

Jerome Hines

## Religious Emphasis group brings singer to Texarkana

The interdenominational Religious Emphasis Committee of Texarkana is sponsoring a concert by Jerome Hines, bass soloist of the Metropolitan Opera, on Sunday evening, March 14 at 8:15 p.m. at Texarkana College Auditorium.

This group which has cooperated in bringing outstanding preachers to their city for a number of years decided this year to sponsor the appearance by Mr. Hines, an outstanding Christian layman who will give his Christian witness at the close of his concert.

Mr. Hines has been at the Metropolitan since the 1946-47 season. He has won acclaim in Europe and South America for his concert appearances and operatic roles. Some years ago he invaded yet another branch of the music field when he composed the religious opera, "I Am the Way," based on the life of Christ.

His book, "This is My Story, This is My Song," is now in its second printing, and two others will be available soon, "The Whosoever" (a collection of five Christian dramas) and "The Un-Gospels."

The Rev. David Davies, First Presbyterian Church, is chairman of the Religious Emphasis Committee. Dr. Larry Hildreth, First Baptist Church, is chairman of the Concert Steering

## Little Rock District to hold COCU Workshop on March 23

Dr. Woodrow Hearn, program director of Louisiana Annual Conference A, will be the leader for the Workshop on the COCU Plan of Union, to be held March 23 at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Little Rock, for ministers and laymen of the Little Rock District.

A native of Louisiana, Dr. Hearn is a graduate of Louisiana Tech, Boston University School of Theology, and earned the Ph. D. degree in social ethics from Boston University. Prior to coming to his present posi-

tion he served as executive director of the Fort Worth (Tex.) Area Council of Churches. Among other ecumenical responsibilities he served as an observer-consultant to the Ecumenical Commission of the Dallas-Fort Worth Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church.

Dr. C. Ray Hozendorf, Little Rock District Superintendent, says that the March 23 workshop is for all persons who are interested in learning more about the COCU Plan. Lay members of the Annual Conference,

# Arkansas Methodist

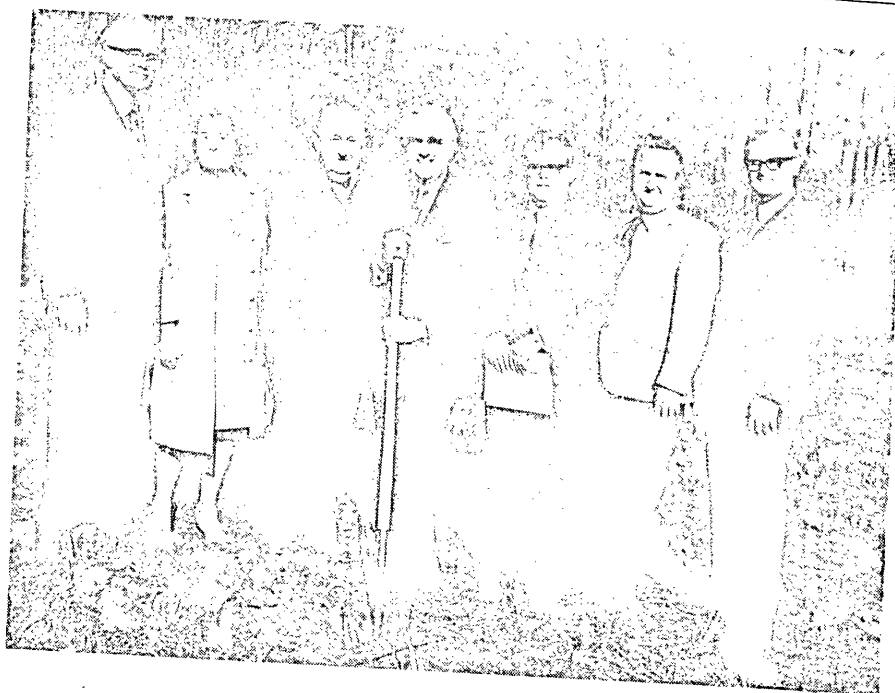
90th YEAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1971

NO. 10

Bishop Paul V. Galloway, center, is shown as he broke ground on February 28 for the new building for Rison United Methodist Church. Also in the picture, from left, are: Dr. Arthur Terry, Pine Bluff District Superintendent; the Rev. and Mrs. Harold D. Sadler, who donated the site for the new church; the Rev. Louis L. Averitt, the pastor; Jack England, chairman of the Building Committee; and Rufus T. Buie, Jr., chairman of the Administrative Board. (Photo by Cleveland County Herald)

BELOW RIGHT: Architect's drawing of proposed building at Rison.



## Construction of new church at Rison begins

A new church building to cost \$59,900 is under construction by the Rison United Methodist Church on a site which was donated by the Rev. and Mrs. Harold D. Sadler of England.

Bishop Paul V. Galloway officiated at the Groundbreaking Service for the new building on February 28, assisted by Dr. Arthur Terry, Pine Bluff District Superintendent, the Rev. Louis L. Averitt, the pastor, and Mr. Sadler.

On February 17 the Church Construction Committee, and Dr. J. Ralph Hillis, First Methodist Church, is co-chairman of the Finance Committee.

ference voted unanimous approval of the plans submitted by the R. & W. Construction Co.

In addition to the ministers who took part in the groundbreaking, the following also participated: Miss Teri England, representing the children; Miss Melissa Pearson, representing

the youth; Rufus T. Buie, Jr., chairman of the Administrative Board; and the members of the Building Committee: Jack England, chairman, Tom Pearson, Malcolm Attwood, Mrs. Bill Thomasson, D. C. Blanchard, and Mrs. J. B. Pierce.

## Des Arc Church holds groundbreaking

Ground was broken for a new facility at Des Arc United Methodist Church on Sunday, February 21, with Dr. C. Ray Hozendorf, Little Rock District superintendent officiating, assisted by the pastor and other officials of the church.

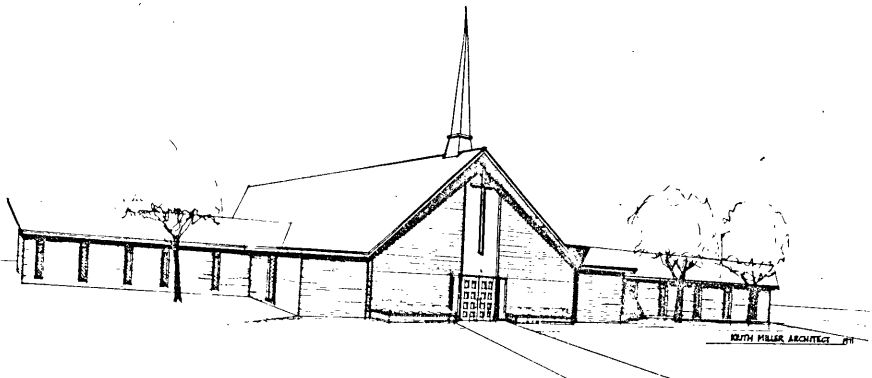
Now under construction is a chapel and fellowship hall which will be used as a temporary sanctuary while the old sanctuary is removed and a new one built on the ground where

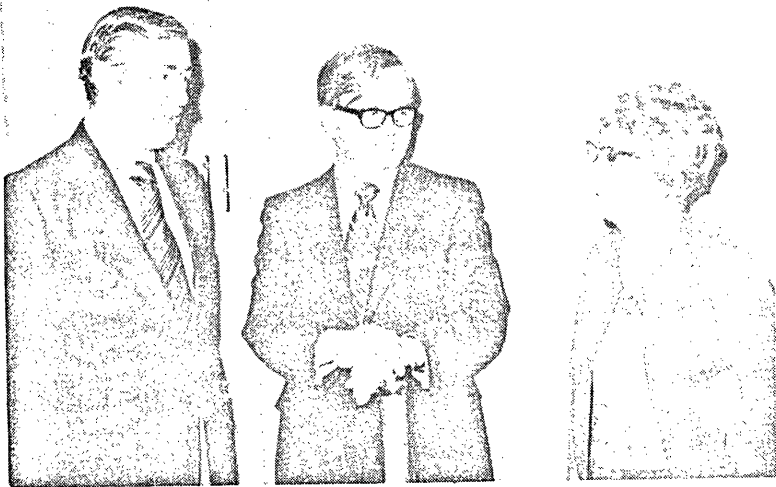
church lay leaders, and chairmen of work areas on ecumenical affairs, pastors and all other persons interested in ecumenism are especially urged to attend.

the present one is located, according to the Rev. Bennie G. Ruth, minister.

Members of the Des Arc Church have raised \$37,500 in cash for their building program. The remaining needs will be financed by the sale of \$45,000 in bonds at a 7 per cent compounded interest rate. The bond sale was kicked off with a free fish supper. Bonds have been made available in denominations of \$250, \$500 and \$1,000. The Des Arc Farmers Merchants Bank will act as paying agent with no charge to the church for this service.

The congregation hopes to move into the new structure by the first Sunday after Easter.





Dr. Eva Dodge (right), former medical missionary to China who has traveled extensively throughout Latin America, spoke at Helena's First Church concerning the Arkansas Advance Special work in LaPaz, Bolivia at Pfeiffer Hospital. Shown here with Barney Lewis (l.) and Carlos Smith, chairman of the Work Area on Missions at First Church, Dr. Dodge told the Feb. 21 Mission Study group that the Advance Specials from Arkansas, which will build the pediatrics ward, will not equip it. Along with other necessary equipment, 20 hospital beds at \$140 each will be needed. In the late '50s, Dr. Dodge brought a foster son from Bolivia to complete his high school work at Central High in Little Rock. He is now first secretary to the Bolivian Ambassador in Washington. Dr. Jim Beal is pastor of the Helena Church.

## Family Camp experiment planned

An experimental weekend of family camping will be held at Aldersgate Methodist Camp, 2000 Aldersgate Road, Little Rock, on March 27 and 28.

Ed Wimberly, Task Force Committee chairman, is extending an invitation to any family in the state, of any religion or race, to participate in a time of wholesome recreation, with some time to be spent in discussion of the barriers which exist within families and between families.

Dr. Harold Eggersperger, minister-director of the Program Council of the North Arkansas Conference and a leader in church and family camping programs, will lead the adult discussions, scheduled for 1:30 and 7

p.m. on Saturday. The Rev. Everett Vinson, program director of the Little Rock Conference, will lead the Sunday morning family worship.

Planned programs for children and young people will be led by Ron McDonald, Hendrix College student, Larry Kelly, high school student, and Rush Holt, assistant camp director.

Families may bring their own tents or cabin-trailers, or may stay in the camp cabins. Families may bring their own food for cook-outs, or buy meals at camp.

Registration will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday. The weekend will conclude at 1 p.m. Sunday. Fees are listed on the registration blank below.

†

## "MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND" SCHEDULED IN OKLAHOMA

The Board of Evangelism of the Oklahoma Conference and the First United Methodist Church, Oklahoma City, are sponsors for the "Marriage Enrichment Weekend," which will be held at Lake Murray, Ardmore, Okla., April 23-25.

Mrs. Virginia Law, director of the Family Life Department of the General Board of Evangelism, will direct the weekend. The registration fee is \$35 for a couple and the room and board for a couple is \$50.

Additional information may be secured from Dr. LeRoy Sewell, First United Methodist Church, 131 N.W. 4th St., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73102.

†

## WORK OF ESKIMO ARTISTS ON DISPLAY AT HENDRIX COLLEGE

Drawings and sculptures of two Eskimo artists may be seen in Trieschmann Gallery and Bailey Library at Hendrix College in Conway through March 15 in conjunction with the College's "Canada Year" studies program. The exhibition, sent to Hendrix by the National Museum of Man in Ottawa, includes 50 drawings and 22 sculptures by two exceptional artists represented in the Canadian national collections of Eskimo art, according to Dr. William E. Taylor, director of the National Museum of Man.

Oonark, a widowed mother of eight who lives at Baker Lake, has created a laughing world with strong colors and graceful patterns in her drawings. A woman of great imagination and vitality, she has produced an extraordinary volume of work since the late 1950's. Her memory for customs and manners of her people in bygone days makes her work valuable as a historical record.

Pangnark, a Caribou Eskimo from Eskimo Point, works mostly in stone, making maximum use of the original shape of his material. His sculptures are generally small, with simple, straight-forward lines that border on the abstract.

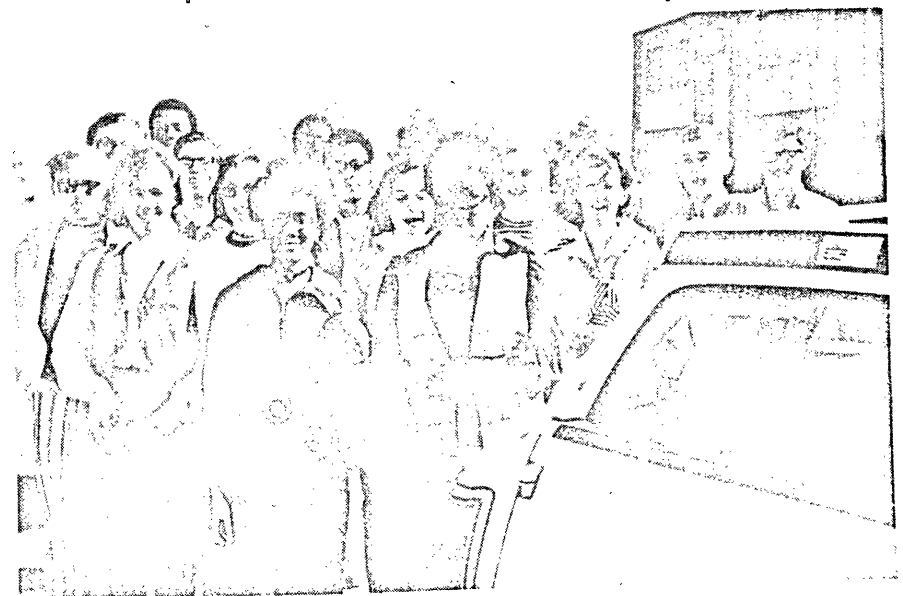
†



Las Savell, director of Public Relations at Methodist Hospital, Memphis, has been appointed by the American Hospital Association to serve as Area Representative for the State of Tennessee for the American Society for Hospital Public Relations Directors. Savell has been Public Relations Director for Methodist Hospital for four years. He holds a certificate in Health Services Administration from the University of Alabama in Birmingham, is a member of the Public Relations Advisory Committee to the Tennessee Hospital Association and serves on the Board of Directors for the Memphis Eye Bank. He and his wife, Sara, co-direct the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing Glee Club.

DR. JAMES L. McPHAIL, Little Rock physician who was for some time in mission in a hospital in Velore, India, was guest speaker at the February 28 mission study held in Winfield U.M. Church, Little Rock. Discussion panelists for "How the Word Gets Around" included Miss Francille Killion, Miss Olive Smith and Rush Holt. Dr. Edward Dunlap is pastor.

†



Seventeen members of the Wesley Foundation at Russellville's Arkansas Tech College, accompanied by Director Muriel Peters, preparing to leave for an overnight visit at Southern State College in Magnolia where they were guests of the Wesley Foundation. Exchange visits such as this one are intended to help students become better acquainted with the programs and members of other foundations. The Rev. Allen B. Bonsall is the United Methodist minister to campus youth at Southern State Wesley Foundation.

MARCH 11, 1971

**CAMP ALDERSGATE  
FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND  
MARCH 27 - 28, 1971**

**REGISTRATION**  
(Please return to Camp Aldersgate, 2000 Aldersgate Rd., Little Rock, Ark. 72205)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES AND AGES OF CHILDREN ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**COST OF CAMP**      Registration Fee: \$5.00 per family  
                                  Food: Adults-\$1.00 adult meal  
                                         children under 12-75¢ each meal

**PLEASE CIRCLE TYPE OF ACCOMMODATIONS**

Lodging: Cabins - 25¢ per person  
                  Tent or trailer space - 50¢

FAMILIES MAY HAVE THE OPTION OF BRINGING THEIR OWN FOOD TO COOK OUT, OR FOOD WILL BE FURNISHED AT THE ABOVE PRICES. PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_

# Editorial

## A SINCERE PLEA AGAINST PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

**W**e would like to share with you this week the essence of a very logical statement against public funds for private schools recently made to the Committee on Education and Welfare of the Louisiana Constitutional Revision Commission by Dr. Ben Oliphint, minister of University United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge.

The statement began with reference to the position of the 1968 General Conference which said: "We believe in the principle of universal public education and we reaffirm our support of public educational institutions. At the same time, we recognize and pledge our continued allegiance to the U.S. constitutional principle that citizens have a right to establish and maintain private schools from private resources so long as such schools meet public standards of quality. Such schools have made a genuine contribution to society. We do not support the expansion or the strengthening of private schools with public funds. Furthermore, we oppose the establishment or strengthening of private schools that jeopardize the public school system or thwart valid public policy."

Then Dr. Oliphint affirmed that the Constitution of America guarantees a free church and that the state is protected from encroachment of the church. He also pointed out that an educated citizenry is essential to the maintenance of a government whose powers are derived from the consent of the governed, and that to meet the cost of this system of education all the citizens are taxed. "They are not taxed in proportion to the benefits received, nor yet is the tax canceled when parents elect to support private or parochial schools by choice."

He pointed out some of the major arguments that are offered in support of aid to parochial education and gave what seems to this writer to be cogent answers to each. First, it is argued that private and parochial schools perform a public service and are entitled to a public subsidy. He replied that many institutions such as churches, newspapers, and TV stations perform a public service but that this does not necessarily entitle them to public subsidy.

Another argument is that some parts of the parochial school curriculum are really secular and that these could receive a subsidy from the state. The truth is that all church schools tell their people that religion permeates all subjects—"they are not secular if they are taught from a sectarian viewpoint."

Another argument suggests that public aid to parochial education at a "reasonable" level will prove less expensive to the taxpayer than no aid at all, threatening massive closings of such schools and flooding of the public schools with these students. There is little evidence that such wholesale closings are really contemplated or valid to the argument that the continuation of a dual system of schools is saving any tax money.

A 1966 Gallup Poll authorized by Catholic Digest indicated that only 55% of Roman Catholics favored tax support of parochial education, whereas in 1952 63% of this group favored tax support. The overall results showed that 40% of the American people favored public aid to parochial schools in 1952, dropping to 38% in 1966. The latest Gallup Poll on the subject was quoted by the National Catholic Reporter in 1969 and showed that 59% opposed it and again only 38% favored it.

Recently Rep. Martin P. Mullen, a key legislator in the fight in Pennsylvania to get state aid for Catholic schools, told the Pennsylvania Catholic Education Association: "The major reason why we had such great opposition . . . is simply because the Catholic people of our state refused to try to sell the general public on the idea that aid to non-

public schools was not just another gimmick to aid one particular religion against all others." (Quoted from Michigan Catholic, Oct. 16, 1969) Dr. Oliphint concluded to the committee, "All of this makes clear, it seems to me, that the financial problem of parochial schools stems from the unwillingness of Catholics to contribute rather than from their inability."

John M. Swomley, Jr. said in The Nation, Dec. 14, 1970: "The key to the future of parochial schools is the Church's attitude toward them, not the willingness of the general public to support them. If parochial schools are essential to the mission of the church, they will continue as long as the church does."

The statement says: "If state legislatures, school officials and the courts make public funds available to parochial schools, they will be intervening to favor one side in a church controversy, by forcing Roman Catholics to pay through taxation what they will not voluntarily give. They will also force non-Catholics to subsidize the program of an anti-reformation or anti-democratic group within a church to which they do not belong."

"If there ever was a time, it is now the time for all good men to come to the aid of a vital religious and political life in our country . . . a vitality sustained by a free faith in a free country."

*aaK*

## the Editor's Corner



### A Look at Church Membership Figures

Church membership in the U.S. showed an increase of 2/100th of 1 per cent in the most recent figures released in the 1971 edition of the Yearbook of American Churches. The total is 128,505,084 as compared with 128,469,636 in the 1970 report. Thus the total has gone up only 36,348, the lowest increase reported in modern times.

Of course, this means that the percentage of the population having church membership fell from 63.1 to 62.4.

By the very nature of the deadlines involved in getting such a book out, the figures for many churches, including Southern Baptist and United Methodist are those for year before last. The Yearbook says there are 11.8 million Southern Baptists and 10.82 million United Methodists. However, more recent denominational reports put Southern Baptists at 11.6 million and United Methodists at 10.6 million.

The Roman Catholic Church reported a membership of 47,872,089, representing a loss of 1,146 from the previous year. According to the Yearbook, 188 Protestant Churches have 69,740,413 members. This includes some groups like Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, who do not like to be put in this category.

American Jews number 5.78 million; membership of 21 Eastern Orthodox jurisdictions total 3.74 million; Buddhists total 100,000, and Arminian, Polish National Catholic and Old Catholic total 817,822.

Canadian church membership figures, also included in the book, indicate that there are 8.57 million Catholics among a total church membership of 11,455,241. The Anglican Church of Canada has 1.1 million and the United Church of Canada, 1.04 million.

The Yearbook placed the number of ordained clergy in 230 churches at 387,642, compared with 361,506 reported in 226 groups in the 1970 Yearbook. Of the pastors included in the report, 217,360 serve local parishes.

Editor and Business Manager: ALFRED A. KNOX  
Managing Editor: DORIS WOOLARD  
Woman's Editor: IMOGENE KNOX  
Poetry Editor: BARBARA L. MULKEY  
Editorial Assistant: PEGGY YARBROUGH  
Office Secretary: KATHLEEN STOREY  
Contributing Editors: CECIL BLAND, J. WOODROW HEARN, EVERETT M. VINSON, JOE E. ARNOLD, HAROLD EGGENSERGER, 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 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.

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 Information (UMI), 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.

# news and views

OF THE WORLD OF RELIGION

by doris woolard

The Southern Baptist Sunday School Bd. and Santa Fe County in New Mexico have finalized a compromise in which Glorieta Baptist Assembly will pay taxes on three areas of property. Areas involved in the compromise include the gift and camera shop, the "washateria" and a service station. A 1969 N.M. law calls for the taxing of all church-owned property except that directly involved in religious worship, such as churches. The Assembly grounds complex includes "several motels and hotels" and a "big cafeteria" which County Assessor Tillie Gonzales says should be taxed.

Need to provide adequate pensions for retired clergymen and pastors expected to retire soon constitutes a major financial problem for the United Church of Japan (Kyodan). The 200,000-member Protestant denomination, formed by merger 30 years ago, has 302 retired pastors or widows of ministers currently receiving an average pension of less than \$30 per month or \$360 per year. Average per capita income in Japan is said to be \$1,170 annually.

Episcopal leaders heard an attack on alleged church aid to a "self-admitted Communist" when the executive committee of the Diocese of Philadelphia met at St. Mark's Church in Philadelphia. The attack came from those protesting a rally held in January at the Church of the Advocate to raise money for the defense of Angela Davis. The former university professor and admitted Communist, is accused of complicity in a murder in California. Episcopal Renaissance, a 24-member executive committee, has urged Episcopalians to withhold funds from the diocese until assurances are received "that the money will be used only for spreading the gospel."

A Lutheran church leader, Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotz, past president of the Lutheran World Federation and of the American Lutheran Church, told Pope Paul during a recent audience in Rome that Lutherans are not concerned about having the Roman Catholic Church "rehabilitate" Martin Luther, the German Reformer who was excommunicated by Rome in 1521. Dr. Schiotz said he told the Pope that "Luther is now in the hands of God." During the audience the Lutheran leader told the Pope that when it comes to population control, Lutherans "differ with your Church." He reported that the Pope responded, "This is something that must be studied more."

Roman Catholic Archbishop Jean Baptiste Maury of Reims has strongly denounced the spread of "erotic" shops throughout France, affirming that "the pollution of morals is more ominous than the pollution of nature." "Let us not allow our human energies for a better world be destroyed by this violation of consciences," the French prelate said.

A panel discussion on "the church and philanthropy" will be one of the highlights of the 14th Nat'l. Conference of the Nat'l. Council on Philanthropy, scheduled to meet in New York April 12-14. "Private Philanthropy for a Better America," will provide the theme for the three-day program. It is expected to draw about 1,000 persons, including key executives of commerce and industry and health, welfare, religious and cultural organizations.

Congregations which might decide not to enter a new denomination formed by merger of the nation's two largest Presbyterian bodies could stay out and retain their property, according to the final draft plan of union. The document was completed and announced at St. Petersburg, Fla., by a joint committee of the United Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church, U.S. (Southern). The connectional system of Presbyterian tradition does not sanction the withdrawal of congregations with their property. Not only will congregations opposed to union be allowed to retain local real estate, they will be permitted to petition synods and presbyteries (regional units) to divide with them properties on those levels.

A special 30 pfennig stamp commemorating the 450th anniversary of the Diet at Worms will be issued this month, according to West German postal authorities. It was at the Diet (Conference) in the city of Worms, near Mannheim, that the Reformer Martin Luther refused to retract his criticisms of the Roman Church, uttering his famous slogan "Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise." The stamp will show Luther standing before the Emperor Charles V and church dignitaries, surrounded by copies of his writings.

The organist and entire choir of St. Thomas's Anglican parish church in Golborne, England resigned because the rector, the Rev. Harold Cunliffe, wanted "brighter and more lively hymns." Mr. Cunliffe, who is 42, introduced modern hymns to the choir from his own book, "Twentieth Century Hymns," seven months ago. Since then the reaction of the choir has been to stand silent while the organist clasped his hands on his lap every time one of the "modern numbers" was announced. A spokesman said their resignations en bloc stemmed from an aversion to "cheap gimmicks aimed at getting people into church."

Del Hafer, affiliated with the Denver, Colo. Youth for Christ staff, told YFC aides meeting in Minneapolis, "we'd better be sure we have a cause greater than drugs. Drugs are a fantastic reminder of what life can be, but a poor substitute for Jesus Christ." He warned that "we shouldn't present Jesus as another 'trip.' All this current talk about 'taking a trip with Jesus,' 'getting stoned on God,' getting 'ripped on the Holy Spirit' is garbage. Jesus Christ didn't come to give the same kind of experience of physical exhilaration. He wants to provide empowerment in all areas of our lives."

A Committee on Inter-church Relations is proposing that the 1971 General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church express "willingness now" to enter into inter-communion with the Episcopal Church. The term "inter-communion" in this specific context, is said to refer particularly to the receiving and transferral of members. Officials of the Episcopal Church are reported to have expressed keen interest in the Presbyterian proposal.

Sister Mary Catherine Vukmanic, an Ursuline Nun who is in her last year of doctoral studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., has been named one of 38 "Garrett Fellows" at the school. The seminary—the second largest in the nation—charges no tuition and is supported by the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program. Garrett Fellows receive \$75 monthly from the fellowship endowment provided by the late L. F. Garrett of Memphis, a Baptist layman.

Full identification of East German Churches with the Communist regime and its political platform was demanded by a prominent official of the ruling Socialist Unity Party (SED). Paul Verner, a member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee, is reported to have hinted strongly that such identification would certainly be in the best interests of the Churches.

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Divine in Houston, Tex., has voted to resume financial support of the national denomination and pay "in principle" its entire \$70,000 missionary quota for the current year. In 1970, the congregation voted to discontinue giving its full quota to the annual diocesan budget, in protest of the Church's decision to fund certain Mexican-American and black groups. St. John's considered the groups "militant." Rector Thomas Sumners said the decision to resume financial support is a "good faith response" to what he termed "safeguards against future denominational funding" of allegedly violence-oriented groups.

Father Eugene J. Schallert, who directs the Institute for Socio-Religious Research at the University of San Francisco, has been assigned the task of gathering all available data on the Roman Catholic priesthood in the U.S. for scrutiny by the international Synod of Bishops in Rome next Fall. The priest said that the data will be sent to a Rome center called Pro Mundi Vita (For the Life of the World). It will be translated into several languages and made available to bishops around the world.

The president of the Nat'l. Women's Christian Temperance Union has scored a bill introduced in the Illinois legislature which called for legalization of marijuana. "Obviously you are unaware that an International Treaty on Narcotic Drugs was signed by the U.S. and 63 other countries regarding the expansion of a control system on opium, cannabis and coca leaves, in 1961," wrote Mrs. Fred J. Tooze in a letter to the co-sponsors of House Bill 395. She noted that "the bill which you are sponsoring becomes only a repeat performance of earlier legislation concerning beverage alcohol. In 1933 it was said that if beverage alcohol were legalized, the public would lose interest in the narcotic and by some strange legislative power, it would dissipate itself."



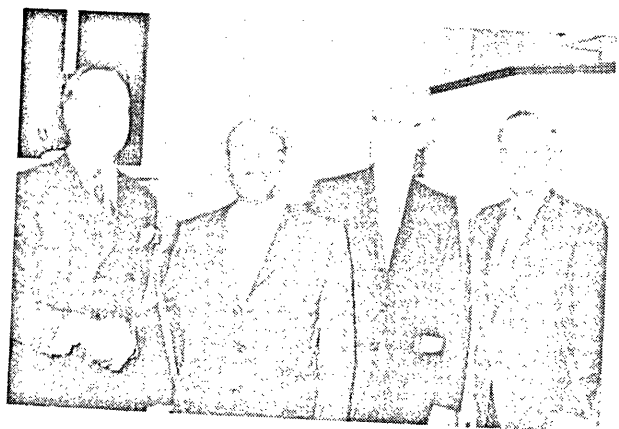
BRUSSELS — A young Belgian takes a look at the latest product to be sold in public vending machines — the Bible. For the modest sum of ten Belgian francs (20 U.S. cents) one can buy a miniature Bible from one of the many vending machines being installed on Brussels' streets. The distributor reports a great deal of success among the young. (RNS Photo)





Mrs. Walter Lindley of Jonesboro recently taught the course, "Helping Children Grow in the Christian Faith" in a Christian Workers' School in the Batesville area. She is shown seated at left with a part of her group.

†



Participants in recent Fayetteville District Conference held at Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. FROM LEFT: Dr. Myers B. Curtis, District superintendent; Dr. Walter Hazard, Philander Smith College president, who delivered the message for the evening; Dr. Joel Cooper, host pastor, and the Rev. Herschel McClurkin Jr., District secretary.

†

## ARKANSAS METHODIST CHILDRENS' HOME

(January list of donors continued from last week)

MRS. URA NOBLE  
by Mrs. Hugh Atwood, Sr.  
by Irma Atwood  
by Mrs. Floy Judd  
JOHN G. ORTON  
by Mr. & Mrs. Joe C. Colclasure  
by Mr. & Mrs. Roy E. Colclasure  
by Joe Colclasure  
by Dr. & Mrs. Joe B. Colclasure  
MRS. NELL OATES  
by Mr. & Mrs. John F. Carpenter  
ELBERT PRUITT  
by Mrs. J. F. Hudson  
R. S. PETERS  
by Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Spotts  
MRS. POE  
by Mr. & Mrs. E. H. English  
MRS. M. V. PRICE  
by Rev. & Mrs. T. G. Poss  
CHARLES PHILLIPS  
by Sue & Bill Hoffman  
by Mr. & Mrs. Joe Gattinger  
H. H. PICKERING  
by Eleanor Turner  
by Nettie Williams  
by Ida Snow  
by Pearl Coulter  
by Avis Graves  
by Ryman Wallis  
by Mr. & Mrs. Walker Jackry  
by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bishop  
by Mr. & Mrs. Reese Hale  
by Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Williams  
by Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Hampton  
by Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Clay  
by Bro. & Mrs. J. R. Callicott  
JESSE REEVES  
by Mrs. Jesse Reeves  
DR. C. M. REVES  
by Rev. Robert O. Beck  
HONORABLE L. MENDEL RIVERS  
by Mr. Charles D. Russell

Please turn to page 11

## HENDRIX SENIOR AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDY

James V. Major of Conway, a senior at Hendrix College, has been awarded a \$3,000 scholarship to the Graduate School of Theology of Boston University, Boston, Mass., for the 1971-72 academic year, according to an announcement by Dr. Walter G. Muelder, dean.

Young Major, a graduate of Conway High School, is a honors graduate candidate. He has been a member of Alpha Tau and has been elected to membership in Alpha Chi, national honorary scholastic society.

He will enroll in Boston University in September to begin a Ph. D. program in the field of philosophy of religion. His parents are the Rev. and Mrs. James E. Major of Conway.

†

## DR. McDERMOTT TO DIRECT TULANE SUMMER MATH INSTITUTE

Dr. Cecil McDermott, associate professor of mathematics at Hendrix College, has been appointed director of the Tulane University Summer Mathematics Institute for college and high school mathematics teachers, according to an announcement by Dr. Frank D. Quigley, Chairman of the department of mathematics at Tulane.

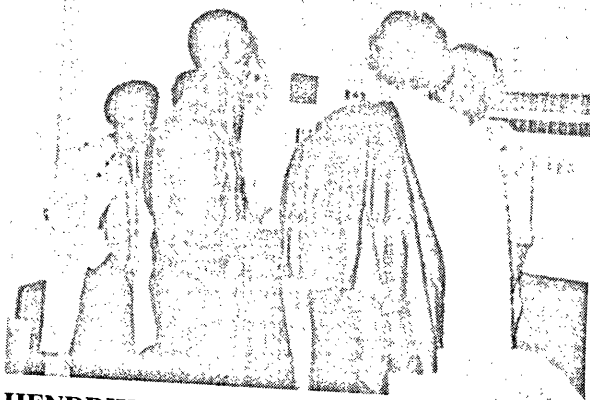
In addition to directing the institute, Dr. McDermott will teach a course in Fortram Computer Programming and conduct a seminar in applied mathematics. The institute begins June 14 and ends July 30.

## RECAPITULATION REPORT NO. 6

### 1971 ARKANSAS METHODIST CIRCULATION CAMPAIGN

DISTRICT	New	Renew	Not Due	Total	Quota	Percent.
Jonesboro	266	1651	41	1958	1824	107%
Monticello	138	1038	5	1181	1124	105
Fort Smith	207	2235	13	2455	2468	100
Pine Bluff	238	1231	10	1479	1700	87
Forrest City	179	1306	7	1492	1775	84
Hope	190	994	12	1196	1517	79
Little Rock	415	2360	22	2797	3604	78
Camden	277	1375	20	1672	2193	77
Conway	374	1139	33	1546	2296	67
Batesville	286	944	27	1257	1849	67
Paragould	225	708	15	948	1487	64
Arkadelphia	187	647	24	858	1440	59
Fayetteville	202	833	23	1058	1960	54
Totals	3184	16461	252	19897		

SOUTHWEST CONF. CHURCHES	19	114	133
	3203	16575	20030



The Rev. W. M. Robinson, pastor of St. Paul U. M. Church, Little Rock, Southwest Conference, is shown as he left with two busloads of participants to attend the recent meeting of Black Methodists for Church Renewal in Dallas.

†

## HENDRIX PHILOSOPHY MAJOR NAMED WOODROW WILSON FELLOW

William G. Hobbs of North Little Rock, a senior at Hendrix College, has been named a Woodrow Wilson Fellow for 1971-72.

Over 10,000 college seniors were nominated by their professors for the 1971-72 competition. Fifteen Regional Selection Committees interviewed candidates and made final selections. Three hundred and five college seniors will receive Woodrow Wilson Fellowships, and an additional 741 have been named Finalists. The purpose of the competition is to encourage outstanding young people to consider careers of service, primarily in college training.

A Woodrow Wilson Fellow is supported by the Foundation for a first year of study at the graduate school of his choice. While Finalists do not receive financial support, they are recommended for fellowships and assistantships awarded by graduate schools.

†

## MISS BLANCHE BLACK

Miss Blanche Black, 81, of McRae died on February 13, after a lengthy illness, in a Little Rock Hospital.

Miss Black was a member of the McRae United Methodist Church.

She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Black of Center Hill and McRae.

Miss Black taught school in Kensett, Little Rock, and was retired from the McRae School System in the late 1950's.

She is survived by her brothers Eugene R. Black and Homer S. Black of McRae.

you'll provide  
beautiful  
MUSIC  
for your church..

... when you avail yourself of Houck's complete Church Music services. Satisfy your musical needs in an atmosphere of friendly know-how with complete church-oriented facilities. You and your music committee have only to call—or come by!

Serving Music Since 1897

**Houck MUSIC CO.**  
6TH & LOUISIANA  
LITTLE ROCK - FR 2-2259

## LIKE SWEET ONIONS?

NEW BLUE RIBBON ASSORTMENT - 600  
SWEET ONION PLANTS WITH FREE  
PLANTING GUIDE - \$4.20 POSTPAID.  
TEXAS ONION PLANT CO., Dept. J  
"Home of the Sweet Onion"  
Farmersville, Texas 75031

For  
**COLDS**  
take **666**

# NEWS and NOTES

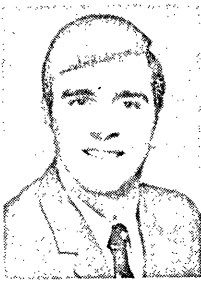
**THE REV. CLAYTON HARRISON**, member of the North Mississippi Conference now serving as counselor for Arkansas Rehabilitation, spoke in West Helena First U.M. Church, February 21, on the subject "The Relation of Music and Worship in the Church." The Rev. William Haltom is the West Helena pastor.

**DEQUEEN UNITED METHODISTS** had a missionary family as guests at all Sunday services, February 21. The Rev. and Mrs. Andy Fowler told about their work as Methodist missionaries in Malaysia. Mr. Fowler has been acting director of the Methodist Iban Literature Programme in Sarawak for the past four years. They are supported in part by the DeQueen Church of which the Rev. David B. Wilson is pastor.

**VANTREASE UNITED Methodist Church**, El Dorado, recently installed a new Hammond Organ. It is used by alternating organists to accompany four choirs. The Morning Worship Choir is directed by Gordon Morgan. On Sunday evenings, the Methodist Men's Choir, the Ladies' Choir and the Youth Choir alternate in leading worship. The Rev. Kirvin A. Hale is the Vantrease minister.

**MISS EARLENE MATTHEWS**, daughter of the Rev. Gaston Matthews, pastor at Hartman in the Fort Smith District, dedicated her life for missionary service in a recent Sunday morning worship hour at Siloam Springs United Methodist Church. Miss Matthews, a nurse at the Siloam Springs hospital, has been a teacher in the Children's Division, a member of the Friday evening Prayer and Bible Study group, and a vocalist in the Siloam Springs church. She plans to spend the next two years in pursuit of training which will equip her for a missionary assignment. The Rev. John M. McCormack is pastor at the Siloam Springs church.

Steve Averitt has joined Oak Forest United Methodist Church staff in Little Rock as youth worker. He will be directing the full summer schedule of youth activities. Steve is the son of Mrs. L. W. Averitt and the late Rev. L. W. Averitt. He is a student at UALR and a member of the basketball squad at the University. Steve's home church is Winfield United Methodist, where he was recently licensed to preach.



"HOW THE WORD gets Around" was the subject of a study held at the Danville United Methodist Church on Tuesday, February 23. This was a luncheon meeting. "Man, Media, and the Message" was taught by Mrs. Walter Harris. The Rev. Gene Adkins is the pastor.

**FOUR LADIES FROM FISHER Street United Methodist Church**, Jonesboro, were honored recently by the WSCS with Life Memberships. They were: Mrs. James Watkins, Mrs. Joe Mobley, Mrs. Atwood Bell, and Mrs. Bessie Wilson. Several baby memberships were also given.

**ARKANSAS VALLEY United Methodist Men** had 74 men from Yell and Pope Counties attending the dinner meeting in First Church, Dardanelle, February 22, in spite of a snowfall. The Rev. George Wayne Martin, Arkadelphia District superintendent, presented the program.

**PINE BLUFF DISTRICT Youth** will hold a retreat at Aldersgate Camp, Little Rock, this weekend.

**HELENA AREA YOUTH** will hold ecumenical services of worship during the Lenten season. On February 25, a supper and service was held in First U. M. Church, Helena; on March 2, Helena Presbyterian Church was host; on March 9, St. John's Episcopal Church will be the meeting place; March 16, the Cleburne Avenue Presbyterian Church; and March 23, the program will conclude at the West Helena United Methodist Church.

## FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT YOUTH TO HOLD RALLY

The Siloam Springs United Methodist Church will be host to the Fayetteville District Youth Rally on Saturday, March 13, beginning at 10 a.m. and closing around 4:30 p.m. with a communion service. Theme of the program is "Escape to Reality."

**WESLEY CHURCH** youth of Pine Bluff discussed "How the Word gets around through Music" at the concluding study in that church, February 28. Panelists were John King, Linda Hervey, Janet Laughlin, and Burt Hart. Portions of the new folk-rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar" were played.

**MISS MILDRED OSMENT** of Jonesboro led the study "How the Word Gets Around" with a three-session meeting at the Fisher United Methodist Church. Guests from Hickory Ridge and Weiner were welcomed. Mrs. Roy Weld is chairman of the Program Area: Missionary education; Mrs. Elizabeth Moore is chairman of Missions.

**THE REV. DUANE STEPHENS** of Independence, Missouri, was the pulpit guest in his home church, First United Methodist, Forrest City, on Sunday morning, February 21. He is a graduate of Hendrix College, Conway, and St. Paul School of Theology, Methodist, Kansas City, and since 1969 has served as assistant pastor and minister of education of the First United Presbyterian Church in Independence. The Rev. Byron McSpadden is the Forrest City pastor.

**AT HARTFORD**, WSCS officers in Jones Memorial United Methodist Church were recently installed by the Rev. Roger E. Glover. They are: Mrs. E. S. Hunton, president; Mrs. E. A. Grim, vice-president; Mrs. H. N. West, recording secretary; Mrs. Emerson McConnell, treasurer. Chairmen include: Mrs. Miller Bowen, Christian social relations; Mrs. O. R. Findley, missionary education; Mrs. Roger E. Glover, spiritual growth; Mrs. T. W. Weir, membership; and Mrs. E. A. Grim, nominations.

## FAYETTEVILLE FARTY HONORS CLASS FOUNDER

Members of the Homebuilders Church School Class of Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, gave a surprise birthday party recently for Mrs. Austin Brockway. She was the first teacher of the class when it was organized in 1946, and, assisted by her husband, taught the class for 10 years. The group was organized when Bishop Paul V. Galloway was pastor when he saw the need for a class for young adult couples. Mr. and Mrs. Brockway are now active members of Trinity United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, which they helped to organize in 1959.

## 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 14—Sun.	Psalms 130:1-8
March 15	Col. 1:19-29
March 16	Titus 2:11-14
March 17	Heb. 6:1-12
March 18	I Peter 1:1-9
March 19	Zech. 9:9-17
March 20	Rom. 8:14-25
March 21—Sunday	I Cor. 13:1-13

**DR. W. O. SCROGGIN, JR.** was the speaker for Race Relations Sunday at Holiday Hills United Methodist Church. A special offering received for Philander Smith College added to amounts written into the church's budget enabled this congregation to exceed their quota for the college's Capital Funds Campaign five times. The pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowan.

**THE JUNIOR HIGH UNITED Methodist Youth Fellowship** of Marvell had a money making spaghetti dinner at the church on Sunday noon, February 14. The net profit from the dinner plus the sale of pound cans of peanut brittle donated by Mrs. Frank Underwood, was \$182. This money will be used toward the purchase of a refrigerator for the new church to be built in the near future. Special thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Underwood, Paul Foree, Mrs. Gerald Glass, Mrs. W. A. Schaffhauser, Mrs. Taylor Collins, Mrs. Mac Hall, Mrs. B. L. Reed, Mrs. Jerry Haley, Mrs. R. J. Young and Mrs. Jim Wise. Sponsors are Mrs. Robert Campbell and the Rev. Lowell Eaton.

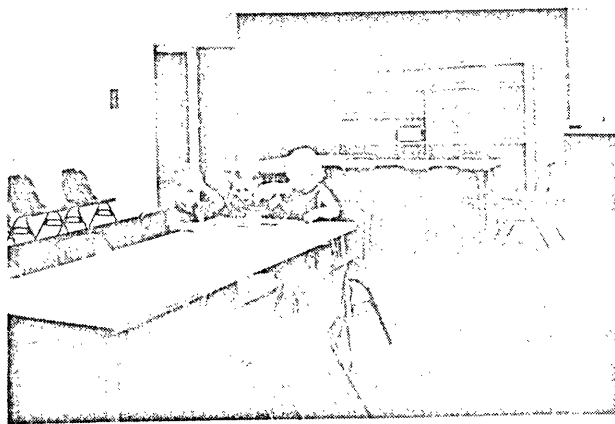
**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST Church**, Springdale, is planning for a Lay Witness Mission on March 19-21. Marvin Bishop, assistant basketball coach at State College of Arkansas, Conway, will serve as coordinator. Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Glenn, Jr., are the local chairmen. The Rev. W. P. Fiser is the pastor.

## P. K. KORNER

**JAMES M. MEADORS, III**, has been chosen "Mr. Walnut Ridge High School" for the school year 1970-71. He is a senior. Stephen Meadors, high school sophomore, served as a Page in the House and Senate, February 16 and 17. They are sons of the Rev. and Mrs. James M. Meadors, Jr., of Walnut Ridge.

**BRIAN KEITH REED** was born to Mr. and Mrs. John E. Reed of Springdale on February 14. Mrs. Reed is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Harrison of Huntington, and Mr. Reed is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Charles E. Reed of Aubrey, where he serves as pastor of the Aubrey, LaGrange, Lexa Charge in the Forrest City District.

MARCH 11, 1971



Dr. and Mrs. Joe G. Robbins have provided the furnishings for the 6th grade classroom in the new Fellowship Center at the First United Methodist Church of Conway, Arkansas, in honor of their grandchildren, Andrew, Joseph and Ruth Poindexter, shown at left, children of Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Poindexter. The furnishings include a studio-type piano, a bookshelf-room divider, four rectangular-adjustable tables, 30 chairs, a record player, a 500 watt filmstrip slide projector, a roll-up wall movie screen, and a super 8 movie projector. Dr. Robbins is professor of physics at Hendrix College.

Dr. Robbins is professor of physics at Hendrix College.



At the mid-year meeting of the Town and Country Commission, Little Rock Conference, Miss Catherine Ezell (left) of the National Board of Home Missions, met with Mrs. George Meyers, chairman of the advisory committee, and the two workers assigned to the conference: Mrs. Grace Dwyer (right) of Hot Springs, and Miss Masheetta Lindsey (2nd from right) of Murfreesboro. Miss Ezell is coordinator of Church and Community Work for the Missouri and Little Rock Conferences.



The Little Rock Conference Women's Society of Christian Service devoted the mid-year meeting to officer training. FROM LEFT: Mrs. E. T. Davenport, who was reelected president at the Annual Meeting last October, Mrs. Hubert Blakley, the new treasurer, and Mrs. D. E. McCoy, the new vice-president, were workshop leaders. Other officers were also leaders for the workshops held at Winfield U.M. Church, Little Rock, February 16.



Guest speaker at the Monette Wesleyan Service Guild on February 18 was the Rev. Eugene Hall of Blytheville. Mr. Hall is a retired minister of the North Arkansas Conference and is currently serving as pastor of the Yarbrough Church. He is shown with Mrs. Almus Matthews, president of the Monette WSG.

#### CONWAY AAUW NAMES FELLOWSHIP FOR MYRTLE E. CHARLES

Miss Myrtle E. Charles, a past president of the state division and the Conway branch of the AAUW was honored at the January 9 meeting of the Conway branch.

A \$500 fellowship named for Miss Charles, will be given to the national fellowship fund of the AAUW. Dr. Eva Burkett, fellowship chairman of the branch, made the presentation and Miss Velma Lee Adams, fellowships chairman for Arkansas, accepted the fellowship.

Miss Charles, a native of Conway, was graduated from Hendrix in 1908. She taught in Beebe and Little Rock and in several Louisiana and Texas colleges and earned her M.A. in European History with a minor in French at the University of Texas in 1916. Through efforts of the AAUW in Little Rock, of which she was a charter member, Miss Charles received an un-

precedented year's leave with pay from Little Rock Central High School for the study of French at the Sorbonne from which she received her diploma. She also did graduate work at the University of Chicago and at Columbia.

In 1927, Miss Charles returned to Hendrix as assistant professor of French and as the first Dean of Women. She became, in 1935, the first woman to hold a full professorship at Hendrix. Hendrix honored Miss Charles in 1968 with a Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Miss Charles was president of the state division of AAUW from 1929 to 1931. At this time the state and national AAUW undertaking was the establishment of the Fellowship Fund, a goal designed to provide funds for the higher education of women. Miss Charles' efforts were directed at organizing more AAUW groups in the state with particular interest in Fellowships.

The Conway branch organized in 1925, elected Miss Charles president in 1935-36.

## Louise Eggleston, longtime Laubach associate, to speak in Little Rock

Miss Louise Eggleston, long prominent in worldwide prayer and literacy movements, will be in Little Rock next weekend, speaking several times in Asbury United Methodist Church, 12th and Schiller, and also in the First Christian Church at 1500 Mississippi. Miss Eggleston worked for many

years with Dr. Frank Laubach in his "Each One, Teach One" world literacy program, and is president of the Koinonia Foundation. Her "Friendship Journey" travel tours have enabled many people to sit at the feet of religious leaders around the world.

Her Little Rock schedule, to which the general public is invited, is as follows:

Friday, March 19, 10 a.m.—2 p.m., "Women's Day Apart," Asbury United Methodist Church (sack lunch).

Friday, 7:30 p.m. "Community-wide meeting" at First Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 1500 Mississippi.

Saturday, 10:30 a.m., "Prayer-In for Youth," First Christian Church.

Saturday, 12:30 p.m. "Men's Dutch Treat Luncheon" at Pleasant Valley Country Club (reservations must be made through Asbury or First Christian Churches).

Sunday, 10:40 a.m. Worship Service, Asbury United Methodist Church.

#### LITERACY PROGRAM PRESENTED IN MONTICELLO DISTRICT

The Parsonettes of the Monticello District met February 19 in the home of Mrs. Raymond Franks at Monticello for a coffee. Mrs. Paul V. Galloway was guest speaker. Her talk was on the Laubach Literacy Program. Mrs. Sharon Pallone, chairman of the Greater Little Rock Literacy Council, was also a guest.

On February 25 the Parsonettes had a luncheon in the home of Mrs. Virgil Bell of Hamburg. A discussion of the Laubach Program continued and much interest was created among both groups. Mrs. Arthur Jackson was a guest from Australia.

#### MINISTERS' WIVES OF SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE MET

Mrs. Mamie Wallace of Little Rock was hostess for the recent meeting of ministers' wives of the Little Rock District, Southwest Conference.

Mrs. Beatrice Lester gave the opening meditation, and Mrs. Ruth Johnson extended a welcome. Mrs. Willie M. Love encouraged the ladies to think creatively about their presentation at Annual Conference.

Mrs. Hattie Smith presented Mrs. John Workman, who gave an inspiring message on "The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial." A minister's widow of the Southwest Conference, Mrs. A. C. Cabean is a deaconess, serving at the Della Lamb Community House, Wilmington, Delaware. Part of the "Call to Prayer" offering will go to the deaconess retirement fund.

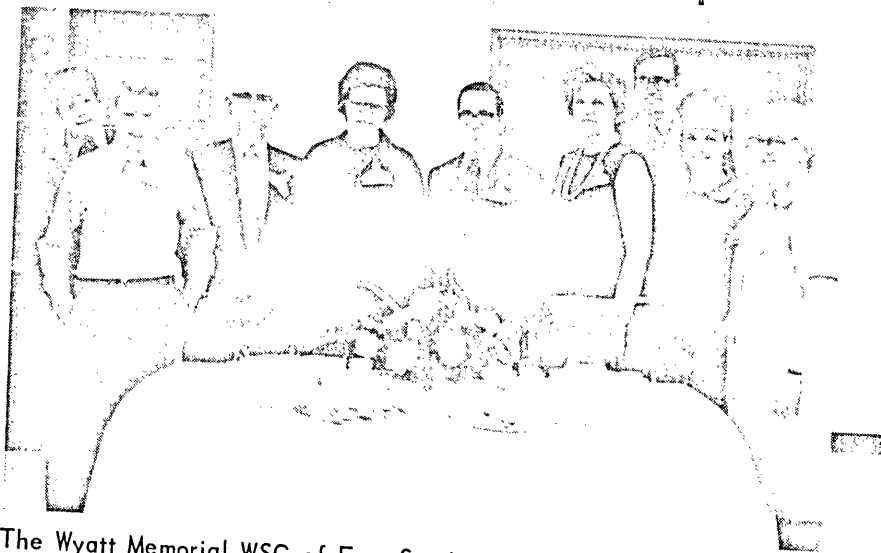
#### FORREST CITY WSG HAS PLEDGE SERVICE

Mrs. Ed Heustess conducted the annual Pledge Service for the Forrest City Wesley Service Guild. She was assisted by Miss Dorothy French, pianist, and Mrs. J. D. Wood, treasurer.

Discussion was held concerning the annual Interfaith Valentine Banquet held in the First United Methodist, February 11, with the Guild and Night Circle VII as hosts.

Mrs. J. D. Gregory, district spiritual growth chairman, distributed suggestions for the furtherance of spiritual growth. Mrs. Foster Norton, local chairman, emphasized the Prayer, Share and Bible Study Groups being formed in the community as an outgrowth of the recent Lay Witness Mission.

THE HORATIO PARSONAGE was the setting for the February meeting of Hope District Parsonettes. The business session was presided over by the president and hostess, Mrs. John Prothro.



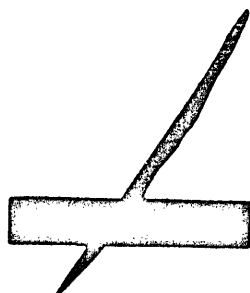
The Wyatt Memorial WSG of Fort Smith sponsored a tea honoring the new members that had joined the church in the year 1970. Mrs. Frances McNinch is WSG president, and the Rev. Tom Weir is pastor. Mr. Weir is shown at center, above, with some of the 51 new members received.



# The Sunday School Lesson

By: Alfred A. Knox

## LESSON FOR MARCH 21: Preparing for His Coming



**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 35:1-13; Mark 13:28-37

**MEMORY SELECTION:** Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (Matthew 24:42)

**AIM OF THE LESSON:** To point out the necessity for preparation for the coming of Christ; to remind ourselves that we each have a limited time — the days of our lives — in which to get ready for the coming of the Kingdom.

"Be Prepared" is the motto of the Boy Scouts of America. It is also the watchword of a Christian. All of us are acquainted with the imperative nature of deadlines with which we have to learn to live. Jesus told the story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids to visualize the approach of his own second coming. It is one of a number of parables related to the coming of the Kingdom. However, it calls men to proper preparation concerning all of the great moments of decision which we must face in our lives.

It would be helpful to read Matthew 24 in getting ready for the consideration of this parable in chapter 25. You will recall that we have been placing great emphasis on the setting of each of these stories in this series. We are with Jesus and his disciples on the Mount of Olives where they have asked him for a sign of his coming and the end of the age. At other places and on other occasions Jesus has dodged questions of this type. But now near the end Matthew tells of the frankness with which he deals with the "end of the age." One thing he emphasizes is that it will come suddenly and there will be no time for last minute preparations.

The teachings about the "last things" is called "eschatology" and this is the general theme of our lesson. Jesus believed that at some future time God would bring human history to an end and establish his kingly rule over the entire created order. The early Christian community lived in constant anticipation of those last days. Although scholars do not seem to agree on what Jesus actually said on this subject, they are agreed that it was a favorite theme. Our memory selection for today is one of the key verses of Matthew 24, "Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

Surely we recognize that apathy characterizes the religious position of many people. Too many of us do not expect anything to happen in and through the Christian community. This was not true of the first century Christians who turned the world upside down, challenged the established religion of both the Jews and the Greeks, and carried their faith to the ends of the earth. This all could take place because they expected something to happen—they expected Jesus to come again. Against that background we need to ask the question, Can a true Christian afford not to be eager and zealous?

### A PARABLE OF PREPAREDNESS

A wedding was a great social event in a Palestinian village. The activities related to it were given the highest priority, and those who made up the wedding party were given special dispensations from the requirements of certain religious obligations. The story tells us that the Kingdom of God is like a wedding. Jesus came to woo and win mankind to his own joy.

Ten bridesmaids went out to meet the bridegroom and escort him to the home of his bride. Since this was a nighttime experience, each of them carried a staff on top of which was a brass bowl filled with oil and a rag wick. Something delayed the bridegroom, and those with the lamps put them down and fell asleep. At midnight there was a cry, "Behold the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" The maidens jumped up and prepared their lamps

so they might go ahead with the festivities. However, five of them realized that their fuel supply was almost gone and they tried to borrow oil from the others. Their request was turned down by "the five wise maidens" who recognized that they only had enough for their own lamps.

Dr. Buttrick points out in *Interpreter's Bible* that this story was dear to the early church. They had lived in expectation of the second coming of Jesus, and their "bridegroom" had been delayed. This parable spoke then of their need. He says, "One can readily understand why in later years it became a favorite theme in mystery plays, for it is unforgettable alike for its loveliness, its pathos, and its drama. The story needs no other moral than its own simplicity of truth."

### PREPARED AND UNPREPARED

As we read in this story of the division of followers into the wise and the foolish we seek for characteristics with which we may make comparisons so that we may determine into which of these groups we will fall in our discipleship. In another story Jesus had told of houses built on two kinds of foundations. When the time of testing came the durability of the structure was determined by the foundation—in that case Jesus spoke of doing the truth as well as hearing it. In this parable the important word is preparation. Those who are prepared will be received into the Kingdom, while unpreparedness will result in being shut out.

We are reminded of all the preparation that goes into the launching of a missile from Cape Kennedy. There are thousands of check lists which serve as guidelines for the people involved. But in spite of all the preparations, we know how the moment of truth comes at "blast off." All of the world has experienced the agonies of developments on recent flights which proved that some part of the preparation had been neglected. Fortunately in most of the cases thus far adjustments in flight have been possible—although there was the sad case of the fire which took three lives while the capsule was still on the launching pad.

Jesus used many figures of speech in these two chapters in Matthew to make clear the tragedy of unpreparedness in relation to his coming. Dr. Buttrick says: "Jesus rang the changes on similes—now terrible, now glad—to teach us the ordained alternation of experience by which periods of routine are punctuated by crises of calamity or joy." Jesus taught that we must be ready not only for the worst but for the best; not only for the thief in the night but for the wedding-joy.

### THE ENRICHING KNOWLEDGE THAT PREPARATION HAS BEEN MADE

The doctrine of the second coming of Christ has been the cause of much speculation and great controversy within the church. Some have claimed special knowledge of the day and the hour when Jesus would come again. A great deal of turmoil has been created by such emphasis. One prominent evangelist devoted his life to fixing dates for the end of the world and then refixing them again and again during all the years between World War I and World War II. Many people find a great deal of value in such an approach to religion, while others are torn apart by the tensions it creates. The important thing for each one of us is the recognition that we have built-in limitations on the amount of time we have to prepare ourselves for eternity. The primary thing is not some future date when Jesus will come again, but it is essential that we recognize that time runs out on each of us.

There is an element of finality about every decision we make, and our mental health depends on our knowledge that we have done all we can to prepare for those deadlines.

A story is told of a farmer who went seeking

a hired hand. There seemed to be a shortage of such labor and the man he interviewed did not seem to communicate his abilities very well. When the prospective employer asked if he knew about taking care of cattle the man answered, "I know how to sleep well on a windy night." And as he asked him about skills related to other farm chores he received the same answer, "I know how to sleep well on a windy night." The man did hire him with some misgivings, and then one night he discovered the significance of the answers the hired hand had given. A storm came up and the farmer tried to awaken the man so that the windows and doors might be more securely fastened and the stock protected against the storm. The man slept so soundly that the farmer went on out to take care of the chores. Then he discovered that each emergency had been anticipated and there was nothing remaining to be done. This is truly the secret of preparation. Have you learned how to sleep well on a windy night?

\*\*\*

### THE NATURE OF OUR PREPAREDNESS

We can all become dramatically involved in the experience of the young ladies at the wedding feast. We can identify the ones who were prepared and those who were not. However, we must make some applications that are personal or the parable will have little meaning for us. Preparedness is the crux of the story. But what preparedness? What is represented by the oil which some maidens had bought and some were lacking?

What we are talking about is Christian nurture. The decisions and continued undergirdings which are essential for the maturation of our faith. This is an ongoing process, and we would do well to keep that in mind. We are all individuals and our preparation will vary because of it. Many people are misled by the belief that this preparation to meet Christ can be oversimplified and taken care of with little effort on our part. The act of surrender and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord is the beginning, but unless we continue to nurture our spiritual lives we will find ourselves among the foolish at the time of his coming.

The important point of our parable is that no one can take care of the preparation of another. Those disciplines which make an individual ready to face Christ cannot be transplanted from one person to another. These are materials that cannot be bought or borrowed from another. Perhaps there are too many of us who have only a second-hand form of faith. We repeat creeds that were written by others and sing hymns that tell of the religious experiences of others, but do not know first-hand those important realities that can keep us strong in the face of every adversity.

\*\*\*

### "AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT"

How cruel those words sound, "And the door was shut." We have to face the reality that there is an end to opportunity. The "tide in the affairs of men" does not remain always at the flood; it also ebbs. As Dr. Buttrick says in commenting on the finality communicated in this parable, "There may be another tide, but that tide has gone. We plead with time to pause in her flight, but time is adamant to every plea and hurries on."

How important it is to plan for the spiritual development of our souls when the time is right! Every minister has filed in his memory a number of sad stories of individuals who came close to finalizing the important decisions that would place them among those who are prepared for the "bridegroom's coming" and then for one reason or another did not complete those preparations. We are saved by the grace of God, but we must humbly and thankfully cooperate with God. We must have a reserve supply of oil on hand. It will be too late if we wait until we hear the cry, "Behold the bridegroom cometh," and then frantically try to make our preparations. There will come a time when the door is shut—a forbidding reality to confront.

Dr. Charles M. Laymon has put it this way: "The teachings of Jesus clearly emphasize that God is gracious beyond what we deserve. Yet there does come a time for adding up the sum. If this were not true, the structure of the universe would crumble and morality would be without any meaning whatsoever."



## A PLAN FOR CHURCH UNION

### 15. The Organization of the Region

An intermediate unit of the church between the district and the national organization is to be known as the region. It has some of the characteristics of the current Jurisdiction in the United Methodist Church, but also has some features that are unique.

It is to be a programming and coordinating unit, and is to have as its executive officer a bishop who has previously served as a bishop of a district. This bishop may not serve at the same time as bishop of a district. This, then, would be a new type of executive position. United Methodists now have an executive secretary of two of the jurisdictions, but this regional bishop is quite different.

The region is to meet annually. It shall include all the district bishops within the region and other ministers and laymen elected from the districts. All the way through this plan the proportion of two laymen to every minister is to be followed, so that district representatives to the region will be chosen with this in mind. Although the region is to have a bishop as executive officer, he will not preside over the annual meeting of the region. This is to be done by a moderator elected from the group — he could be one of the district bishops.

The region shall have power to develop programs which will serve the districts, and to create boards and agencies for this purpose. They will elect the executives of these agencies and adopt a budget for the support of the regional work. Delegates to the National Assembly will be elected by the annual meeting of the region.

There is to be a regional council to conduct the business of the region and to hold property of institutions of health, education, and welfare which might be initiated and operated by the region. Although they are authorized to hold such property, it would be with a trust clause for the benefit of the whole church.

The bishop who serves as chief executive of the region must be called for that specific purpose for a term of four years and shall be eligible for additional terms of four years. However, there is a provision that the responsibility as chief executive officer of the region is to be rotated among the ethnic groups in the region. Missing in the plan is any reference to what happens to a regional bishop once he has been rotated out of that responsibility.

The bishop is to be nominated by a committee elected by a special regional meeting whenever a vacancy exists. The committee may propose only one candidate, who must already be a bishop, to the regional meeting, and he must be one in whom the National Assembly concurs. An interesting aspect of this procedure is that the regional bishop must be elected by a majority vote of the ordained ministers and of the lay delegates voting separately.

The region is challenged to keep itself always open to restructuring, and to carry on as much of its program as it can in cooperation with other regions and through ecumenical action.

†

## That COCU Plan

by Bishop Nolan B. Harmon

I appreciate the editor's statement in the Louisiana Methodist of February 11th that we all ought to study the proposed plan of church union, commonly called COCU. In fact the last General Conference asked Methodist people to study it—which was an easy way for the GC to keep from having to debate its merits then on the conference floor. But I frankly see no sense in taking time to study this plan when two things in it stand out like chain lightning on a midnight sky. One is that it does away completely with the Methodist itinerant system; the other that it proposes a Church that will have no Articles of Religion, no statement of faith, no forthright Christian affirmations at all, as a Christian Church must have if it be a Christian Church.

As to the Methodist itinerant system, that cannot and will not be adopted by the other old-line churches in COCU, or for that matter in any sort of organic union. You cannot imagine Presbyterian, Episcopal and Church of Christ ministers — many of them in middle life—letting any newly organized church tell them where they are to live, what church they are to serve, and where they may have to move, come next year. You cannot imagine their laymen turning over their local church property by a trust clause to such newly created church and so giving up their right to say who will be their preacher. And I cannot imagine any Methodist ministers (who are used to the appointive system) being willing to be frozen in their appointment when COCU comes, and be content to wait around for some "open" church to "call" them—with no bishop and no district superintendent to help them along, as is the

case now. Itineracy is gone if COCU is adopted.

As to doctrine, the plan seems frightened to death—as many modern ministers are—of any specific requirements that may test belief. The COCU plan says of the Apostle's Creed that "it is to be regarded as a significant note of praise just as are the hymns", but it adds that belief in the Creeds "will not be required for (church) membership." In God's name, what will be! COCU does not even make the broadly based affirmation of the fly-by-nights sects who like to say that they believe "only in the Bible." Will the United Methodist Church by a three-fourths vote of all the conferences voting affirmatively do away with our Articles of Religion (held also by the Church of England and the Protestant Episcopal Church in this country) in favor of a let's-be-pals to everyone who wants to join us and no questions asked? I throw not — meaning I certainly hope not. Even ecumenicity has got to have some convictions.

Again I say why spend time studying all the details of COCU if right off the bat we can't accept these fundamental facts about it? It there are those who do not think that our itineracy matters — and there are; if there are some who don't think doctrine matters — and some play it down all the time — then let them take their time to study all the other intricacies of COCU. Those of us who do think that these things matter, have got more important things for our people to do than to ask them to take a lot of time to study a plan that will wipe out Methodism completely if it is adopted.

†

### SIERRA LEONE CONFERENCE REQUESTING AUTONOMY

NEW YORK (UMI) — The Sierra Leone Provisional Central Conference, one of the strongest units of the United Methodist Church in Africa, is seeking autonomous church status.

A report that made headlines in the February issue of the *Daily Mail*, newspaper published in Sierra Leone's capital of Freetown, said the Conference has voted for autonomy in 1973.

The Conference has about 27,000 members, and operates 147 primary schools and 10 secondary schools with an enrollment of 25,000.

The request from the Sierra Leone church will be forwarded to the Commission on the Structure of the United Methodist Church Outside the USA (popularly known as COSMOS) and eventually to the 1972 United Methodist General Conference at Atlanta, Ga., which must give official approval for autonomy.

The Sierra Leone Provisional Central Conference is the first African unit of the United Methodist Church to seek autonomy, though United Methodists in some 12 countries of Asia, Europe and Latin America have either become autonomous or gone into church union since 1968.

MARCH 11, 1971

## United Methodist properties damaged in recent tornadoes

NEW YORK (UMI) — Five United Methodist churches and one parsonage are reported destroyed or damaged by the tornadoes that struck Mississippi and to a lesser degree, parts of Louisiana, North Carolina and other states February 21.

The tornadoes, estimated at as many as 70 individual twisters, took 91 lives, 85 in Mississippi alone. However, United Methodist pastors and their families apparently were spared death or injury in the widespread destruction.

Damage to United Methodist property apparently was confined to Mississippi's hard hit Delta region. Reports from Louisiana indicated no damage to a church in the town of Delhi, and there were no reports of damage from places other than Mississippi.

Reports on destruction and damage in Mississippi were provided by Bishop Edward J. Pendergrass of the Jackson Area and Dr. George Roy Lawrence, Jackson, editor of the *Mississippi Methodist Advocate*, who visited the devastated areas after the tornadoes struck. In telephone reports to

United Methodist Information and the Section of Church Extension, National Division, United Methodist Board of Missions, they indicated no monetary estimate has yet been made as to damage, and more damage may yet be discovered.

No decision has yet been made on what response may be needed within and by the denominations as to relief and rehabilitation. Bishop Pendergrass and Dr. Lawrence, who conferred with district superintendents and pastors in the affected area, gave this general picture of United Methodist loss:

In the town of Iverness, whose approximately 1,000 people were among the hardest hit, with many buildings flattened, two churches were destroyed and a parsonage damaged. Hale Chapel United Methodist Church, which is in the Upper Mississippi Conference (a black conference), was demolished, including a substantial church school plant that housed a Head Start program. Iverness United Methodist Church in the North Mississippi Conference (white) likewise was destroyed, except the church school plant which was heavily damaged and possibly re-

pairable, and its parsonage was damaged.

Three other churches, white, were destroyed — a church in the little community of Swiftown was blown off its foundations; a frame church at Delta City near Vicksburg was demolished, and a rural church near Moorhead was destroyed.

Dr. Lawrence said when Bishop Pendergrass and he were in Iverness they found 10 pastors and laymen from nearby communities helping to clear away debris from the church yard and repairing the parsonage roof. Likewise, a group of students from the Wesley Foundation at Delta State College, Cleveland, Miss., volunteered their services in rehabilitation operations at both the black and white churches.

None of the areas hit by the tornadoes were the same as those devastated by Hurricane Camille in 1969, though some of the latter are just now pulling out of that catastrophe. For instance, a new United Methodist church at Pass Christian was dedicated only a few weeks ago, replacement for one leveled by Camille.

PAGE NINE

MARCH 21, 1971

MARCH 11, 1971

MRS. W. L. REED  
by Mrs. Ralph McDonald  
MRS. RUTH GLENA REMLEY  
by The Joe Gattingers  
GEORGE RUSSENBERGER  
by Mr. & Mrs. Henry A. Thomas  
R. S. RHOADS  
by Mrs. P. W. Phelps  
by John Phelps Family  
MRS. ELLA ROGERS  
by Mrs. C. B. Atkinson  
ERNEST STRICKLAND  
by Mr. & Mrs. John F. Carpenter  
JOE SUDDUTH  
by Olivia E. Varnell  
by Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Whorton  
by Gail Olson  
by Mrs. Leland Henderson  
by Mr. & Mrs. Claude E. Mayo  
by Mr. & Mrs. Winston Hardin  
by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Gosnell  
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Phillips  
by Mr. & Mrs. Everett McGaugh  
by Past Matron's Club, Paris  
by Mrs. Alva Wiggins  
by Mr. & Mrs. Herchel Lee & Patti  
by Mrs. Maggie Phinisey  
by Rev. & Mrs. Bill Lee  
by First National Bank, Paris  
by Mr. & Mrs. Billie A. Sudduth  
by Mrs. R. G. Prescott  
by Mrs. B. F. Sudduth  
MRS. DOROTHY STEIN  
by Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Spotts  
JOHN C. SHAW  
by Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Davis  
ANDREW STANLEY  
by Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Parchman  
MR. & MRS. FRANK SEWELL  
by Ruth Sewell  
MORGAN SMITH  
by Mr. & Mrs. Fred M. Holt  
J. S. STARKEY  
by Mr. & Mrs. J. A. McGuire  
MRS. PALMER SMITH  
by Mr. & Mrs. J. W. McLeod, Jr.  
LT. CMDR. ROBERT S. SHERMAN  
by Mr. & Mrs. B. C. Robertson  
F. A. SHINGLEUR  
by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Trotter, Jr.  
by Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Smith  
MRS. BERTHA SYLAR  
by Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Lambert, Jr.  
EDWARD F. SHELDON  
by Mrs. Floy Judd & Mike  
E. B. TAYLOR  
by Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Green  
MRS. FRED URSERY  
by Mr. & Mrs. James M. Norris  
RAY D. VICK  
by Mrs. Curtis Ward  
by Mrs. Juanita Taylor  
by Mr. William Taylor  
by Miss Nancy Taylor  
by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fuller  
by Miss Lila Grimes  
MRS. ELIZABETH VANDIVER  
by The Joe Gattingers  
MRS. MARGIE VENABLE  
by Mr. & Mrs. John F. Carpenter  
LUCI WOODS  
by Mr. & Mrs. J. A. McGuire  
by Jerry Richardson  
MRS. H. A. WILSON  
by Mrs. J. H. Smith  
MRS. SAM TAYLOR WHITE  
by Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Hambricht  
MRS. KATHARINE WHITE  
by Mrs. Mary B. Ellis  
MRS. FRANCES YOUNGER  
by Mr. & Mrs. John F. Carpenter

IN HONOR OF:

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon M. McNulty  
by Employees of Bituminous, Inc.,  
Pine Bluff  
Master Stephen Guthrie Smith II  
by Mr. & Mrs. Bruin Campbell  
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert L. Evans  
by Gina Evans  
Mrs. Herbert Jones  
by Friendship Sunday School Class,  
First Church, Stuttgart  
Mrs. Margaret Zinn  
by Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Hudson  
Mrs. Allie Mae Cupp  
by Sunshine Bible Class, First  
Church, Camden  
Mrs. Frances Hollis  
by Sunshine Bible Class, First  
Church, Camden  
Teachers & Officers of Kings  
Daughters Class  
by Kings Daughters Class, First  
Church, North Little Rock  
James Gibbons  
by Mrs. J. M. Barnett  
Dr. Frank Bauer  
by Dr. & Mrs. Wm. N. Jones  
Dr. Clyde Rodgers  
by Dr. & Mrs. Wm. N. Jones

Dr. B. P. Briggs  
by Dr. & Mrs. Wm. N. Jones  
Dr. Gilbert A. Buchanon  
by Dr. & Mrs. Wm. N. Jones  
Dr. John Hundley  
by Dr. & Mrs. Wm. N. Jones  
Dr. John Schultz  
by Dr. & Mrs. Wm. N. Jones  
Dr. J. B. Cross  
by Dr. & Mrs. Wm. N. Jones  
Dr. Harry Hayes  
by Dr. & Mrs. Wm. N. Jones  
Mr. Jim Purcell  
by Mr. G. M. Husted  
Mrs. Charles Powell  
by Philathea Sunday School Class,  
First Church, Forrest City  
Miss Lillian Blackburn  
by Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hammond &  
Children  
Mrs. F. O. Hopkins  
by Mr. Howard S. Hopkins  
Mrs. John B. Hefley  
by Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Ayers  
Mrs. Julia Williams  
by Women's Bible Class, First  
Church, No. Little Rock

Mrs. Bill Gibbs  
by Pairs & Spares Sunday School  
Class, First Church, Forrest  
City  
Henry Williams  
by Pairs & Spares Sunday School  
Class, First Church, Forrest  
City  
Mr. Max Mynatt  
by Mr. & Mrs. Claude Rogers  
Rejoice Singers, First Church,  
Fort Smith  
by Mr. John W. Jacobs  
Dr. J. D. Scurlock  
by Rev. Myron C. Pearce  
Dr. Jack Pritchard  
by Rev. Myron C. Pearce  
Rev. J. J. Clark  
by Massard Methodist Church  
Rev. Elmus Brown  
by Massard Methodist Church  
Mrs. Anna K. Carter  
by Massard Methodist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Lee McKennon  
by Mrs. T. F. Shea, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Berry  
by Mrs. T. F. Shea, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Lee Henslee, Jr.  
by Mrs. T. F. Shea, Sr.  
Mr. Henry Sitton, Jr.  
by Mrs. T. F. Shea, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Haverty, Jr.  
by Mrs. T. F. Shea, Sr.  
Mrs. Byron Goodson  
by Anna Katharine Huffman

MISCELLANEOUS GIFTS

Mr. T. C. Elrod  
W.S.C.S., Harmony Grove Methodist  
Church  
Mrs. Glen Curtis  
Mrs. Charles Fox  
Mrs. Harry Garrett  
Reverend Joe Arnold  
Mrs. Tom Raney  
Sterling Stores  
Mrs. Sally Parker  
Reverend Ralph Hillis  
Mrs. Merle Wilson  
Betty Roach  
Tom Raney  
Montgomery Ward  
Oklahoma Tire & Supply Company

*Breathtaking  
Scenes of Nature  
In Full Color!*

*The Best of  
The World's Most  
Beloved Writers!*

*Yours in  
the New and Beautiful Family Album*



HERE ARE 177 PAGES of carefully selected works of many of the world's most beloved writers including 19 thrilling full color photographs of nature in all her pristine beauty and majesty.

This deluxe, hard-bound volume is richly stamped in gold on the antique white leather-like cover. The Family Album will be treasured by your family and loved ones as an heirloom for many years to come.

**EASTER IS APRIL 11!  
ORDER GIFT ALBUMS NOW AT SAVINGS!**

**\$5.95 for one Album Two or more copies just \$4.95 each**

The Family Album can offer you, your friends, and your loved ones a source of daily joy and inspiration. It is truly a special gift for special people . . . you and yours can enjoy The Family Album now at special savings.

And it's so easy to order with the convenient coupon provided. To give the Album as a gift, just send us the names and addresses of those you wish to receive a volume (in addition to your own) and we will see to it that each receives a Family Album in your name. As an extra savings, we will pay all postage and handling charges for you.

**HERE ARE JUST TWO LETTERS THAT ECHO THE SENTIMENTS OF MANY FAMILY ALBUM READERS!**

"The Family Album is truly one of the most inspiring books I have ever had the pleasure to read. Keep up the fine work."

Helen Steiner Rice  
Amberley, Ohio

"A friend of ours sent my wife and me a Family Album. I cannot find appropriate words to express the joy we have derived from reading it."

Evan G. Williams  
Granville, N. Y.

The all new Family Album is like a trunk-full of half forgotten memories from the happiest past. It is inspiring, comforting and heart-warming by turns. A spiritual treasury that will enrich every life that it touches.



PLEASE SEND ME THE FAMILY ALBUM

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND \_\_\_\_\_ GIFT ALBUMS TO THOSE PEOPLE I HAVE LISTED ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER. (Be sure to include your name and address so that we may indicate the gift came from you.)

**\$5.95 for one Family Album \$4.95 for two or more**  
Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a total of \_\_\_\_\_ Family Albums

**SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:  
NATIONAL CONSUMER MARKETING CORPORATION  
Valley Forge, Pa. 19481**

RP 104



## Poetry Panorama

by Barbara L. Mulkey

*Some advice of Thomas A. Kempis on reading the scriptures was . . . "The Bible ought always to be read with the assistance of the same Spirit by Whose agency it was written. Be not reluctant to ask questions, and listen in silence to the words of holy persons; and do not dislike the parables of the ancients, for they are not quoted without cause."*

### THE BIBLE - GOD'S MIRROR

Have you seen yourself today  
In God's mirror bright?  
Nothing can you hide away  
From its Holy light.

For the Bible's wise decree  
Governs heart and mind;  
Teaches us how we may be  
Faithful, true and kind.

In its mirror look for flaws  
That mar your clear reflection;  
Then guide your living by its laws,  
And reach life's high perfection.

Tomorrow it may be too late,  
So better look today,  
And let God's mirror set you straight  
In His own Holy way.

-by Una Alice Taylor

### TODAY GOD SPOKE

I conversed with God today.  
God spoke.  
I listened.  
Then we rejoiced together.

-by Jean Holder

### TRENDS IN EVANGELISM

by James L. Verhoeff  
Layman, Winfield UM Church,  
Little Rock

Since selecting the subject: "Trends in Evangelism," I have decided it is much too big for me to handle, but I am sure of one thing. We should develop something effective for these modern, fast-moving times.

Why? Because something seems to be lax, or weak with what we have.

The church today is barely holding its own in membership. It is a good church and should be growing by leaps and bounds. Actually for two or three years the denomination has lost more members than it gained.

Figures for all churches in Methodism last year show a gain, but it is a mere fraction of one per cent. That is better than a loss but it is not good enough. It means that our present efforts in evangelism are not adequate for us to keep up with the population explosion.

Let us not seek to console ourselves. Let us show a determination to go to work in the field of evangelism. It is a fertile field and awaiting a rich harvest.

Let us face the issues of the day and strive for a better method of winning friends for Methodism and convincing them God is very much alive today. Let us convince ourselves that

God wants us to use our talents in his service.

What talents? He gave us hearts, minds and hands. We should use them to his glory.

As Methodists, when we joined the church, each of us pledged to support God's program with our time, our talents, and our means.

I sometimes feel we are more willing today to give our tithes to the church than we are willing to support it with our time and our talents. All three are needed.

I find myself asking: What can I do?

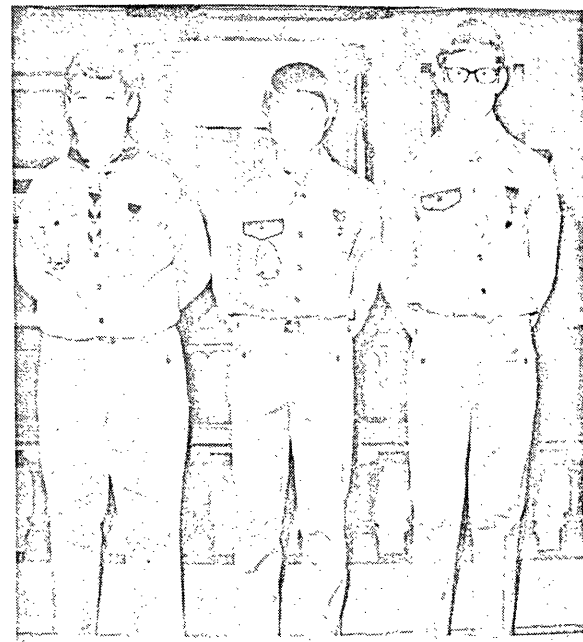
Over the years I have found a few things I thought I might do to help build God's Kingdom. One was to write a layman's column for the Arkansas Methodist. That was many years ago when Dr. A. C. Miller was the editor and he gave me encouragement.

A few years later I was editing a daily newspaper in Blytheville and found a need for churches to get more of their newsworthy events mentioned in their hometown newspapers.

The ministers were cooperative and in one year one church had nearly 300 items published. The idea gained considerable attention and the Baptists in Texas in their state convention adopted the plan and used it for a while.

The idea had its weak points but none-the-less it is as good today as it

FROM LEFT: Jim Lynch, Steve Jordan, and Gary Speed, members of Boy Scout Troop 71, sponsored by First Church, Conway, received the coveted God and Country Award in a special service of recognition on Sunday, Feb. 7. Jim is the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Lynch; Steve, the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Ben F. Jordan (pastor and wife); and Gary, the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Speed. Roger Mills is scoutmaster; assistants are Robert (Bunny) Adcock and Greg Ferguson.



was 25 years ago. We are fortunate to have publishers willing and anxious to use church news. I am convinced that using church news in newspapers is good for the evangelistic program in any church.

Why? Because the news reaches into the homes which need to be reached and tends to open doors to our ministers and the laymen who take their evangelistic efforts seriously.

When I retired a year ago, I began searching for a new avenue for service and hit upon the idea of a column in weekly newspapers to stimulate greater interest in churches, citizenship and good governments. The column has been a rewarding experience for me, and I hope it has some benefit for our churches.

There are opportunities for each of us to use our talents as God wants us to use them. We all try to be

Christians. Whether we plan it or not, we set an example for our children, our neighbors, and those with whom we have business dealings.

When that example is good, we are assisting our church in its evangelistic program. The church needs our assistance more than ever before.

The church is facing greater competition than ever for man's time, his talents and his money. The church must compete with television, radio and Sunday athletic activities.


We need to try harder to let others know that God is the most important thing that can come into the life of any person.

When we try hard enough to be Christians everyday in the week and set a good example, we will find it easy to go a second mile and invite someone to join with us and share our fellowship with God.

## ALL ABOUT ARKANSAS

**The HINDMAN MUSEUM**  
at PRAIRIE GROVE  
BATTLEFIELD PARK  
(WEST OF FAYETTEVILLE)  
HOUSES MANY CIVIL WAR  
MEMENTOS AND A  
DIORAMA OF THE  
BATTLE OF PRAIRIE GROVE!

ARKANSAS NATIVE



*Glen Campbell*

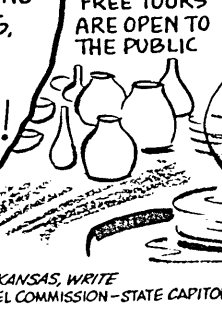
WILL BE FEATURED  
IN THE STATE'S  
NATIONAL ADVERTISING  
PROGRAM THIS SPRING,  
INVITING VISITORS  
TO

*Arkansas -  
Glen Campbell Country!*

MORE THAN 1,000,000  
HAVE VISITED THE  
WORLD FAMOUS

**DRYDEN POTTERIES**  
IN  
HOT SPRINGS

FREE TOURS  
ARE OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ARKANSAS, WRITE  
ARKANSAS STATE PARKS / RECREATION & TRAVEL COMMISSION - STATE CAPITOL, LITTLE ROCK 72201 2/71