

Buckland Church May Be Saved

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(Buckland Church)

PWC - HISTORIC BUILDINGS

By **ROB LAYBOURNE**
JM Staff Writer

The 131-year-old St. Luke's Church in Buckland, which has been slated for destruction, may be receiving a reprieve.

The church, in the historic village of Buckland, which is owned by the Northern Virginia United Methodist Board of Missions, was slated to be demolished and the 1-acre church site to be sold. The board may decide not to demolish the church and to sell it instead, if a buyer can be found, said T. Clay Wood of Nokesville, a lay member of the board of missions, in an interview Sunday.

The board had voted in November to demolish the church and sell the property as part of plan to consolidate the church's holdings in preparation for the construction of new church in the Gainesville area.

The church, which has not been used for religious services since the early 1960s, is presently occupied by the Mustard Seed, a non-profit thrift shop which distributes clothing to needy families. Donald Tulley, director of the Mustard Seed, said he was told in November that his group, which has been located in the church for the past 15 years, would have to vacate the building by the end of December. The church has now rescinded the December deadline, but the charitable group is still searching for a new location.

Wood said the board, while it has not yet voted to rescind its November decision, is expected to amend its decision to demolish the church in light of the opposition the plan has received from Buckland residents.

"It would certainly be the desire of the board of missions to comply with the wishes of the people there," Wood said. "It would certainly not be my recommendation, as a lay member of the board of missions, that the building be demolished while still realizing that the board of missions has to dispose of the property. The last thing I would

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Parade Winners Announced

see other side

By **BENNIE SCARTON JR.**
JM Staff Writer

A large number of spectators lined the streets of Manassas Saturday for

VIRGINIANA FILE

Prince William Public Library
Manassas, Va.

REFERENCE

Majorettes, first place; Dale City Starlets, second place; and Golden Eagles of Reston, third place.

• Miscellaneous division — National Capital Area Great Pyrenes Club, first place; Oakview Elementary School Exhibitional Activities Club, second place; and Skate City of Manassas, third place.

A special judges' award for excellence was presented to the DECA Clubs of Osbourn and Manassas Park High Schools for building the float that carried Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus in the parade.

The judges reported that this year's parade was one of the best they had observed in recent years.

Church

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would want to see done is for the building to be torn down."

The board may need to call special meeting to rescind its November decision. The board presently is not scheduled to meet again until January, according to Wood.

The church has received one offer to purchase the church, Wood said, but the offer did not include a total dollar amount. The church still has to set a sale price on the property.

Wood believes it is "a very remote possibility that the building will be razed."

The church, as well as the majority of the historic buildings in Buckland, are presently under consideration for inclusion on the Virginia Historical Landmark Registry and the National Registry of Historic Places. The Virginia Landmarks Board will meet in Richmond Tuesday to consider Buckland's nomination. Acceptance of the village for inclusion on both registers is expected, according to knowledgeable sources. However, if the village is accepted for inclusion on the register, the designation would not prevent the demolition of the buildings in the historic district.

Prince William County, which filed the nomination petition with the state for historic designation, is expected to ask Buckland be designated a county historic district if it receives state designation. The county designation would allow restrictions to be placed on the destruction or alteration of buildings in the district, according to county officials. It is not expected that the county historic designation would occur before Feb. 1988.

St. Luke's Church is only one of several churches which have occupied the building, which dates from 1856 when Buckland resident Hugh Hite deeded the church site to John Trone, a Buckland blacksmith, and the church's first minister.

Police spokesman Sam Walker.

The youth is being held under a de according to the report. A hearing Juvenile and Domestic Relations cou

According to the report, Parris an argument which degenerated into a a knife and slashed Parris from his his abdomen. As Parris was attem reportedly kicked the car and brok arrested shortly after the incident.

Amoco Sta

Woody's Amoco service station loo was robbed of an undetermined