THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1971

Plan for merger of N.A. and L.R. Conferences to be filed

In a meeting at Winfield United Methodist Church, Little Rock, on Monday, Feb. 15, the Inter-Conference Committee on Merger of the North Arkansas and the Little Rock Conferences gave approval to its report which will be filed with the 1971 annual conferences for action in 1972.

The two conference committees which were authorized by the 1969 annual conferences have been working for many months to develop their proposal. Dr. Roy I. Bagley, Camden District Superintendent, is chairman of the Little Rock committee, and Dr. Ethan W. Dodgen, Forrest City District Superintendent, is chairman of the North Arkansas group.

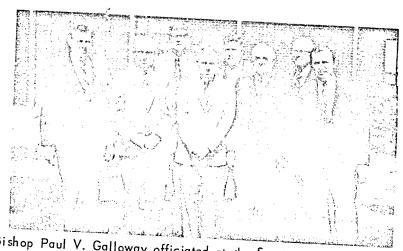
In their Feb. 15 meeting the groups met together. As they approved their report they asked the co-chairmen to

name a committee to rewrite the preamble to the resolution so that it might state the reasons for the creation of the committees and the development of the merger plan.

In addition to the development of the merger plan, the committees have worked through sub-committees in the development and publication of information and background material concerning the proposed merger.

Although a small number of district and sub-district meetings have been held for discussion and "feedback" related to the proposal, the Inter-Conference Committee expects the main discussion of the proposal to come between the 1971 and 1972 sessions of the annual conferences.

Since such a merger would require the approval of the 1972 session of



Bishop Paul V. Galloway officiated at the Service of Consecration for the new fellowship hall at Carr Memorial Church, Pine Bluff, February 28. Pictured at this service are (l. to r.): the Rev. Carl V. Matthew, pastor; Frank Hartsfield, church treasurer; Don Plunkett, chairman of the Building Committee; V. O. Gwin, chairman of the Board of Trustees; Bishop Galloway; Dr. Arthur Terry, Pine Bluff District Superintendent; and William T. Brown, chairman of the Administrative Board. The new facility has a seating capacity of 200 persons for a banquet and cost \$56,000.

the South Central Jurisdictional Conference it could not be consummated prior to the meeting of that body. The merger proposal requests that the date of Sept. 15, 1972 be set as the time for the implementation of merger if the plan is approved.

Dr. Bagley and Dr. Dodgen serve as co-chairmen on the Inter-Conference Committee. Little Rock Conference members are: the Rev. Robert O. Beck, the Rev. Everett Vinson, Dr. John P. Miles, Dr. J. Edward Dunlap,

Please turn to page 2

Shepherd to head Philander Smith drive in Greater LR

William M. Shepherd, retired executive of the Arkansas Power and Light Co., has been named chairman of the Philander Smith Capital Funds drive in the Greater Little Rock area. The announcement was made last week by Dr. Walter R. Hazzard, the

college president.
Mr. Shepherd and his volunteer workers are now calling on the business and professional people in the Little Rock area seeking gifts and

pledges of \$400,000.

'The drive to raise \$400,000 in Little Rock and Pulaski County is a significant part of the larger campaign by the college to raise \$2,000,000 from its friends in a five-state region. It is extremely important that we raise our quota of \$400,000 in Little Rock because, by so doing, we will set an example for the potential contributors beyond our area," Mr. Shepherd said.

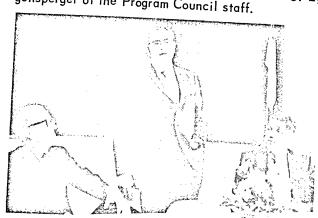
For the first time since its beginning in 1877, Philander Smith College is asking the people of Little Rock and Arkansas to give through a campaign of this nature.

This college is offering a quality education which is evidenced by the fact that it is the only privately-owned predominantly black college in Arkansas that is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. It has a realistic program to accept the disadvantaged black student and help him to reach the level of his potential.

The college, of necessity, lives within its "economy" budget of \$1,-500,000 a year. With an increase of 119 students over the past five years and the mounting pressure of inflation, this budget is proving woefully inadequate. There are little or no funds left for remodeling and repairing property, the replacement of equipment, or the increasing teachers' benefits, or other needs.

Approximately 92% of Philander's budget is spent in Pulaski County, adding substantially to the local economy. For instance, the college will spend in Little Rock during the next

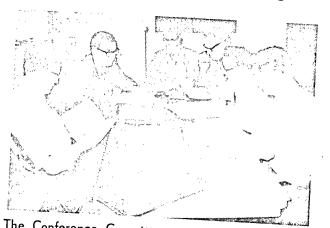
Dr. S. B. Wilford, center, Paragould District superintendent, visits during the mid-year board meetings with the Rev. Earl B. Carter and Dr. Harold O. Eggensperger of the Program Council staff.



The speaker for the Wednesday luncheon sponsored by the Board of Evangelism was the Rev. Walter Albritton of the General Board of Evangelism. Giving earnest attention are the Rev. Floyd G. Villines Jr. (1.), chairman of the conference board, and the Rev. W. Leonard Byers, conference secretary of evangel-

- North Arkansas

Mid-Year Meetings -



The Conference Committee on Group Insurance is led by the Rev. Howard Miller of the General Board of Pensions. The Rev. Allen Hilliard is the chair-



Visiting informally between board meetings were the Rev. Bob Edwards, the Rev. Wayne Clark, the Rev. Sam Teague, and the Rev. Byron McSpadden.

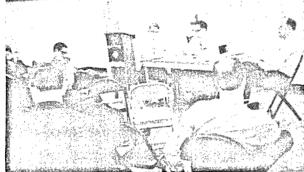
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North Arkansas Mid-Year Meetings



The North Arkansas Conference Board of the Laity at its midyear meeting recognized its district lay leaders with the longest and shortest periods of service. E. Clay Bumpers (center), conference lay leader, is shown with Joe Pierce who is completing 20 years of continuous service in the Searcy and now the Batesville District, while Bob Cheyne (right) is in his first year of service as lay leader of the Fayette-ville District.

The Board of Education is shown at work with Dr. Charles Casteel in the chair.



"Mission to North America"

Mrs. Alpha del Toro, who itinerated in Louisiana last week and is speaking in Arkansas churches this week, is one of nine Christian leaders from six countries who are participating in the 1971 United Methodist "Mission to North America."

Mrs. del Toro is technical principal of the Laurens Methodist School in Monterrey and supervisor of instruction in six public Junior High schools in that city. She has studied under grants from the United States government at the University of Connecticut and Georgetown University. She was the lay delegate from the Mexican General Conference to the 1968 Uniting General Conference in Dallas.

The seven men and two women, who will be in this country until March 20, came "to provide in American churches an interpretation of work of the community of faith in the context in which they live," said Dr. Robert F. Lundy, New York, staff member of the World Division of the Board of Missions

The "Mission to North America," a reversal of the usual practice of sending missionaries from the United States overseas and interpreted as part of the "Mission to Six Continents" concept, was authorized by the 1968 General Conference. This is the second such project, the first being in 1966 when 30 British ministers and



PAGE TWO

16 men and women from other countries came to the United States to make a Christian witness.

from page one SHEPHERD

three years almost 12 times as much as it is trying to raise over the same period.

There are 639 students enrolled in the college, 86% of whom are from Arkansas and 50% from Pulaski County.

For 93 years Philander Smith College has been producing responsible black leadership, good citizens, able professional people, and productive workers for Pulaski County and Arkansas.

According to Dr. W. O. Scroggin, director of the Capital Funds Campaign, "The \$2,000,000 is needed to enable the college to fulfill its responsibilities, to grow with the demands of an enlarging enrollment, to keep pace with inflation, and maintain the academic accreditation it now enjoys."

The \$2,000,000 will be used as follows: \$350,000 for faculty enrichment and benefits; \$650,000 for endowment and scholarships; \$200,000 for library books and equipment, and repair and remodeling of existing buildings; and \$800,000 for a Talent Development Center and Science Hall.

Shown (1. to r.) at meeting held at Marked Tree for 35 workers interested in bringing the Discipline and Discovery program to their church are: Dr. C. G. Swingle of Marked Tree; Dr. Graham McCallie of the Institute of Church Renewal at Atlanta, and the Rev. William M. Wilder, pastor at Marked Tree. In a separate meeting Dr. McCallie held a consultation with 15 pastors from the Jonesboro District, and laymen from the area met at First Church, Jonesboro, for a Day of Renewal encounter service.

Dr. Alread named to Hendrix College post

Dr. Burvin C. Alread, professor of Economics and Business and head of the department of Economics and Business at Hendrix College, has been named Vice President and Treasurer-designate of Hendrix College, according to an announcement today by Dr. Roy B. Shilling, Jr., Hendrix president.

Dr. Alread will assume his duties as soon as an orderly transition can be made in the business office which will probably be about April 1.

Dr. Alread, a native of Atkins, Arkansas received his B.A. degree with honors from Hendrix College in 1949, his M.A. degree in 1950 and his Ph. D. in 1961, both from the University of Missouri. He has done graduate work at Vanderbilt and attended seminars at the New York Institute of Finance and the University of Wisconsin

He joined the Hendrix College faculty in 1951 as assistant professor of economics and business.

Dr. Alread is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Conway and is chairman of its Administrative Board. He is also chairman of the City Planning Commission of Conway. He is a member of the Arkansas State Council on Economics Education and has for six years been the Director and Chief Economist of several Economic Education Workshops.

from page one MERGER PLAN

the Rev. Edward Matthews, Rowan Prewitt, Dale Booth, Frank Thompson, Mrs. Hazel Dabney, Horace Cabe

and LeRoy Autrey.

North Arkansas Conference members are: Dr. Harold O. Eggensperger, the Rev. William P. Connell, the Rev. William M. Wilder, the Rev. Victor Green, the Rev. James M. Meadors, Jr., Charles Beasley, Silas Snow, Clark McClinton, Webb Sweet, Wylie Key, and W. D. Murphy, Jr.



Dr. Alread

MISS YOUNGBLOOD TO LEAD WORKSHOPS IN LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE

Miss Jennie Youngblood of the Board of Education, Nashville, will be in the Little Rock Conference March 7-21 to continue Workshops on Small Membership Churches. Dr. Wayne Lindecker also of the Board staff, will participate on Sunday, March 7, and on March 16 and 17. Miss Youngblood's itinerary is, as follows:

Little Rock District, March 7-10 Pine Bluff District, March 11 Monticello District, March 12-13 Arkadelphia District March 14-15 Camden District, March 16-18 Hope District, March 19-21.

LAY WITNESS MISSION AT FISHER STREET CHURCH

Mr. and Mrs. Hal DeShong of Tulsa, Oklahoma, are the coordinators for a Lay Witness Mission scheduled for March 19-21 in Fisher Street United Methodist Church in Jonesboro. General chairmen are Mr. and Mrs. Polly Black. The Rev. Pharis J. Holifield is the pastor.

RECAPITULATION

REPORT NO. 5 1971 ARKANSAS METHODIST CIRCULATION

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DISTRICT I	New R	enew	Not Due	Total	Quota	Percent
Jonesboro	266	1651	41	1958	1824	107
Monticello	133	1011	5	1149	1124	102
Fort Smith	207	2216	13	2436	2468	99
Pine Bluff	231	1192	9	1432	1700	84
Forrest City	176	1275	6	1457	1775	8 2
Норе	190	993	12	1195	1517	79
Camden	276	1364	20	1660	2193	76
Little Rock	397	2243	17	2657	3604	74
Conway	373	1133	33	1539	2296	67
Batesville	278	943	27	1248	1849	67
Paragould	225	701	15	931	1487	62
Arkadelphia	179	610	24	813	1440	56
_		796	23	1013	1960	52
Fayetteville						
	3125	16128	245	19488		

MARCH 4, 1971

Editorial

CRUCIAL DAYS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

or some time it has appeared that progress might be made in the direction of peace in the Middle East. Even though the initial exchanges between Egypt and Israel were apparently saying different things, there was encouragement in the fact that the lines of communication seemed to be opening in a con-structive way. This writer had prepared an editorial in which he felt that the explosiveness of the situation was being reduced. This position has changed over the past few days, and now it appears that the long-awaited peaceful settlement is not as near as we thought.

It has been more than three and a half years since the end of the six-day war of 1967 in which Israel won a decisive military victory over her Arab neighbors. No serious discussions concerning a permanent settlement of that conflict have been held and the situation continued to deteriorate. The United States and Russia stayed out of the 1967 war by common consent, but the position of both these governments is now such that many people believe a resumption of these hostilities would have worldwide implications. In fact, President Nixon, in his recent "State of the World" message called the Middle East crisis the most dangerous problem before us.

Students of the Middle East have been aware for a long time that there are certain elementary conditions that must be met before the difficult peace can be a reality. It seemed for a few days that these might be within reach as we interpreted the initial exchanges in the current series of conversations. One of these involves the recognition of her existence which Israel has sought since she came into being in 1948. It seemed that such recognition was about to be given, and it was our opinion that other problems would be more easily solved following that.

From the viewpoint of the Arab nations, there was the reasonable expectation that some positive progress might be made concerning the stubborn Palestinian refugee problem. No lasting peace can ignore the plight of these thousands of displaced persons who have lived so long in hopelessness within sight of their former homes.

For a long time the term "non-negotiable" has been widely used concerning certain positions held by Israel since 1967. Many have taken for granted that the leaders of that government were not willing to discuss certain changes in boundaries which the Arabs felt were the "sine quo non" of any peace discussions. Included in the areas covered by this terminology were: the Golan Heights just east of the Sea of Galilee—the hills from which Syrian army units so frequently harassed Isracli villages in the fertile valley; the section of the Sinai Peninsula which guards Israel's access to the Red Sea through the Gulf of Aqaba; and a large section of the city of Jerusalem, captured from Jordan.

These territorial matters are. further complicated by the fact that they involve the claims of Syria and Jordan, while most of the recent overtures have only concerned Egypt and Israel. The discouraging developments of the recent week-end indicate that Egypt has made a pledge to her allies which threaten confrontation concerning all these territorial claims.

All during these conversations prior to last week-end, it seemed that constructive channels of communication were being opened. Now we are fearful that doors are being closed that will lead us to another conflict. Our prayers should be offered that ways may be found out of this

There were some misgivings all along concerning the words which were being exchanged between Egypt and Israel. In offering to reopen the Suez Canal if Israel would pull her troops

out of Sinai there was no indication that the restoration of "international shipping" there would grant Israel the use of the canal —a right she has never had.

Another disturbing development which was raising a real barrier was the announced plan for the development of an Israeli urban renewal program in former Arab section of Jerusalem. Within recent days Israeli Housing Minister Ze'ev Sharef had released plans for the construction of apartment units to house 100,000 people. It seemed that such plans should not have been projected and implemented until some agreement had been reached concerning the permanent status of Jerusalem.

As a current newsmagazine has affirmed, the announcement of such plans at this time can only be called bad timing. Coming just when some momentum was developing in the peace talks, this placed Israel in a bad light with the other nations of the world and raised some question concerning the "good faith" so necessary in the development of a plan of peace.

We only hope that the sharp words spoken over the last week-end are steps in maneuvering for a diplomatic position, and that they do not represent the building of insurmountable barriers which will wreck the Middle East peace talks. This situation does merit our deep concern and our earnest prayers.

the Editor's Corner



Concern Over **Postal Rates**

Some of you may have noted casually that the postal system of the United States is soon to undergo drastic reform as the new Postal Service takes over the operation of the mails from the Post Office Department. Probably you will have noted that First Class mail will be increased from 6 cents to 8 cents for letters, while cards will go up from 5 cents to 7 cents. Air mail postage is scheduled to increase from 10 cents to 11 cents per ounce.

Editors of newspapers, especially those whose circulation is handled mostly by mail, are gravely concerned over the drastic increases that are proposed for Second Class mail. This will also be a big item with churches that are now mailing bulletins or parish newspapers under Second Class

Traditionally newspapers have enjoyed a favored position because of the contribution they make to the total educational and cultural tone of the country. This will no longer be the case under the new Postal Service, and religious and secular press associations are planning to be represented in the public hearings which will be conducted soon concerning the proposed new rates.

This editor and his colleagues are waiting anxiously for the final word on just how much and how fast the increases in postage will affect our budgets and our subscription prices.

While this issue is before us, we will probably devote several of these columns to a discussion of it because we want all of our readers to understand the real impact of the proposed increases.

Of one thing we can be sure, the editor of every religious periodical in the United States is taking a careful look at every aspect of his operation. We have talked to several editors in recent days and we all see stormy days ahead. We want you all to be sharing a part of this burden with us, and so we will be seeking to enlighten you so that we may count on your understanding.

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Poetry Editor: BARBARA L. MULKEY
Editorial Assistant: PEGGY YARBROUGH
Office Secretary: KATHLEEN STOREY
EVERETT M. VINSON, JOE E. ARNOLD, HAROLD EGGENSPERGER,

FARI CARTER W. O. SCROOOM, 18 Woman's Editor: IMOGENE KNOX EARL CARTER, W. O. SCROGGIN, JR., LESLIE J. M. TIMMINS and GARLAND C. DEAN.

Editorial and business offices: 520 Rector Building, Third and Spring Sts., Little Rock, Ark. ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark., 72203. Articles other than editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor.

Published every Thursday except weeks of July 4 and December 25 at Room 520, Rector SUBSCRIPTION PRICE—\$2.50 per year Bldg., Little Rock, Ark. Second class postage paid at Little Rock, Ark. When asking for change of address please include key number, new and old address and pastor's name. change of address please include key number, new and old address and pastor's name.

POSTMASTER: MAIL FORM 3579 to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark., 72203.

MEMBER: Associated Church Press, United Methodist Press Association, and news sources including United Methodist Board of Missions, National Council of Churches, and Religious News

Service (RNS).

ADVERTISING RATES on request. Represented nationally by Jacob's List, Inc., Clinton, S. C.

NOWS views

OF THE WORLD OF RELIGION

by doris woolard

An indication of a developing spirit of religious toleration in Spain was evidenced in Madrid's press coverage of a Jehovah's Witnesses two-part congress which opened there Feb. 6 and resumed in Barcelona two days later. Following passage of the 1967 Religious Liberty Law, press reports of non-Catholic Christian bodies were, for the most part, scarce and brief. The coverage of the Witnesses' meeting in Madrid, however, was noted as being "detailed and generous."

Anglicans and Methodists moved another step closer together when they met, in Liverpool on Feb. 27 in joint synod, for the first time in Britain. The synod, attended by 400 delegates from both bodies, was called on the agreement of Methodist superintendents and the Anglican Bishaps' Council that the two should draw together their governing bodies as far as the law permits. In preparation for the synod, representatives received a brief which outlined four aspects of mutual concern: the mass media, its influence and relations with the Churches; social responsibility; youth, and the role of ordained and lay ministry in modern society.

Older people are being pushed aside by American churches in their zeal to win young people, a consultant for two retirement groups contended in Atlanta, Ga. Mrs. Ester Stamates, a consultant to churches and religious organizations, charged that churches are doing little to utilize the time and talents of older members. She recommended that the church reassess and redetermine its role on the needs of older people. Mrs. Stamates held that seminarians receive no training on counseling or on working with the aged, and suggested pre-retirement counseling as a ministry that must be undertaken. She urged a reestablishing of the motivation for working with older people in the church by becoming involved in community projects and special ministries across denominational lines.

The executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State has lauded a recent address by Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller which indicated his opposition to state aid for non-public schools. New York's governor announced he would veto any bill which would provide "tuition grants" for students in parochial and private schools. "It is the most courageous stand taken on this subject by any political leader in the last decade," according to Glenn L. Archer. The Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) added its commendation in a statement referring to the announcement as "a statesmanlike recognition that public support must not be given to non-public schools.

Trans World Radio, the largest religious broadcasting network in the world has launched its first direct network broadcast from Chatham, N.J. via satellite. Featured in the inaugural broadcast on Jan. 23 was Dr. Paul E. Freed, president and founder of TWR. The satellite used, Intelstat III, is orbiting 22,300 miles out in space over the Atlantic Ocean. The program was broadcast from the international headquarters and relayed simultaneously via satellite to transmitting facilities in Monte Carlo, Monaco, and Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles. Dr. Freed, a Southern Baptist clergyman, founded the agency as a non-profit inter-denominational ministry.

The Rev. C. George Fry, an American Lutheran Church (ALC) pastor, and professor in one of that denomination's universities, has emphasized that church colleges definitely have a vital role in our society, but feels that this function is not now being fulfilled. "To affirm the absolute sovereignty of God is the most relevant thing a church college can do! This is its greatest service to society," Fry said. Pointing to the mental confusion attending restlessness in the nation's colleges today, the educator suggested that "the vocation of the Christian scholar is to be a bridge-builder between a confused and atrophying culture and its origins in the Living God."

The First Baptist Church of Dallas has rented "The Mount Jupiter," 471-passenger steamship, at a cost of \$150,000 to transport 400 persons during portions of a month-long tour of the Holy Land. Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor and past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is leading the tour. "For years Dr. Criswell has been wanting to take the church staff on a tour of the Holy Land," said the Rev. Melvin Carter, associate pastor, so the tour was built around this wish and Dr. Criswell's appearance at the World Conference on Prophecy in Jerusalem (June 13-18)." Twenty-three members of the First Baptist staff of 56 will make the trip.

Some 50 Baptist and 50 Catholic participants met recently in Daytona Beach, Fla. for a three day Southern Baptist-Roman Catholic dialogue. Spokesmen expressed hope that the two largest Christian bodies in the U.S. "will begin to act more together in facing the many issues challenging the Christian conscience in the U.S. today."

Clergymen are being singled out for government persecution in Capetown, Africa, according to the Rev. Theo Kotze, regional director of the Christian Institute of Southern Africa. Mr. Kotze commented on the number of priests and church workers who have had passports seized or restricted or temporary residence permits withdrawn. The list, published in the Institute's official publication, contains names of Lutheran, Anglican, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian clergymen.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary has its first full-blooded Apache Indian studying for the ministry, some 80 years after the Synod launched mission work on Apache reservations in Arizona. He is 26-year-old Quincy Wiley, scheduled to graduate in 1973. Apaches have served as teachers, lay evangelists and interpreters, but never as pastors. Wiley would like to return to his reservation to serve his own people.

Some 4,011 persons made professions of faith in Christ during a four-phase "Spireno" (spiritual revolution now) campaign conducted by First Baptist church in Houston. About 95 per cent of the professions are said to have been made by teenagers. A two-month preparation period preceded the campaign, led by 24-year-old Evangelist Richard Hogue. The second week of the campaign featured such celebrities as "Miss America" Phyllis George; football stars Terry Bradshaw and Roger Staubach, and Singers Pat Boone and Cynthia Clawson. During the follow-up phase, which will run indefinitely, "Spireno" clubs have been formed in schools and other activities have been planned for Spireno converts. According to Harvey Kneisel, director of ministries, the youth program at the church has doubled and is expected to quadruple.

Charities of all kinds, religious journals and other organizations have been seriously hit by Britain's nationwide post office strike, which began on Jan. 19. Spokesmen say that some organizations will take a long time to recover, if they don't die altogether. Charities that rely on small contributions by mail are the hardest hit. The Rev. Ronald C. Gibson, superintendent of London East End Mission, explained that because of the mail strike that Methodist agency has had to dip into reserves to maintain its services. "The mission is in the red now and its work is in jeopardy," he said. Religious journals are being hit in various ways. Advertising sent by mail has not reached them; subscribers who get copies by mail have not received them, and there has been a noticeable drying-up of local and national news. Much of the news, especially in scattered areas, can not economically or conveniently be telephoned to newspaper offices.

The U.S. military in Vietnam may be doing more to combat drug abuse and to rehabilitate addicts than civilian forces back at home, two top Lutheran leaders agreed in New York. Dr. Robert C. Marshall, president of the Lutheran Church in America, and Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffman, speaker on the "Lutheran Hour," said the problem is very real among American troops in Vietnam. Both spent a week in mid-January visiting chaplains in the war zone—at the invitation of Gen. Creighton Abrams. The realistic attitudes the military is taking toward drugs was a main reason the churchmen saw positive signs in rehabilitation in Vietnam.

An increase in the demand for short passages of Scripture has enabled the American Bible Society to set distribution records in 1970. Distribution of the Bible to members of the armed forces totaled 4,323,599. Dr. James Nettinga, executive secretary of the national distribution department, praised chaplains in the armed services for "pushing the 'Good News.'"



"Only God can make a tree," but men can save 17 trees by collecting a ton of old newspapers for Those are recycling. facts that were presented to the science classes of George Muller Christian School of First Baptist church of Greater Miami (Fla.). Warned that seven million trees are killed in a year for paper products and that trees are one of the major producers of oxygen, the 210 students of the elementary school collected more than a ton of old papers for recycling. Here, the discarded newspapers are loaded into a truck donated by the Miami Rescue Mission.

PAGE FOUR

MARCH 4, 1971

TABLE NO. 1

STATISTICAL REPORT

THIS REPORT IS FOR 12 MONTHS

RECAPITULATION

LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

STATISTICIAN Bryan Stepho

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MEWS OTES

THE REV. LINDY WATERS, district superintendent of North West District of Oklahoma Indian Mission Conference will be in First Church, Wynne on March 7. He will bring the message at the 11 a.m. service. A sub-district Missions Rally is scheduled for 7 p.m. with the Rev. Waters as the speaker. The Rev. Warren D. Golden is pastor.

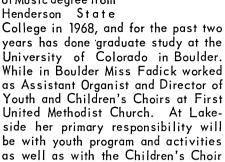
A MEMORIAL SERVICE will be held for Mrs. Grady W. Reagan at Winfield United Methodist Church, Little Rock, on March 12 at 2 p.m. with Dr. J. Edward Dunlap officiating. Mrs. Reagan died on January 8 in San Diego, Cal.

THE CLARENDON UNITED Methodist Church reports a successful Lay Witness Mission, held February 12-14 with Boyd Mills of Little Rock as coordinator. Twenty-eight visiting lay witnesses were from Oklahoma, Mississippi and Arkansas. Six Share-Groups are being formed for continued fellowship, prayer and study. The Rev. Glenn Bruner is the pastor.



At Helena First Church, Family Night recently had a visitor from Spanish Honduras. Norma Pastor, shown at right, was a guest of Mrs. Charlene Hickey, at left, high school Spanish teacher. After spending nine weeks in Helena, Miss Pastor is now spending nine weeks in Hartford, Wisconsin, helping with Spanish classes.

Kathy Fadick has joined the staff of Lakeside United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, as Director of Activities. Miss Fadick was reared in Pine Bluff, received a Bachelor of Music degree from Henderson State



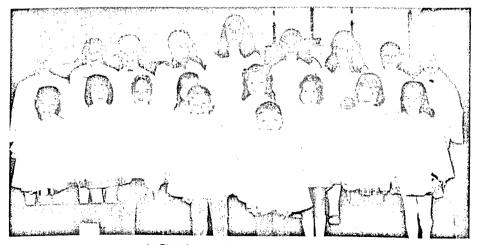
THE REV. BRADY COOK, pastor of First Church, Beebe, and his sister, Miss Irene Cook, will be the preacher and special singer for the revival at First Church, Hazen, March 14-19. The hours of service will be 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Herston R. Holland is the pastor.

P. K. KORNER

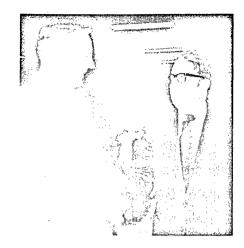
program.

CLAREJOHNSON, ANGELA daughter of Becky and Johnny Johnson, Little Rock, was baptized by her grand-father, the Rev. Robert W. Johnson, in the Stamps United Methodist Church, February 19. Present for the ceremony were her brother, Mark, 31/2 and her other grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson of Clinton. Also visiting the Rev. and Mrs. Bob Johnson were their younger son, Keith, a college student, and older son and wife, Bob and Kathy, and Kathy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Russ of Benton. Captain Bob will go to Vietnam the first week in March.

A SON WAS BORN to the Rev. and Mrs. Tony Holifield on January 23 at Baptist Hospital, Lexington, Kentucky. Grandparents are the Rev. and Mrs. Pharis J. Holifield of Jonesboro, and the Rev. and Mrs. Robert Case of Jackson, Mississippi.



The newly organized Children's Choir of the Lonoke United Methodist Church presented special music at the morning worship on February 21. The choir is directed by Mrs. Stephen Smith and Mrs. Ed Hatsell.



More than 200 members and guests attended the recent Loyalty Sunday luncheon served at Levy United Methodist Church in North Little Rock. The main course was furnished free by ''Woody's Catering Service''—compliments of Jess Woods (left), a member of the church. Shown with Woods is the Rev. Gerald Hammett, pastor. WSCS Circles provided salad and dessert.

CONWAY SCHEDULES YOUTH LAY WITNESS MISSION

The First United Methodist Church of Conway is hosting a city wide Youth Lay Witness Mission on the weekend of March 5-7.

E. H. "Tank" Harrison, a prominent layman from Memphis, is the coordinator for the mission. Harrison, a member of the Memphis police force, has co-ordinated and participated in many missions. He has worked intimately with the Juvenile division of the Memphis Police Department, and was named "Youth's Best Friend" for the years 1958 through 1961. He was responsible for building and operating Camp Courage, a camp for underprivileged and delinquent boys.

Joining him in giving direction to the youth weekend will be 18 to 20 high school and college young people from other communities and other states who will share their commitments to Christian work. The weekend will include group singing, worship services, small group talk sessions, as well as a picnic and an air show on Saturday afternoon. All youths (grades 7 through college) from Conway and surrounding cities are invited to attend.

The Rev. Ben Jordan is pastor.

COLUMBIA COUNTY SUB-DISTRICT

The Columbia County Sub-District UMYF met at First United Methodist Church in Magnolia on February 13 for a Valentine Banquet. The "Apple Core" singing group, four girls from Southern State College, provided entertainment. The next meeting will be held at Lewisville.

Persons interested in running for Sub-District offices for next year are requested to submit their names to Celia Keith, Box 66, Taylor, Arkansas 71861.

DAILY BIBLE READING

Below is a schedule for the Daily Bible Reading, which the Board of Evangelism invites you to use as a regular guide for use in your homes.

March	7—Sunday	Prov. 14:27-32
March	8	Lam. 3:22-26
March	9	Rom. 12:6-18
March	10	Eph. 1:15-20
March	11	Eph. 4:1-8
March	12	Col. 1:1-6
March	13	Heb. 3:1-6
March	14—Sun !	Psalms 130:1-8

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT NEEDED AT ALDERSGATE

Aldersgate Camp is beginning a photography program, but requires cameras and darkroom equipment. The camp wants to give children an opportunity to scrutinize nature through a camera's eye and to have the excitement of developing their own pictures.

Fquipment needed includes cameras, trays, tanks, enlarger, timer, thermometer, photographic chemicals and paper (black and white), tongs, and easel. The equipment will be for the use of summer campers and neighborhood children. Aldersgate is making an appeal to churches to help obtain the required materials.

Please write Aldersgate Camp, 2000 Aldersgate Rd., Little Rock, 72205, or call 225-1444.

MARVELL VOTES ON CHURCH PLANS

The United Methodist Church of Marvell voted on February 2 to accept the plans of the R and W Construction Co. of North Little Rock for a new church building. At the same time a suggested financial plan for payment over a seven year period which was presented by the building committee chairman, Robert I. Campbell, was also approved.

The building will be constructed on a site on Highway 49 east of town which has been owned by the church for several years. Total cost of the facilities will be \$65,000 and will include a large modern sanctuary, class rooms and fellowship hall with kitchen and restroom facilities.

The Rev. Lowell Eaton is the minister of this church.

THE CONGREGATION of First Church, Booneville, received high praise recently from Ivan Wade, executive manager of the Booneville Chamber of Commerce, for the dinner which they gave for recent arrivals in their city. The tribute was included in the manager's column in the Booneville Democrat. The pastor is the Rev. Norman Carter.

The three persons in the Godhead are three in one sense and one in another. We cannot tell how—and that is the mystery — Samuel Johnson

MARCH 4, 1971

Church Women United study state problems Literacy programs in Arkansas increase and prepare for national assembly

The problem of hunger in Arkansas was presented to Church Women United during a statewide workshop held in Winfield United Methodist Church, Little Rock, Wednesday, February 25. The complication of aiding the hungry was spotlighted by two young women working with the Arkansas Committee on Food, Nutrition and Health: Christel Brellochs, field director, and Joan First, public relations. They reported that Arkansas has 860,000 persons without adequate diet, with only 23% of these on the food stamp program. Women were urged to find out the complications in their communities and to help expedite the school lunch or food stamp program.

Mrs. Frank Gordon, state legislative chairman for Church Women United, explained the work involved in publishing the Legislative Information Bulletin which she and Mrs. Carl Ledbetter, Jr., edit weekly. Their efforts were roundly applauded by the delegates. The Bulletin is being mailed weekly during the legislative session to 2,050 persons by the Arkansas Council of Churches. Members of the League of Women Voters and Central Arkansas Church Women United assist in the mailing. Anyone may be placed on the mailing list by sending \$1.00 to: Arkansas Council of Churches, P. O. Box 6011, Little Rock, 72206.

Mrs. Hazel Dabney of Pine Bluff, state president, presided over the entire day's activities. The morning session was devoted to separate meetings for training local unit officers, denominational presidents and representatives, and leaders of special days of celebration. Leaders for these meetings were Mrs. E. T. Davenport, Mrs. Maynard Miller, both former state presidents, and Mrs. Alta Day, vicepresident.

Mrs. John H. Dozier, Jr., Pine Bluff, made an appeal for more local volunteers for the WICS program in order to seek out young women in need of job training and encouraging them to stay with the training until they are able to hold a job.

Mrs. James H. Rice, Jr., reported 1970 funds received for UNICEF increased, and that young people are doing more of the "Trick or Treating for UNICEF" than are children.

An afternoon panel of speakers devoted their remarks to the subject "Think Through Tomorrow," theme of the upcoming national Assembly of Church Women United, to be held in Wichita, Kansas, in April. Speakers were: Mrs. B. W. Moore of Mabelvale, moderator; Mrs. Fannie Haney of North Little Rock, who is a school teacher and member of the A.M.E. Church; Mrs. G. A. Regula, a member of Christ the King Catholic Church, Little Rock; and Mrs. Bill Brabston, member of Hawley United Methodist Church in Pine Bluff and treasurer of Pine Bluff CWU.

Discussions revealed that followers of Jesus Christ must see that He is the Message to be conveyed, but that churches and individuals must be alert to changing ways of revealing The



The Church Women United workshop held in Little Rock, Feb. 24, focused interest on legislative affairs and hunger in the state through presentations made by Jean Gordon, left, Joan First, center, and Christel Brellochs.

Greater Little Rock Literacy Council organized

The Greater Little Rock Literacy Council formed February 16 for the continuing work of reducing illiteracy in the area. This was the outgrowth of the Laubach Literacy Workshop held in Little Rock February 10, 11 and 12, with Mrs. Lela Tisdale of Fayetteville teaching the day classes, and Mrs. Linda Reaves of Little Rock, leading the night workshop.

Following the first radio announcement of private and free lessons for non-readers, 15 calls were received from prospective pupils. By February 27, 47 calls had been received. The matching of pupil and tutor has begun. Mrs. Sam Pallone, chairman of the Council, anticipates that another workshop and the recruitment of more volunteers will be necessary in the near future, since only 80 persons received credits for tutoring at the February workshop.

Literacy Council officers are shown

Laubach tutor-training at Batesville

The Batesville area held tutor-training sessions for the Laubach course volunteers on Friday and Saturday, February 26 and 27. Mrs. Linda Reaves of Little Rock directed the training. Of 32 enrollees, 20 persons earned credits.

Five churches in West Memphis sponsor literacy training

Twenty-five adults, representing five churches in West Memphis, attended the Adult Literacy Workshop held in First United Methodist Church, January 27-29. Mrs. W. B. Wood of Parkin, an accredited teacher of the Laubach Method, directed the work-

Future training planned

Hot Springs: A Laubach literacy training course is planned for the weekend of March 19 and 20 with Mrs. Linda Reaves, Little Rock, as tutor-trainer.

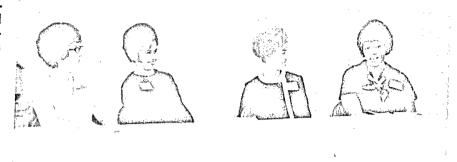
Jonesboro: Mrs. W. B. Wood of Parkin will be the leader for the workshop on adult literacy to be held in Jonesboro for interested volunteers of the area. The workshop is scheduled for March 17-19 in First United Methodist Church.

Bald Knob forms Literacy Council

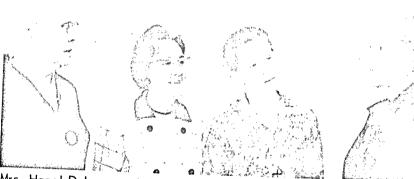
The Bald Knob Literacy Council was organized February 16, following the literacy training given in Bald Knob at the First United Methodist Church.

Sixteen persons, representing five denominations, received credit as tutors, for the Laubach Method of "each one, teach one." Fivehour workshops were conducted February 15 and 16, led by Mrs. Lela Tisdale of Fayetteville, assisted by Mrs. Lynn Hughes of Heber Springs.

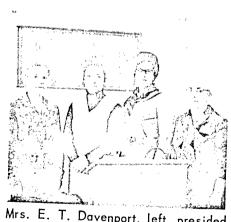
The Council will meet weekly, until the development and outreach of the program has been established.



Young women featured on a panel discussion before Church Women United delegates are shown above. They are, from left: Mrs. Bill Brabston, Pine Bluff; Mrs. G. A. Regula, Little Rock; Mrs. B. W. Moore, Mabelvale; and Mrs. Fannie Haney, North Little Rock.



Mrs. Hazel Dabney, at left, state CWU president, visits with three former state presidents. They are, from right: Mrs. David Driver, Arkadelphia; Mrs. E. T. Davenport, Little Rock; Mrs. Maynard Miller, Hot Springs.



Mrs. E. T. Davenport, left, presided at workshop for denominational representatives. Mrs. James H. Rice, Jr., presented the report for UNICEF; Mrs. John Dozier, Jr., recruited for WICS volunteers; Mrs. L. W. Crenshaw, state CWU treasurer, presented the budget.



Pulaski County Literacy Council officers elected recently are: BACK ROW, from left, Mrs. Pulaski County Literacy Council officers elected recently are: BACK ROW, from left, Mrs. Sam Pallone, chairman; Mrs. Jim Wellons, fund raiser; Mrs. Clyde Scott, publicity; Mrs. John Harp, supplies; Mrs. Courtney Swindler, secretary; Mrs. Forrest Rozzel, corresponding secretary; Mrs. H. L. Snider, speakers' bureau; Mrs. W. C. Erfurth, historian; SEATED, Mrs. Paul V. Galloway, adviser; Mrs. Don Reaves, director of training; Mrs. Mary Long, publicity; Mrs. Jerry Rush, chairman of writing for non-reader; Mrs. George Hampton, social chairman; Mrs. Tom Downie, treasurer; FRONT, Miss Harriett DeLano, NALA coordinator. Not shown Miss Olive Smith, placement and follow-up chairman; Mrs. Bob Carey, newsletter editor.

The Sunday School Lesson

By: Alfred A. Knox



LESSON FOR MARCH 14: Forgiven and Forgiving

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:9-15; ber was guilty of an aggravated offense against an-Matthew 18:21-35

MEMORY SELECTION: Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors. (Matthew 6:12)

AIM OF THE LESSON: To discover the true meaning of forgiveness; to see that we are in no position to receive forgiveness unless we have demonstrated forgiveness to others.

Have we ever fully understood the great affirmation of our Lord that Divine forgiveness and human willingness to forgive are joined together? This is one of the central themes of his teachings: "If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father for-give your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14-15)

There is no denying that Jesus set high standards of forgiveness for his followers. This is what our lesson today is all about. Has anyone more right to speak about forgiveness than Jesus? As we think about the things that he said on this subject we should keep in mind his example. He showed an unusually sensitive spirit of forgiveness to the end of his days.

It has been said, "Sometimes it seems that the standards of forgiveness which he asks of his followers are high. But could anything be higher than his own level of love which caused him to pray for his enemies?"

All of us have repeated many times that part of the Lord's Prayer which says, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Surely we have wondered whether or not we have really ever forgiven anyone. True forgiveness is one of the hardest Christian virtues to come by because it costs us so much. It means accepting the loss or the hurt without any recompense or revenge. Most of us are in the company of those who are willing to forgive but not to forget.

Before his death Frederick the Great was told that he should forgive his enemies. "Dorothy," he said to his queen, "write to your brother that I forgive him all the evil he has done me; but wait till I am dead first.'

There is another story about forgiving our enemies that speaks to the central theme of this lesson. During the Revolutionary War a man walked fifty miles to ask General Washington to spare the life of a man who had been convicted and condemned to death for neglect of duty. Washington refused, saying he could not pardon the man's friend. "He's not my friend," said the man, "I suppose I do not have a worse enemy living." Washington's attitude changed, "Surely you are not pleading for your enemy?" "Yes," was the reply, and Washington granted the pardon. The enemy was so transformed by this experience that the two men became fast friends for life. Perhaps more people would be won for Christ if they saw forgiveness in action among Christians.

"HOW MANY TIMES SHALL I FORGIVE?"

As you have followed this series of lessons based on the parables, you have noticed how most of these stories were told against a background of some dramatic event which Jesus used as an introduction to his stories. Just before the printed material on which this lesson is based Jesus had been talking about the question of disciplining members in the church using as an example a case where one memother, and so against the fellowship.

Peter's quick mind began to make personal applications of what was being said, and so he asked Jesus, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?" There was a tradition among the Jews that one should forgive three times and then he was free from any further obligation. But Jesus turned his back on such a traditional interpretation of forgiveness and replied, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven." (Matt. 18:22) And he did not mean to tell Peter to forgive 490 times—he was saying that forgiveness must be extended as many times as necessary "ad infinitum." Dr. George Buttrick says, "This is a kind of celestial arithmetic: we must do it in our hearts." Peter's problem was one of conduct and not of arithmetic.

Peter thought he was really being magnanimous when he spoke of forgiving seven times, but Jesus insisted there must be no limits—no measurements -to forgiveness. The dictionary says that forgiveness means "to give up resentment or claim to requital." But is this true pardon? To forgive but not forget usually means not to forgive.

Jesus on his cross prayed that his enemies might be forgiven, and he forgave them while they were still intent on his death. There are those who accuse him of being weak, when it is the opposite of his way that is weakness.

THE KINGDOM MAY BE COMPARED TO A KING

In the story which Jesus then told to illustrate his command to Peter, the leading character is a man who being left in charge of a responsibility for his king had proven so unfaithful that at the time of reckoning he owed his ruler ten thousand talents. Jesus is again employing dramatic license to make his point. It is unlikely that any steward in the employ of any king could amass a debt of ten thousand talents—roughly ten million dollars. But Jesus wanted this amount to be seen as so much greater than the hundred denarii (about twenty dollars) which the servant was unwilling to forgive.

All the gold used in the ark of the covenant was worth less than thirty talents. In II Chronicles we read that Amaziah hired a hundred thousand mighty men of valor for a hundred talents of silver. By any reckoning this was a fabulous debt. Jesus might have been using such a large amount as a symbol of the human indebtedness to God. Dr. Buttrick says: "'Ten thousand talents' justly describes not only our bankruptcy of soul, but also the measure of Divine compassion.'

The debt is of such magnitude that the debtor knows his only hope is that the royal master will be moved by compassion and forgive him. This is exactly what happened in the story. The king's clemency saved the man and his family from slavery into which, under law, they might have been

The king was moved by the servant's pleading, and he did two things: he made it possible for him and his family to be spared from slavery, and he forgave him his enormous debt. Notice the contrast between what the servant asked for and what he received. He begged for more time to repay his debt; the Lord forgave him that debt. Many people have the idea that once caught in the hopeless web of their sins they can extricate themselves if given enough time and the right circumstances. When what is needed is forgiveness. Only when we recognize the degree of our offense can we appreciate the greatness of God's forgiveness.

GUILTY OF UNFORGIVENESS

In the second act of our drama joy over great forgiveness quickly turns to the tragedy of unforgiveness. Just as we are rejoicing over the good news of the servant's release and forgiveness we are plunged into despair because of his treatment of a fellow servant. As he was leaving his lord's presence he saw a man that owned him a hundred denarii (about twenty dollars). Although he had been forgiven a debt of millions of dollars, he cannot find it in his heart to forgive his brother twenty dollars-or even grant him more time to pay. The debtor begged for mercy, but the forgiven servant was unwilling to forgive and had him sent to jail.

Jesus has made the contrast so very sharp in this story. It is the difference between daylight and midnight. We may think it is overdrawn, but is it? Dr. Buttrick suggests: "We pray 'Forgive us our debts,' but how many debts have we incurred? How many in a single day? . . . The injuries we receive, the debt that others owe us, is one six-hundredthousandth part of what we owe to God. Signally we fail to realize our own failure. Could we be so unforgiving if we tried to calculate our own indebtedness?"

The alarming thing about this parable is that it could happen to a man who had seen such grace in action. However, he was left unmoved. He was so callous that his own forgiveness turned out to be his curse and his downfall. There is a warning here for everyone who would presume upon Christ's love and grace.

THE LORD'S WRATH

The third act of the story tells of the reaction of the king when he heard what had happened. Every detail of this picture is of angry reaction the king's wrath on finding that the man who had been forgiven such a large debt played the hardhearted creditor, his unsparing condemnation, and the stern fate he finally pronounced: "And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers" (18:24).

Jesus emphasized, by the severity of the king's reproof and judgment, the heinousness of the offense committed. The man had demonstrated that he was completely unworthy of the mercy that had been shown him. What Jesus was saying in this parable is that it is we ourselves, who by our unforgiving spirits, bar the door against Him who is always ready to forgive. God always wants to forgive, but he cannot enter an unforgiving heart. This is a limitation resulting from his nature. Many of those people who complain that they do not know God's mercy are saying they do not themselves forgive.

WHAT DO WE KNOW OF FORGIVENESS?

The Norwegian writer Johan Bojer in The Great Hunger tells of a man whose little child was killed by a neighbor's dog. Revenge would not long satisfy this man, so he found a better way to relieve the agony of his heart. When a famine had plagued the people and the neighbor's fields lay bare and he had no corn to plant for next year's harvest, the troubled father went out one night and sowed the neighbor's field, explaining, "I went out and sowed seed in my enemy's field that God might exist." This is forgiveness moving beyond the superficial into the deep places of the heart.

Dr. Charles M. Laymon reminds us that "Forgiveness is not a simple statement such as 'I forgive you.' It is an experience in personal relationship. Unless one has a forgiving spirit, he can neither forgive others nor experience forgiveness himself."

The spirit of forgiveness is not automatic with Christians. It must be cultivated along with the other spiritual graces. Resentment, hostility, and unforgiveness stunt Christian growth and sear away Christian idealism. Forgiveness flows out of a heart of compassion, and compassion demands that we identify ourselves sympathetically with those who have wronged us. Such a feeling is needed to extinguish the fires of resentment and indignation kindled in our hearts.

God's forgiveness is a divine and serious matter, and so is the life of love which it imposes upon

FAMILY MERGERS, now, RATHER than COCU

Some articles now being published in Methodist circles, and speeches now being made in Methodist meetings, make two assumptions:

1. The COCU Plan should be adopted.

2. The COCU Plan will be adopted, though we may tinker with the details. Therefore, these articles and speeches mainly tinker with the details.

I would like to question both assumptions, and propose an alternative. The United Methodist Church evolved by a gradual process from five denominations, each with its own distinctive

They are the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the Methodist Protestant Church, the Evangelical Church, and the United Brethren. The first three, and the last two united through Family Mergers, beforehand. It was a slow process. If the Family Mergers had not taken place first, it is doubtful that the final merger would have been possible, or even practicable.

As it appears now, in the United Methodist Church, we will need from 10 to 20 years more to work out the ramifications of the mergers into which we have already entered. Louisiana Methodism is now engaged in a merger of two Annual Confrences, one from the former Central Jurisdiction, and the other from the South Central Jurisdiction. Everybody is leaning over backwards to try to make the merger work, but it will take time and patience. No one can tell, at this stage, whether anybody will be happy with the arrangement.

Any further mergers at present, for Louisiana Methodism, would be rash, to say the least. We have all we can say grace over, for the time being. This is not only true in Louisiana. It is also true throughout the nation.

I predict that if the COCU Plan were presented for adoption, in anything like present form, the United Methodists would vote it down, probably in the General Conference, and certainly in the Annual Conferences.

My alternate suggestion is that we propose more Family Mergers, within the nine denominations now studying

the COCU Plan of Union. When this is done, we would then be in better position to study more comprehensive

As a starting point, I propose the following Family Mergers:

1. The United Presbyterian Church, where the idea of COCU started, could merge with the Presbyterian Church, U.S. This would make a strong Presbyterian Ch 1rch.

2. The United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples) could merge to form a strong congregationoriented Church. They have much in

3. The Episcopal Church and The United Methodist Church could consider union. Their history and polity coincide at many points.

4. The African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Zion, and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church could unite to form a strong Black Methodist Church. The would seem to be more in keeping with present desires and trends among the Blacks. This Church could win many un-churched Blacks, who might not care about being a small minority, in a predominantly white organization.

The eager beavers who are pushing the COCU Plan would object to the time table that this Family Merger Plan would call for. They want the COCU Plan adopted, in approximately its present form, as soon as possible.

This vociferous group is in the minority, in the United Methodist Church. They have been heard, but the majority of Methodists are lukewarm or cold to the proposition. The Family Merger Plan would take longer, but it would lay a solid foundation, on which further merger might be possible.

It is my conviction that United Methodists should consider some alternatives to the COCU Plan.

I present the Family Merger Plan for your consideration. If you have a better plan, now is the time to present

- Henry A. Rickey, D.D. Pastor, First United Methodist Church Minden, Louisiana

A PLAN FOR CHURCH UNION

14. The District

We should point out to our United Methodist readers that the district organization in the proposed new church is most like our Annual Conference, although the size suggested ("ordinarily the district will include about 75 parishes") is much smaller than the conference structure

The chief pastor and executive officer of the district shall be the bishop of the district, who shall be called by the district, after consultation with the regional council, for a term of four years. This time may be extended for additional terms of four years each. The candidate for bishop of a district may already be a bishop or he may be a presbyter in whom the regional council concurs. If a district is to be composed of approximately 75 parishes, this means there will be a lot of district

The district is to be the governmental unit of the church next beyond the parish. It shall be responsible to: (a) develop strategy for the mission of the church in its area, (b) facilitate the mission of the parishes and task groups within the area by (i) providing for communication among them, (ii) arranging for projects involving one or more parishes and task forces, (iii) receiving and allocating resources, and (iv) providing for communication linking the parishes and task forces with the region and the National Assembly; and (c) provide pastoral care and discipline of its parishes and of the presbyters, deacons and other members

Each district shall meet at least annually. Voting membership in the district shall include all the ordained ministers who are members of parishes within the district and lay representatives numbering two times the number of ordained ministers. There is a provision that if the numbers eligible for the district meeting prove unwieldly, the district shall have the power to limit the size of its meeting and to adopt provisions

There is a provision for the election of a moderator to serve as presiding officer, and the district bishop is not eligible for this position. This means that the bishop will not be the presiding officer at the an-

The plan calls for the election of a district council consisting of not fewer than five ordained ministers and ten laymen to assist in carrying out the program between district meetings. As we see it, this body would be something of a cross between our present Cabinet and Program Council, more closely resembling the latter. This group would also serve as the trustees in whom title to all church property in the district would be held for the benefit of the whole church. (This method of holding property is quite a radical departure for churches now under the con-

Apparently the district would have a great deal of freedom in determining its structural form and its program. "It shall establish, change, or eliminate structures as needs arise or conditions of life require." This section also states that "Each district shall conduct as much of its program as possible in cooperation with adjacent and contiguous districts,

evangelistic offensive; to lead persons into a personal experience of Jesus Christ; to encourage within Methodism a sense of unity and global consciousness.

statement from Frankfurt recognises the tough social, intellectual and agnostic climate in which any project of this kind will have to work, and the careful way in which the group sees that local responsibility will ask that methods may vary from region to region is indicative of its realistic assessment of the task.

In Britain the response has been immediate and practical. For Methodists, Dr. Leslie Davison, the General Secretary of the Methodist Home Mission Department, called together his Commission on Evangelism. They conclusion that participation was a must.

If, by any chance, Denver fails to implicate this call, Britain will, in any case make the attempt. In this country some thinking about this possibility has also been done by the Anglican Archbishop's Council on Evangelism, and this has been very much in the minds of the Methodist Commission.

The Archbishop of York has initiated a Call to the North. He is responsible in the Anglican church for the northern part of Britain. Some of these plans are due for a climax in

In the meantime this call has come from Frankfurt, and the Methodist and Anglican evangelistic agencies are looking at ways and means by which it will be possible to integrate the ideas into a WMC mission for the world, should this be the call from Denver.

It is important to note that the British Methodist Conference will be asked to back an effort like this, and that three conditions will be suggested. First, the regions will have to have the power and ability to slant the mission appropriately to that region's situation. Secondly, the job must be considered this call and came to the menical basis. Thirdly, so far as Britain is concerned, the Home Mission Department will recommend that we go ahead whatever happens at Den-

This is something with no ordinary call. It could be the beginning of a new recognition that the church must get off the defensive and make a real effort to fulfill its primary task. In the words of Frankfurt: "We believe that the Lord's commission to His church to preach the Gospel and to make disciples of all nations is the supreme business of the church."

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the British scene



by the Rev. Leslie J. M. Timmins Director of the Churches' Television Centre, British Isles

One of the recommendations which will come before the World Methodist Council in Denver in August is that there should be a new and determined thrust of witness and evangelism in the next few years up to 1974 or 1975.

MARCH 4. 1971

Meeting in Frankfurt, a group of Methodists from all over the world under the chairmanship of Bishop Gerald Ensley, the chairman of the Committee on Evangelism of the WCM, this Consultative group included representatives of radicals and evangelicals and some of the world leaders of Methodism very much concerned with the evangelistic enterprise of the church.

They stated their belief that the doubt and confusion that mark our age must be countered by the gathering together of such resources as we have, and by plunging forward in faith in mission to the world. They will, therefore, recommend to the WCM that it call upon all constituent Methodist churches to join in a mission of this kind forthwith.

The purpose of the mission will be outlined in detail and has been clearly stated by this group. It will be: to affirm the relevance and adequacy of the Christian faith for this age; to initiate a world-wide mission and

Reviews

Robert C. Leslie, SHARING GROUPS IN THE CHURCH, \$2.95, Abingdon Paperback, 221 pp.

For the great number of our people who are reacting to the need for greater personal involvement this new book will serve as an excellent guide. The author, professor of pastoral psychology and counseling at the Pacific School of Religion, speaks concretely of many sharing groups he has known.

He shows how small groups can function successfully with nonprofessional leadership with the minister act-

ing the supporter.

He says in his Preface: "This is a rather personal book. I do not pretend to have the answers for how small groups can be used most effectively by the church, but I do have experience in active involvement with small groups over a period of twenty years, the very period in which small groups have come into prominence." -0-

Gordon C. Hunter, WHEN THE WALLS COME TUMBLIN' DOWN, \$3.95, Word Books, 139 pp.

The author, executive director of Faith at Work in Canada, writes in this book of the part the average man can play in being a reconciling agent in the world today. In dealing with the question, "How do we start?" he says that the first obstacle is man himself and the walls of hostility with which, for many reasons, he surrounds himself. It is these walls, he affirms, that must "come tumblin' down" if we are to begin the ministry of love that is reconciliation.

Here is a significant quote: "I hope that everyone who reads these pages will find a kind of irresistible urge to launch out in this most important ministry. I write not for the clergy, but primarily for lay people, who, in my view, are the authentic evangelists of

our time."

Phillip Keller. A SHEPHERD LOOKS AT PSALM 23, \$3.95, Zon-

dervan, 142 pp.

This is an unusual commentary on the Shepherd Psalm by one who has spent most of his life in the out-ofdoors following specialized training in agriculture. A native of East Africa, he has been concerned with ecological studies in that country and is experienced also as a photographer of wildlife and a journalist.

Equipped with this experience and insight, Mr. Keller leads his readers into the discovery of new riches in the 23rd Psalm.

News in Brief

"The Responsibility of Our Uniqueness" has been chosen as the theme for the 31st annual convention of the National Association of Health and Welfare Ministries of the United Methodist Church March 15-17 in Denver, Colo. For the second year, the session is being held in conjunction with the Annual Protestant Health Assembly.

Program Council evaluates proposed structural changes

CINCINNATI, Ohio (UMI) -More effective program planning, implementation, interpretation, and evaluation were at the center of the recent semi-annual meeting of the United Methodist Program Council here.

The group gave special attention to proposals being made for sweeping structural changes in denominational boards and agencies. Dr. Dow Kirk-patrick, Evanston, Ill., chairman of the Structure Study Commission, and several members of that group made a progress report of proposals during a banquet meeting of the Council.

The Council voted approval of a study of the role of women in the United Methodist Church in cooperation with the Council on World Service and Finance. They also implemented a recommendation of the Division of Coordination, Research and Planning to provide \$4,000 to help Hispanic American representatives to attend a meeting with church board and agency representatives.

The Division of Television, Radio and Film Communication, with Bishop Aubrey G. Walton as chairman, spent most of its time considering possibilities for improved com- realization of them." munications within the church.

The Division of Interpretation reported that Interpreter magazine, official program journal, has the highest degree of readership in its history. However, faced with increasing production costs, the Division voted to reduce from ten to seven the number of free copies mailed to local church

This Division, headed by Bishop R. Marvin Stuart of Denver also announced plans for a convocation of district superintendents and annual conference program directors to be held the second week in September,

Dr. R. Bryan Brawner, general secretary of the Council on World Service and Finance, reported that total receipts of the denomination for 1970 showed a 6.25 percent increase over the previous year. Commenting on a prediction that receipts would be down, Dr. Brawner said, "The increase is more important from a psychological point of view than the amount involved. The contemplation of troubles is often worse than the

The Section of Research announced three major projects for 1971: the establishment of a scientific sampling process for the church, development of a polling process, and a census of local United Methodist churches.

Dr. Paul V. Church, Dayton, Ohio, general secretary of the Council, said participation of all segments of the church in a new "process planning" procedure has exceeded his expectations. Individuals, local churches, conferences and general agencies are currently involved in planning the program of the denomination for the 1972-1976 quadrennium. "Only as there is united planning can there be real action," Dr. Church said.
Included in the 115 members of the

Program Council are 15 bishops, chief executives of the boards and agencies, and elected representatives from the five jurisdictions. Dr. John Bayliss of Ft. Smith, Ark. is chairman of the Section on Coordination. of the Division of Coordination, Re-

search and Planning.

Pastors call for "Move Beyond Division"

A group of United Methodist pastors has issued a statement calling for "the people called United Methodists to move beyond division toward more meaningful worship, nurture, service, and love to meet the needs of man in our day."

The preamble to the statement says: "A group of concerned pastors met informally during the General Conference at St. Louis and discussed the state of the Church. This discussion has continued during the intervening months, at several places, with various participants. As an outgrowth of these discussions the following statement is released to the Church at large. We believe that the essence of the statement is in accordance with the Gospel and indicates a necessary stance of the United Methodist Christian for our day. We hope that it will be read and heard in the spirit in which it is written—that of reconciling love. It is in this spirit that each of us affixes his signature."

The statement says:

"The genius of United Methodism is anchored in an emphasis of the unity of personal faith and social involvement in the totality of the Christian Gospel. Contrary to this, polarity between these two dimensions has risen within our church.

"Aware of this, we urge the people

The Rev. Joe Hale, director of ecumenical evangelism in the United Methodist Board of Evangelism, has been elected secretary of the evangeof Churches.

Bishop F. Gerald Ensley of Columbus, Ohio, conducted dedication ceremonies for the Cokesbury store at its new location in Cincinnati, Ohio, on February 15.

called United Methodists at every level of our Church life to affirm vigorously the whole Gospel through decisions made and actions taken, in the context of Christian love. If we are to rise to new levels of enlightenment regarding the claims of the Gospel upon all, we must seek greater understanding of the necessity of balance between personal faith and social involvement. As we work to channel tension creatively toward a stronger and more effective Church, we should, where necessary, lead in the development of procedures for corrective action.

"We further affirm that all United Methodists are called to live a Gospel that is always inclusive and never exclusive. With the Christian spirit of openness to opposing views within the Church, we must commit ourselves to building a climate of trust and love within the Church of Jesus Christ.

"We see increasing evidence of dynamic interaction between these two dimensions of personal faith and social involvement and we urge the people called United Methodists to move beyond division toward more meaningful worship, nurture, service, and love to meet the needs of man in our day."

Signing the statement were: James B. Argue, Little Rock, Ark.; Emerson S. Colaw, Cincinnati, O.; Adolphus S. Dickerson, Atlanta, Ga.; Leighton Farrell, Richardson, Tex.; Ira Gallaway, Fort Worth, Tex.; Reynolds Greene, Jr., Atlanta, Ga.; Earl Harvey, Dallas, Tex.; E. Duane Hulse, Madison, Wis.; Bevel Jones, Decatur, Ga.; lism section of the National Council Ellsworth Kalas, Madison, Wis.; Edward B. Lewis, Washington, D.C.; Robert Main, El Paso, Tex.; Glen O'Dell, Evansville, Ind.; Jack Payne, Arlington, Tex.; Robert Pierce, Chicago, Ill.; Forrest J. Robinson, Wichita, Kans.; Irving L. Smith, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Roy Smith, Arlington, Va.; and M. Buren Stewart, El Paso, Tex.

Brazilians hold General Conference

NEW YORK (UMI) - The General Conference of the Methodist Church of Brazil met in special session in Rio de Janeiro, Feb. 1-7, and authorized some sweeping changes in church life.

They abolished the election of bishops by the national church at General Conference. From now on, bishops will be elected and consecrated at annual conference, and will serve four-year terms. Three remaining bishops that were elected by General Conference will serve their present episcopal assignments until they or their successors are elected.

The Conference adopted a new Social Creed, which is considered more radical than the former one in that it deals with causes of social ills more than with their manifestations.

The Brazilian Methodists took another ecumenical step by giving new church members the option of affirming previous baptism in the Roman Catholic Church. They also called for a consultation of the Brazilian church with its "cooperating" or related non-Brazilian churches such as the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Canada.

Encouraging reports were made on the new "Methodist Institute of Higher Learning" at the former Methodist Theological Seminary in Sao Paulo, where university-level schools are being developed in education, communications, social services and theology.

The Conference approved a pilot program in community action by youth and strengthened the youth structure within the church. Reports said that, in contrast to previous church meetings where demonstrations have occurred, there was little or no radical action by youth.

Dr. L. M. McCoy, New York, Latin America executive secretary in the United Methodist Board of Missions, addressed the General Conference. He also reported and analyzed the Conference for the U.S. church.

MARCH 4, 1971

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ARKANSAS METHODIST CHILDRENS' HOME

(January list of memorial gifts continued)

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MARCH 4. 1971

MRS. J. P. CARPENTER

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Mrs. J. P. Carpenter, Stephens, Ark., died December 7, 1970. She had served in many local church, district and conference offices of the Women's Society of Christian Service over a period of many years. She had been president of her local society as well as holding other offices locally. She had been Camden District President and also District Secretary, and had served eight years as treasurer of the Little Rock Conference W.S.C.S.

Survivors include her husband, one son, J. P. Jr. and two grandchildren in New Orleans; two sisters, Mrs. A. P. Simms of Springhill, La., and Mrs. Ola Dodson of Magnolia, Ark.; one brother, Ralph Wingfield, Bossier City, La.

Mrs. Carpenter was the granddaughter of the Rev. A. E. Wingfield, a Methodist minister in the Little Rock Conference in the early days of Methodism. She was a relative of the present president of the Little Rock Conference W.S.C.S., Mrs. E. T. Davenport. Burial was in Magnolia,

Arkansas. MRS. GEORGE GOELZER by Her Daughters CYNTHIA GRIFFIN by Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Phillips MRS. HELEN GALLAGHER by Miss Helen Boyce FRED GARLINGTON by Mr. & Mrs. Gaylon L. Miller ROY GENTRY by Mr. & Mrs. Wm. B. Albright R. R. HAYS, JR. by Mrs. R. R. Hays, Jr. RAYMOND HELD by Frank, Reed and Boys A. T. HENRY by Mrs. W. M. Harkey by Mr. & Mrs. K. C. Foster MRS. BESSIE FULLER HOLMES by Mr. & Mrs. J. A. McGuire MRS. JOHN F. HENDREN by Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Norris by Margaret Holeman Circle, W.S. C.S., Pullman Heights Church by Akin-Brown Sunday School Class, Pullman Heights Church by Fay Hanson by Ted and Donna Chancey by Mr. R. M. Knox by Mr. & Mrs. W. E. St. John by Edward Don & Co. by Mr. Clyde Owen

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by Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Cates by Mr. & Mrs. Olas James by Mr. & Mrs. Joe Bradford

by Mr. & Mrs. John Middleton

To be continued

MRS. C. L. CABE

Mrs. C. L. Cabe, 98, Texarkana, died at her home on February 16. Funeral services were held at First United Methodist Church with Dr. Ralph Hillis officiating. Mrs. Cabe has been a member at First Church for many years and was past president

of the Suzanne Wesley Bible Class. Born in 1873 in Jefferson, Texas, Mrs. Cabe was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Hutchinson. She was the wife of the late Charles Lee Cabe. Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Ben S. Cook of Texarkana; four sons, J. C. Cabe of Texarkana, Horace C. Cabe, C. Louis Cabe and Harold H. Cabe, all of Gurdon, Ark.; a sister, Mrs. J. J. Ellington of Atlanta, Texas; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Cabe attended North Texas Female College and later Kidd Key Conservatory of Music.

She moved to Texarkana from Stamps, Arkansas in 1929, was a past president of the May Dale Garden Club and a charter member of the United Texarkana Memorial Unit.

by Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Bradford by Mr. & Mrs. Jack McMance by Staff, Methodist Children's Home MICHAEL McGOY KENDRICK

by Mr. & Mrs. John M. Burnett BOB KELSO

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by Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Haun by Mr. & Mrs.Lloyd Jackson by Mr. & Mrs. Roy Dooley

by Willie Spivey Class, Crossett Church by Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Arnold by Mr. & Mrs. J. C. McGoogan

by Mr. & Mrs. Lee Higginbotham by Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Lovett

WALTER AMMONS RIDDICK

Walter Ammons Riddick, a retired business man and life-long resident of Morrilton, died January 8 at 80 years of age. He was a member of First United Methodist Church and had served for several years as chairman of the Board of Stewards.

The Rev. Harold Spence and the Rev. H. M. Lewis, Morrilton, officiated at funeral services. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Oliver Riddick; three daughters, Mrs. W. H. Osborne of Conway, Miss Ruth M. Riddick of Cambridge, Mass., and Mrs. Carl Runyon of Little Rock, and four grandchildren. The deceased was the son of the late Walter Mayo Riddick and Mokie Ammons Wright Rid-

Riddick was a former member of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce and had served on various civic committees.

She was a first generation member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and was a member of the DAR.

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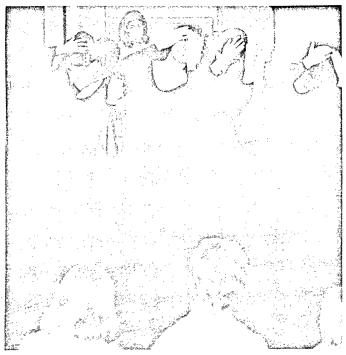
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Pictured above is the Contemporary Liturgical Dance Group from Southwestern at Memphis, which presented a "Ballet Based on Genesis" in a special program in Fellowship Hall at First Church, Helena, on Sunday, Feb. 7. Their choreography, under the direction of Mrs. Joyce Cobb, included interpretive movements of Psalms, hymns and prayers as well. The Rev. Jim Beal is pastor.

Georgia conferences approve merger plan

ATLANTA, Ga. . . . In a vote which is expected to be challenged before the Judicial Council in April, the predominantly white North Georgia Annual Conference and the black Georgia Annual Conference approved a plan of merger in called sessions on Feb. 4 and 6.

The white conference approved merger by a vote of 486 to 360, and the black conference voted 125 to 26 for the plan. The new conference would be called the "North Georgia Conference." Its boundaries would be the same as the former North Georgia Conference, except that black churches in the southern half of Georgia would be contained in an "attached district."

It is the "attached district," as well as the plan generally, that will receive close scrutiny by the Judicial Council when it meets April 21-25 at St. Simons Island, Ga.

Georgia leaders tried unsuccessfully to pass racial merger in 1969 and 1970 in a plan which was approved by the North Georgia and Georgia Conferences, but was twice defeated by the white South Georgia Conference.

Members of the national Commission on Religion and Race have announced informally that they will ask the Judicial Council for a declaratory judgement on the constitutionality of the plan. Their point is that all the black churches in the southern half of Georgia would be placed in an "attached district" which appears segre-

Following the second defeat of the merger plan by the South Georgia Conference, Bishop John Owen Smith of Atlanta, who presides over all three of the annual conferences in Georgia, proposed that North Georgia and Georgia write a new plan under which the two conferences that approved

merger might come together.

A new plan was written last fall by a 120 member interracial committee headed by Paul Webb, Jr., an Atlanta attorney. This was the plan which was recently adopted.

Bishop Smith told delegates that Dr. Murray Leiffer of Evanston, Ill., president of the Judicial Council, has invited him to appear April 22 to plead the case for the newly adopted plan.

Though the South Georgia Conference is not included in the present merger, there is a possibility that the body may vote again at its June sessions. In the two past votes, a merger plan was defeated by close margins.

Poetry Panorama

by Barbara Mulkey

"Beauty is God's handwriting," said Charles Kingsley. If so, He is surely preparing about now to write the Springtime.

WINTER'S GIFT

A window view Of a winter world On a cold, forbidding day -And it's hard to believe, Though we know it's true, "This, too, shall pass away."

A gray backdrop For a stage of white, The sky above the snow -It's hard to imagine Beyond the gloom To the sunshine's golden glow.

The grotesque shape Of the tree on the stage, With its bare and trembling limb -It's hard to picture it A month from now, With springtime's gala trim.

But the winter's gift Is anticipation Of God's great springtime plan. And it's hard to imagine A heart so cold . . . That spring will not seem grand.

-by Barbara L. Mulkey

REBIRTH

God's brush is poised to turn the leaves to green, And Robins' songs have filled the empty air. The earth is full and Mother Nature sings; Her joyous song of birth is everywhere.

-by Betty Heidelberger

drix) at Hendrix College.

Hendrix senior crowned

Patti Porter of North Little Rock was crowned Queen of GTAHAH

Queen of GTAHAH

The Queen's court consisted of Seniors Susie Moseley and Mary Stroud, of Batesville; Juniors Mary Jane Case

of England and Barbara Ann Lotz of Hot Springs; Sophomores Thelma Hampton of Pine Bluff and Pam Ferguson of Illinois; and Freshmen Mary Wynne Parker of Newport and Clara Massey of Batesville.

(Good Things Are Happening At Hen-

Patti is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan R. Porter of North Little Rock. She graduated from North Little Rock High School in 1967 and is a senior physical education major at Hendrix. She is an Orientation '70 leader, a member of student-faculty relations committee, a member of Booster Club and a cheerleader. She is also president of the physical education majors' club and a member of the senior coordinating committee.

DRUG DEPENDENCY:... In the opinion of a Texas physician, the entire population is drifting toward drug dependency. The typical marijuana user has been described by narcotics officers as "11 to 23 years old, still pursuing an education . . ." He said "we need to do more research, but we also need to educate youngsters to the kind of personal suicide involved with getting hooked first on marijuana, then on heroin and similar drugs."

MARCH 4, 1971

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE REPORT NO. 1 1971 ARKANSAS METHODIST CIRCULATION

	New	Renew	Total	
Brinkley - Wesley		6	6	
Conway		1	1	
Cotton Plant-Taylor		3	3	
Fordyce-Mt. Olive		1	1	
Fort Smith - Mallalieu		2	2	
Hot Springs - Haven		9	9	
Норе		1	1	
Little Rock - St. Paul	4	7	11	
Wesley		3	3	
Duncan	4	7	11	
White's		8	8	
Mark's		5	5	
Marianna-Livingston		4	4	
McCrory		1	1	
McGehee		1	1	
Mineral Springs		1	1	
Murfreesboro		2	2	
New Edinburg-St. Francis		1	1	
North Little Rock - McCabe		8	8	
Ozan		4	4	
Pine Bluff-St. Mark's		2	2	
St. James		9	9	
Subscriptions without church				
identification		20	20	
Totals	8	106	114	
101818	-			

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