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As Christians prepare to mark the nual Week of Prayer for Christian ity, efforts to heal the divisions have separated Christians for ries face an uncertain future. nts in the past year have given to both hope and hesitation g ecumenists as they seek to e concrete the unity of the profess to pray and seek.

his year's observance, which be-Friday, Jan. 18, is centered on "Your Kingdom Come,

To pray for the coming of God's kingdom is to pray for Christian uni-ty," said Dr. Robet Huston, ecume-nical staff officer for the United Methodist Church.

"When all persons live in love with one another and regard God's will as supreme, could Christians still be separated by attitudes, behavior and self-serving structural barriers?" Huston asked.

Begun in 1908 by Father Paul Wattson, founder of the Atonement Friars and the Graymoor Institute, the week of prayer is widely marked around the world and has in the past been used as a time to announce significant ecumenical events.

This year, hopes generated by the prayers for unity will be focused on Cincinnati, Ohio, and the specially reconvened plenary session of the

Consultation on Church Union Jan.

COCU is a 20-year-old effort by 10 Protestant denominations to achieve

organic union. At the Cincinnati meeting, the delegates will be asked to approve a document describing the roles and functions of the ordained clergy in the proposed new church body — a major obstacle in past unity discus-

If the document is approved — as expected - it will be sent to the 10-member communions for their consideration and approval and could well end one of the major logjams in Protestant unity efforts. At the same time, however, both

Roman Catholic and Protestant ecumenists are casting a wary eye at Rome and the recent actions of the Vatican in cracking down on theological dissent within Catholicism.

In particular, the Vatican's action in stripping the Rev. Hans Kung of his official status as a Roman Catholic theologian has ecumenists con-

Kung was stripped of his official status for views on papal infallibility— a key issue that is at the heart of ecumenical discussions between Roman Catholics and both Protestant

and Orthodox communions. The Kung action raises the question of just how committed to ecumenical endeavors the Vatican will be

under Pope John Paul II. But the Rev. Charles LaFontaine, co-director of the Graymoor Ecume-nical Institute, says he believes the Roman Catholic church in the United States "will remain firmly committed to ecumenism and the cumenical movement.

LaFontaine says that ecumenism is indeed a papal priority and "not ast one more policy out of many.

"How the pope understands ecumenism and its practice is a different matter, of course, but that Roman Catholics must be involved ecumenically at every level of the church is absolutely clear," he said.

December jobless up

United Press International WASHINGTON — The nation's unemployment rate rose slightly in December to 5.9 percent of the American workforce to finish 1979 at exactly the same level as a year ear-lier, the Labor Department reported

The new jobless statistics supported administration forecasts that the economy showed unexpected strength during 1979's final quarter, delaying the onset of the anticipated recession until this year.

The December unemployment rate was a notch above November's 5.8 percent, the Labor Department said. The percentage of jobless Americans has moved in the narrow band of 5.7 percent to 5.9 percent for

the past 17 months.

Total employment moved up by 300,000 persons last month to 97.9 million. The total U.S. civilian workforce was 104 million.

The ratio of persons holding jobs to the total U.S. population returned to its record high of 59.4 percent, first reached last July, the Labor De-

Page 3B THE BATTALION

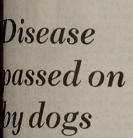
Over the past 12 months, 2.1 million persons found work, with in-creases for both whites and blacks about proportionate to their share of the population.

During much of last year, the White House was braced for a significant increase in unemployment. Last July government forecasters said the jobless rate would hit 6.6 percent by December — a projection that fell fall short of the mark.

Labor Secretary Ray Marshall told reporters earlier this week that he now expects unemployment to increase to more than 6.5 percent by this summer

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TLANTA — There may be as as 80 million dogs in the Untates, half of them family pets, therein lies a potential health olem says a parasitic disease ex-at the National Center for Dis-

e problem is described in one d-toxocariasis — according to Peter Schantz of the parasitic ses division of the CDC.

ocariasis is caused by the comroundworm of dogs. It readily speople who ingest the infecgs. The eggs hatch in the small ne and spread to the liver. there they enter the blood m and are transported to other

This early phase of migration is accompanied by abdominal diarrhea and vomiting," said

he larvae sometimes infect the brain and the heart muscle and ere cases can cause blindness death. In people, the disease es two forms, visceral larvae migand ocular larvae migrans. sicians once raised the quesof whether roundworm infection a significant cause of neurologic se in children, such as epilepsy. ntz said that although this has en proved, "it is apparent that is can and does enter the cenrvous system of some children ing ingestion of infective eggs, that the consequences can be

hantz says texocariasis is generbenign, self-limiting disease, siding within weeks if re-

on is prevented. continuing concern, however, dterall other systemic manifesshave subsided, is the possibillarval invasion of the eye with ment visual impairment." antz said texocariasis in man is new disease, simply one about

ich the public and the medical

seventies.

ssion are becoming more

This new awareness of an infection spread to humans through contact with infective eggs of the parasitic nematode in dog feces has led to passage of dog wastes "scoop" laws in a number of major cities, including

Schantz, who has written extensively in professional publications about the dangers of texocariasis, said it is not too surprising that the disease may be highly prevalent in humans "when we consider how commonly dogs and human beings

share the same environment. 'There may be more than 41 million dogs distributed in from onethird to one-half of all American household," he said.

"Estimates which include unowned as well as owned dogs, reach 60-80 million.



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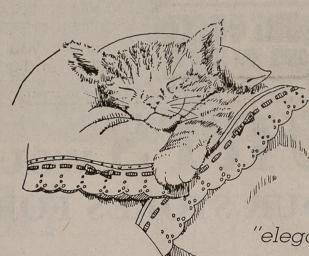
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