

## Church paid for progress

To the Editor:

A price is sometimes exacted by progress, and that price may involve pain. Thus it was for the congregation of Trinity CME Church when their historic old building was leveled to make room for a parking lot for the Decatur Civic Center.

According to pastor Rev. C.L. Hawkins, the Civic Center paid them \$100,000 for it. Their newly completed building is costing them \$300,000, not including the parsonage. Members have sacrificed to make this possible, and more sacrifice is needed before the new building costs are consummated.

Trinity CME held their initial worship in their new location on this first Sunday of Advent. My husband and I attended there. We were impressed with the tasteful simplicity of the building. Lovely old stained-glass windows, the original altar rail, and the pulpit furniture had all been painstakingly moved from their old church and installed in the new one.

Decatur is going to enjoy and benefit from the new Civic Center, as will the present and future City Council members. My thought is this: If Decatur went to follow Mayor Charles Evers' suggestion (that was made when he spoke in Decatur at the Trinity CME fund-raising dinner) and help this congregation by using revenue sharing funds to offset some of the unpaid church balance, the price for progress in Trinity CME's case would seem less painful.

If this were done, I believe all of Decatur, including the City Council, would be able to enjoy the Civic Center more.

Bette B. Thompson, Decatur