs, Mich. (College Auditorium)
(Emmanuel Missionary Col.)

Sun. Eve. Feb. 9 La Grange, Ill. (Lyons Township High School Au-
ditorium) (La Grange Legion Sunday Evening Club)

Mon. Morn. Feb. 10 Chicago, Ill. (High School Auditorium)
(Visitation High School)

Mon. Eve. Feb. 10 North Manchester, Ind.
(Manchester College)

Tue. Eve. Feb. 11 Goshen, Ind. (High School Auditorium)
(Goshen Concert Assn.)

Wed. Feb. 12 Rest

Thurs. Eve. Feb. 13 Charleston, Ill. (College Auditorium)
(Eastern Illinois State College)

Fri. Eve. Feb. 14 Naperville, Ill. (Pfeiffer Hall)
(North Central College)

Sat. Eve. Feb. 15 Waukegan, Ill. (Zion Auditorium, Zion, Ill.)
(Community Concerts)

(Shimer College)

Mon. Eve. Feb. 17 Monmouth, Ill. (College Chapel)
(Monmouth College)

Tue. Feb. 18 Eldorado, Ark. (Festival of choirs)


(Further schedule of Choir will appear in January issue of Newsletter.)

ALUMNI OFFICE

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! What a busy but glorious season of the year as all the directors and their choir members, from the youngest to the oldest, prepare and present their homage to the Christ Child through the medium of music, verse and pageantry.

The New Year will present many opportunities and challenges for all, as we face the future both here at the Choir College and in each individual church. Diligent work and earnest prayer will help to prepare us for these things that lie ahead.

John T. Clough
Director of Public Relations
and Alumni Affairs

EDITOR'S COLUMN

(Continued from Page 2)

for membership in a national association of schools and colleges fully accredited. We are growing up.

The continued interest of all our readers is earnestly solicited. Won't you write more often to the administration, call more often for services, visit more often, and speak Westminster's name more to young people considering college?

Is any of us surfeited by these tasks already? Is any one of us going out on a limb for the sake of our school? Are YOU living dangerously enough?

Jay L. Smith ('52)