

Plymouth's 75 Club Caters to Servicemen

Colorful Clubroom Is Scene of Happy Evenings
—Donors Dedicate Evenings to Honor Their Kin

By RUTH G. DAVIS

A lonely service man on Brooklyn Heights? Never! The Junior Guild of Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims is seeing to it that every Friday night service men can have a date at The 75 Club, which is for young people's programs at the Plymouth Church, 75 Hicks St. Here is a canteen that's a home living room and downstairs game room combined. A place where a fellow can dance with a girl who takes the place of his chum's sister at home, a junior hostess with whom he can play cards, ping-pong, the kind of a gal a fellow writes home about. It is always open house on Fridays to service men and women, with no officers in attendance.

Colorful Clubroom

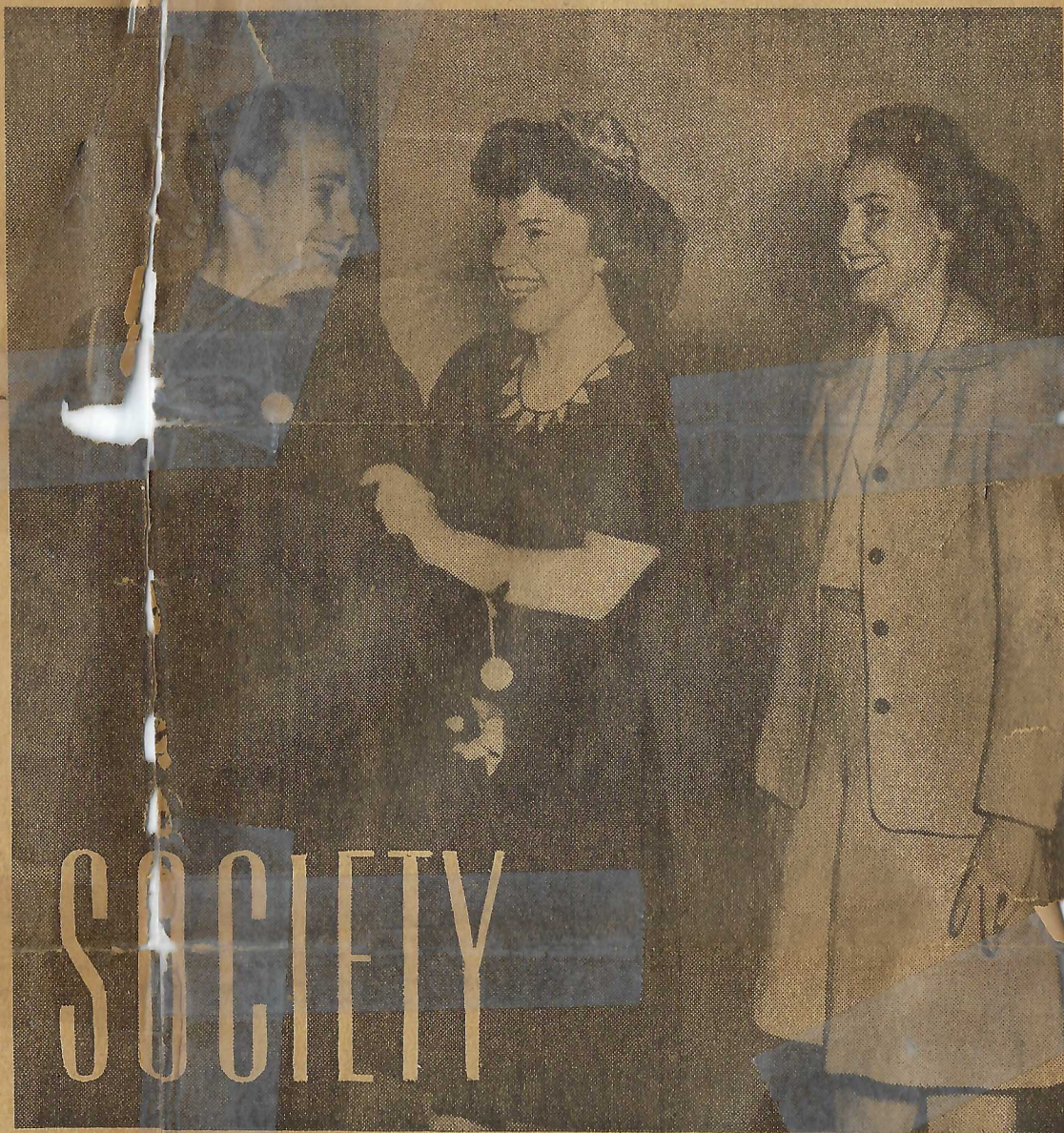
The clubroom is a bright colorful one of yellow, blue and maroon shades, guaranteed to brighten the soul of any lonesome soldier or sailor. There are modern but comfortable chairs to lounge in, a fireplace to stare into, books to muse over and endless records to play. There's a snack bar, too, always piled full of interesting foodstuffs such as doughnuts, apples, cookies, pretzels, soft drinks, many brands of cigarettes and, on occasions, pies and other special eatables. Often they roast weenies or marshmallows in front of the fireplace.

Dedicated Evenings

The canteen is supported by popular subscription by members of Plymouth Church and a donor of \$25 may dedicate a service men's party on a special Friday to a relative or friend. The first dedication was made by Dr. L. Wendell Fifield, pastor of the church, who dedicated an evening to his son, Pvt. Robert Fifield, who is in a gunnery school in Florida. The chaps who are in attendance on a Friday night that has been dedicated send a letter to the so-honored service man, wherever he may be, telling him how they enjoyed the evening at the canteen.

Young Marrieds Comprise Guild

The Junior Guild of Plymouth is composed of young married women, who are members of Plymouth Church. Mrs. George W. Billings is chairman of the Guild and Mrs. Lee Brown is the senior hostess in charge. Mrs. Fifield, wife of Dr. Fifield, is an active member of the Guild. The hostesses are members of the choir and are the younger women of the church membership and their friends. They make application to and are interviewed by Mrs. Brown. There are approximately 100 junior hostesses who entertain for the service men on these Friday evenings, with about 50 present of an evening. Should there not be a need for the number of hostesses present—off they go, to the Tudor reception room and have a bridge party until their presence is required. They obey the usual regulations for canteen hostesses.



Each's Staff photo

A FRIEND IN NEED—Miss Virginia Appell helps Earl Wittig remove his coat as he enters the 75 Club to spend an evening at the Plymouth Canteen. Miss Ethel Lewis looks on.

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Members Write to Boys' Families

The Guild is a year and a half old, having been organized in October of 1942 for service, study and sociability. It now takes care of all the service men's projects in the church, having opened the canteen in October of last year. Visiting service men at the Sunday worship service are invited to sign their names in a guest book, and, if they so desire, a member of the Junior Committee will write to their mother or another relative. In answer to one letter written by the Junior Guild telling of her son's visit to Plymouth, a mother wrote, "I received the sweet missive of yours telling me of my son and his wife having attended church at Plymouth. He was home in 1943 and told of having been at your church and showed me a kodak snapshot which he had taken of the church. I think it a congenial gesture of your church to send mothers of our nation's sons that are far away from home letters that they were at your shrine. My son is all the son I have. Since I am alone most of the time, anything of a Christian nature is helpful to cheer my lonely life as I pray for the safe return of my son."

Other Work of Guild

The Guild also makes communion sets from tablecloths, etc., to send to chaplains in the army and navy and, of course, they send Christmas presents and letters to the boys on the honor roll at Plymouth, which holds approximately 90 names. At the next meeting of the Junior Guild cardboard games will be sent to all the men.

All service men, and service men only, are the chief concern of the Junior Guild. Should a chap be interested in tropical fish, as one happened to be, the aquarium of Miss Allan R. Wilson, church house hostess, is at his disposal. As a matter of fact, he had a thoroughly enjoyable time cleaning the tank. His other hobby was doing the rhumba. The Plymouth Canteen catered to both interests.



BROOKLYN EAGLE, SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1944

FIRESIDE CHAT—Tom Yates, Ph. M., 3d class, enjoys a talk with Miss Grace Gray and Miss Sidnee Stittig at the 75 Club at 75 Hicks St. The Junior Guild of Plymouth Church has charge of the club, which is a popular canteen for service men.