

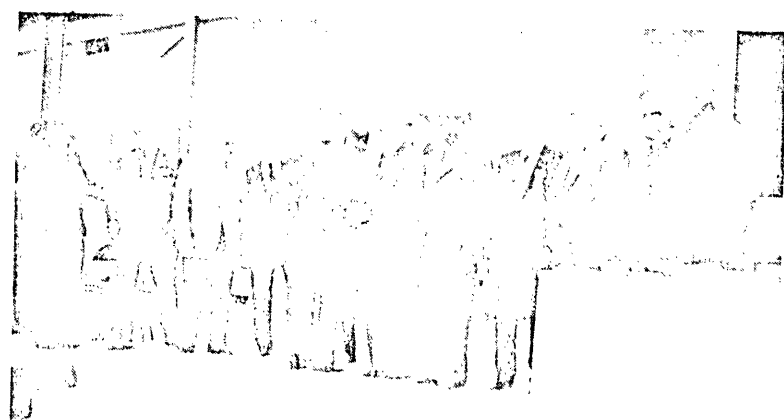
# General Conference completes restructuring; adjourns on time

The 1972 General Conference came to its last day in Atlanta with a seemingly impossible load of work to complete in its process of restructuring, but then it seemed to come to a consensus and moved right ahead to complete its task just a few minutes ahead of its scheduled adjournment time of midnight, April 28.

The delegates, who early in the session had seemed reluctant to concur in the proposed massive restructuring process, gradually reversed this position in their eleven days of business sessions and legislative committee meetings. They adopted the restructuring package "in toto" with the ex-

ception of creating a separate Board of Communications amenable to the new General Council on Ministries instead of relating the communication agencies to the United Methodist Publishing House as the restructure plan recommended.

Bishop O. Eugene Slater of San Antonio, the new president of the Council of Bishops, brought a closing message to the General Conference in which he highlighted the major accomplishments including the completion of the restructure of the church, the adoption of the new theological guidelines, the reaffirmation of a strong witness in all of the social con-



Bishop Ralph T. Alton, secretary of the Council of Bishops, presented to the General Conference the bishops who will be retiring at this year's Jurisdictional Conferences. Bishop Paul V. Galloway of Arkansas is seen second from left, and Bishop Aubrey G. Walton of Louisiana is at the extreme right.

## Arkansas Methodist

91st YEAR

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1972

NO. 18

### Disappointment is reaction to UALR land action

Bishop Paul V. Galloway and other officials of the Arkansas Methodist Children's Home expressed disappointment this week at the decision of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees to institute condemnation proceedings against property owned by the Home north of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Bishop Galloway said when he learned of the action, "I am disappointed because all of us for several years have held off other offers for the sake of the University and have been open to discussion during my entire administration."

The Rev. J. Edwin Keith, superintendent of the Home, was joined in a similar statement by Joe T. Thompson, chairman of the Home's Board of Trustees; the Rev. Harold D. Sadler, vice chairman, and Charles T. Meyer, Jr., a trustee and chairman of the Home's Special Property Committee. It said: "The announcement of the condemnation proceedings came as a complete surprise to us. We did not believe the University would take such drastic action without at least notifying us of their intent or making a bona fide offer to buy the 55 acres mentioned in the news release concerning condemnation."

Mr. Keith said that the only bona fide offer the Home ever received from the University was on July 8, 1971, when they offered to buy the south 40 acres of the 80-acre tract for \$25,000 per acre.

Mr. Keith said, "We have met on several occasions with representatives

from the University. We not only have reduced our asking price, but we have agreed to include all the land we own which borders on University Avenue, and allow 25 years for payment."

He said the Home made that offer March 21 and promised to hold it open until May 1 in spite of the fact that the Home had received a firm offer of \$41,750 per acre.

These statements were made follow-

Please turn to page 5

### Hendrix College honors grads

Hendrix College honored five of its alumni on Alumni Day last Saturday, April 29. Four received the Distinguished Alumnus Award and one a Special Citation.

Kirke Couch, a business man of Shreveport, Dr. E. W. Martin, Jr., assistant dean of the Graduate School of Business, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.; Dr. W. D. McClurkin, vice president for Academic Affairs, George Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn. and Richard M. Moose, staff consultant to the Committee on Foreign Relations, U. S. Senate of Alexandria, Va. received the Distinguished Alumnus award. Miss Ethel K. Millar of Conway, retired Hendrix College librarian, received a Special Citation.

Couch, active in transportation,

Please turn to page 5

cerns of people, and the determination to include all groups in decision-making.

The major actions of the General Conference during its final week included:

**COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES:** The delegates began their work of restructure on Monday with the adoption of the recommendation from the Committee on Conferences. This new agency which will replace the present Program Council will assume some of its functions, but will have much broader powers to coordinate the work of the program boards and rearrange priorities between sessions of the General Conference.

This new agency will be made up of one representative from each annual conference, chosen by the Jurisdictional Conference to fulfill the requirement for one-third of the mem-

bership by lay women, one-third lay men, and one-third clergy. In addition, there will be a bishop from each jurisdiction and one from overseas, and one youth and one young adult from each jurisdiction. There will be one representative from each of the program boards and commissions, plus 15 members at large and three persons from the General Conferences.

Called by some a coordinating agency, this Council on Ministries will have tremendous powers to rearrange priorities in cooperation with the new Council on Finance and Administration.

**Conference and District Councils on Ministry:** In order to keep the language compatible, the conference voted to change the names of conference and district Program Councils to Councils on Ministries.

Please turn to page 2



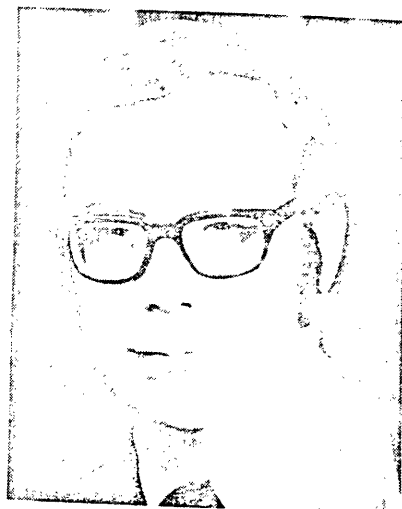
Kirke Couch



E. W. Martin, Jr.



Dr. W. D. McClurkin



Richard Moose

## ATTENTION LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT YOUTH

The Little Rock District Youth will hold a retreat at Ferncliff Camp on May 12-13. The theme will be on the organization of the church and how the Annual Conference Works. A new technique called simulation gaming will be used to explain the Annual Conference structure. The cost will be \$7.50. Please call or send registrations to Mrs. Vicky Allen, First United Methodist Church, 723 Center, Little Rock, Ark., call 372-2256. All youth in the 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades are eligible to attend.

†

from page one

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

It was necessary to adopt a number of legislative reports to complete the creation of the Council on Ministries, but when it had been done it was apparent that the delegates would endorse the new plan of organization.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM BOARDS:** In a series of actions, which were not completed until the last day of the conference, the four Program Boards recommended by the Structure Study Commission were established. These are the Board of Church and Society, the Board of Discipleship, the Board of Global Ministries and the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

In molding the legislation establishing the Board of Discipleship, a number of minority reports were presented which would have retained a number of present boards as they are now organized. Attempts were made to keep a separate Board of the Laity, a separate Board of Evangelism, a separate Board of Education. Efforts were also made to keep the Division of Curriculum Resources outside the Board of Discipleship. It was apparent from the beginning of the debate on this issue that a large majority of the delegates were in favor of the plan which would bring all these interests into the new board.



The 32-voice Arkansas College Choir, Batesville (shown here), under the direction of Mrs. Paul Gray, will sing on Tuesday evening, May 9 during the Raney Lectures at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock. Herman Hess of the music faculty will accompany the group at the organ. On Wednesday evening during the lectures the Pulaski Heights Choir will sing under the direction of Richard Lines, and on Thursday evening, May 11, the Philander Smith College choir, directed by Rochele Guinn will present special music. Dr. Leonard Griffith of Toronto, Canada is this year's lecturer.

## Little Rock Conference children's choirs to sing in Festival

St. Paul United Methodist Church, at 2223 Durwood in Little Rock, will host the Fourth Annual Little Rock Conference Children's Choir Festival this Sunday, May 7th at 3:30 p.m. Mrs. A. L. Butler, instructor in Music Education and Voice at East Central State College in Ada, Okla. will return to Arkansas as guest director for the Festival. Last year she was guest director for the conference's Third Annual Children's Choir Camp at Tanako.

The repertoire will include selections appropriate for the Christian year. The individual choirs have been rehearsing under the tutelage of their local directors for many months in preparation for this event.

Mrs. Harry Fite will serve as organist for the prelude, offertory and postlude. Mrs. G. Felix Thompson, Jr. will accompany the choirs.

Participating churches and directors include: First Church, Arkadelphia, Mrs. W. O. Evanson; First Church, Benton, Mrs. Joe Arnn; Fairview Church, Camden, Bart Ghent; First Church, Crossett, Mrs. Lee Higginbotham; First Church, Fordyce,

Mrs. Hollis Burroughs; First Church, Hope, Mrs. Don Johnson.

Little Rock Churches taking part in the event will include: First, Mrs. Richard Wyatt; Henderson, Mrs. L. E. Graham; Pulaski Heights, Richard Lines; St. James, Mr. and Mrs. Felix Thompson; St. Luke, Mrs. Ned DeJournett; St. Paul, Mrs. Hess Hall; Western Hills, Mrs. William Bennett; and Winfield, Mrs. William Elmore.

Others are: Mabelvale, Mrs. Travis Tunnell; First, Magnolia, Hal Sweitzer; First, Malvern, Arthur Honeychurch; First, Pine Bluff, Mrs. Harry Fite; and Lakeside, Pine Bluff, Mrs. Ed Matthews.

A workshop for interested persons who work with children's choirs will be conducted on Friday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Woodlawn and Monroe Streets—under the direction of Mrs. Butler.

Mrs. Butler, a native of Oklahoma, received the bachelor of music education degree from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1955. After graduation, she taught music at the junior high school level in Louisville, Ky. She re-



Mrs. A. L. Butler

ceived the master of teaching degree from East Central College in 1967. She has served on the faculty of the Youth Music Workshop at Ouachita Baptist University for 9 years, and has directed numerous junior choir festivals, clinics and workshops in Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska and in her home state.

Anyone desiring more complete information concerning the festival or the workshop may contact Mr. Richard Lines by telephoning 666-5496 in Little Rock.

†

In voting to establish the Board of Global Ministries the delegates rejected minority reports which would have kept Health and Welfare Ministries and Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns as separate entities.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS:** In what proved to be one of the closest decisions of the General Conference, the delegates voted to create a Joint Committee on Communications which is to be administratively related to and amenable to the Council on Ministries. The units to be included are United Methodist Information and Public Relations, Television, Radio and Film Communication and Program and Benevolence Interpretation. The affairs of the committee will be governed by a board of directors of 30 persons of whom ten shall be from the Council on Ministries, ten from

the Council on Finance and Administration, and ten elected at large for their expertise in the field of communication.

In this action, the delegates voted down the recommendation of the Structure Study Commission which would have combined all of these activities with the work of the Methodist Publishing House in a Board of Communications and Publication.

**WORLD SERVICE AND FINANCE REPORT:** In adopting the report of the Council on World Service and Finance the General Conference voted a general administrative and program budget of \$47,800,000 for each year of the 1973-76 quadrennium. This total is about \$8,300,000 more than was budgeted each year of the past quadrennium, not including the special Fund for Reconciliation, and is about \$13,800,000 more than was actually raised in 1971.

Included in the annual totals is \$23,500,000 for World Service; \$6,000,000 for the 12 black colleges related to the church; \$10,000,000 for the ministerial education fund; \$3,000,000 for the episcopal fund; \$1,000,000 for inter-denominational cooperation; and \$1,800,000 for aid for pastors salaries and pensions assistance where black and white annual conferences have merged.

Also included is a special Human Relations Day offering with a goal of \$1,000,000 per year to be used in voluntary service, community development, and police and community relations programs and training and scholarships for ethnic racial minorities.

The proposed \$23,500,000 each year for World Service is \$1,500,000 below the annual goal of the past quadrennium, but \$2,000,000 more than was actually raised in 1971.

**KEY '73:** The delegates gave en-

thusiastic endorsement to United Methodism's leadership in "Key '73" North America's "pan-Christian" evangelistic effort in which more than 130 denominations and evangelism groups.

The Key '73 program represents the first time that the United Methodist Church has participated with such a diverse group which includes Pentecostal groups and evangelistic associations as well as member denominations of the National Council of Churches.

The Rev. George Outen, Nashville, associate greater secretary of the Board of Evangelism, said each denomination and group as well as each regional unit or local church is free to develop its own participation in Key '73.

**NEW PATTERN OF PROGRAM-PLANNING:** As a matter of fact, United Methodist churches will be encouraged to use greater freedom in developing programs and concentrating on priorities for mission during the next four years. The report known as "Planning for Ministries — 1973 and Beyond" departs from traditional patterns of "handed-down, cut-and-dried" quadrennial programs and gives wide latitude to annual conferences and local churches in working out their own tailor-made programs.

Please turn to page 10

## News in Brief

DR. W. NEILL HART is scheduled to have hip surgery on Wednesday, May 10 at St. Vincent Infirmary, Little Rock, and is expected to be in the hospital for three weeks. Dr. Otto Teague will preach in his Pride Valley pulpit on May 14 and 28; the Rev. John Dill will speak May 21 and Dr. Fred Harrison on June 4.

## On viewing General Conference from a distance

It is extremely difficult to follow the actions of a United Methodist General Conference while it is in session and come right away from adjournment with a clear picture of what has happened. Actions take place so rapidly that it is difficult even for those at the press table to keep score. We are grateful for the secretarial staff and the electronic recording which provide a permanent record through the Journal and The Daily Christian Advocate.

Now that we are back home and have had a chance to check over our notes we would like to make some suggestions about the achievements of the 1972 General Conference.

First, we would like to answer the question which we have already been asked a number of times: "What was the most outstanding thing about the General Conference?" Our answer is to that will have to be the industry and commitment which characterized the delegates. Given a tremendous task, they stuck to their obligations and brought through a load of legislation which we will be digesting for you during the next few weeks. The task of working over the legislation relating to restructuring would have kept the committees hard at work during the time allotted to them. However, in addition to that, the 14 committees had to screen 21,000 petitions and report back to the Conference on them. We can only stand in awe of these hard working delegates. Most of them stayed right through until the end, too.

Then, there was the new structure for United Methodism which was hammered out detail by detail. There may have been almost an even division among the delegates on this issue early in the Conference. We had indicated to you earlier that we did not think the plan would be adopted. In this we had to change our mind as we saw group after group coming through committee meetings with a determination to give the plan a try. Most people are convinced that it will take

at least a year for the new organization to become effective and we will all be interested in watching it develop. Just ahead of us are the Annual Conferences, and we will all be interested in seeing that the best representatives are suggested for membership on the new Council on Ministries which will have such a great responsibility for guiding us down this new road.

The third positive characteristic of the 1972 General Conference is the involvement which it demonstrated in the unsolved problems of the world. There were no sharp edges and no confrontations. Yet there were listening sessions on every hand, and we watched the delegates as they put in extra hours trying to discover what every group had to say. Youth were present in large numbers and they added real input to the deliberations. There were no confrontations, no efforts to disrupt. It could be that the youth have helped us all come of age.

Time will tell whether the adoption of the report of the Commission on Doctrine and Doctrinal Standards, the Report of the Social Principles Study Commission, or the Bishops' Call to Peace and Self Determination represents the outstanding accomplishment. Each has a lot to say to us and a great deal of the message of United Methodism during the next four years will be quoting from these reports.

Another positive direction in which the General Conference moved was in accepting addi-

tional financial challenges. For a time it seemed that there might be a spirit of just trying to "hold the line" on fiscal matters. However, when the Council on World Service and Finance took a second look at suggestions which came in from the floor, we were all challenged to go a second and third mile. These special financial challenges of the next four years will be a real test of our commitment.

This editor would like to say a word of thanks to many people who made the coverage of General Conference easier. United Methodist Information personnel accepted the challenge of limited pressroom space and made it a pleasant place in which to work. The Committee on Entertainment and the Local Committee on Arrangements thought ahead and made our paths smooth. The weather was great and the eating accommodations in Atlanta were spectacular. We are sure that a long fast is indicated—have not had the nerve to step on the scales yet.

It's great to be a United Methodist, great to attend General Conference, and greater still to come home.

*ack*

†

the  
Editor's  
Corner



Atlanta Revisited

One reaction heard from almost every delegate and visitor at the 1972 General Conference was that of amazement at the rapid growth evident everywhere in the city of Atlanta. This writer, coming to the many changes that have taken place in the more than 30 years since he was a student at Candler School of Theology.

However, certain landmarks were objects of particular concern. For example, there is the corner of Peachtree Street and Pence Drive where we made our wrong turn and ended up in the middle of Five Points where our car broke down on a Saturday afternoon.

The campus at Emory University has changed as much as the city. The School of Theology has had its own remarkable expansion. It is extremely difficult to locate the old "theology row," a group of duplexes where we lived along the Atlantic Seaboard railroad track.

Mrs. Knox and I are both baseball fans, and we were interested in comparing the new Atlanta Stadium with the ballpark where the old Atlanta Crackers used to play. I had a pass and she could be admitted on Friday Night by the payment of a ten-cent tax. This plus two hot dogs and peanuts constituted our "night on the town." Only the peanuts remain the same at the new Stadium where the Braves were getting off to a slow start in their National League race.

A third shrine revisited was Dawson's Department where I once worked in the Book Department during our stay there. Gone With the Wind was the best seller in the city, and commissions from the sale of this book were most helpful in keeping our budget balanced.

Yes, it was truly wonderful to be back in this region, to relive many pleasant memories. Now, we must get back for another visit free from the hectic schedule of General Conference.

Editor and Business Manager: ALFRED A. KNOX  
Managing Editor: DORIS W. J. LARSON  
Women's Editor: MARGARET KNOX  
Poetry Editor: BARBARA L. M. KNOX  
Editorial Assistant: PEGGY VARRILL  
Office Secretary: KATHY L. LARSON  
Contributing Editors: CECIL BLAND, J. ANDREW HARRIS,  
HOWARD MILO, DON COTTRILL, ALF A. EASON, LEE E. ARNOLD,  
HAROLD EGGENSERGER, EARL CARTER,  
LESLIE J. M. TIMMONS and GARLAND D. DEAN.

Editorial and business offices: United Methodist Headquarters Bldg., 715 Center Street, 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.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE—\$7.00 per year.

Published every Thursday except weeks of July 4 and Dec. 25 at United Methodist Headquarters Bldg., Little Rock, Ark. Second class postage paid at Little Rock, Ark. When asked for change of address please include key number, new and old address and postage name.

POSTMASTER: MAIL FORM 3579 to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203.  
MEMBER: Associated Church Press, United Methodist Press Association, and National Council of Churches and Religious Press Service (NCRPS).  
ADVERTISING RATES on request. Represented nationally by Jacob's List, Inc., Clinton, S. C.

National Family Week will be observed from May 7-14 with many churches throughout the nation following the theme "Man and Woman in Marriage Relationships" and using the suggested text from Ephesians 5:21 (RSV): "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ." The Rev. William H. Genne, a specialist in family relationships with the National Council of Churches, said in an interview that the observance "is a way of focusing on the family and its needs in this day of social and cultural shock." "Our text indicates that a relationship of mutual support, inspired and nourished by the love of Christ, is characteristic of the essence of Christian marriage," Genne said. "In this relationship of loving service and support each to the other there is, in Christ, no superior or inferior." National Family Week was first proclaimed in 1942 during World War II.

The United Methodist Church needs a new set of doctrinal principles to preserve its traditional "pluralism" without abusing it, said Dr. Albert C. Outler, chairman of the 30-member commission which drafted a 40-page document on doctrinal standards. Addressing the General Conference as it met in Atlanta, the Southern Methodist University professor said the commission's report was too long "but in a Discipline with 268 pages devoted to 'Administrative Order' and 53 pages to 'Property,' less than 40 pages for 'Doctrinal Statements and the General Rules' is not wildly disproportionate."

The "movement toward schism" in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern) is running out of steam, Dr. Ben Lacey Rose, moderator of the denomination's General Assembly, told the denomination's Missions Board meeting in Florence, Ala. Dr. Rose said, "I believe our Church is moving in the right direction—moving in her understanding of the mission of the Church, broadening in her concept of what Christ would have us do in the world."

Mrs. Catherine Allen, outgoing president of the Baptist Public Relations Assn. (Southern Baptist Convention), speaking on the role of women in Baptist public relations, told the 18th annual meeting of the association that "Women will work longer and harder for less pay than men, but just because they will, men should not ask them to do so."

"The established Churches are more interested in their own little programs than in miracles. It has always been that way. If it isn't in the constitution and by-laws of the church, it is not recognized or accepted," asserted the Rev. David Wilkerson, founder of Teen Challenge. Speaking before the Nat'l. Assn. of Evangelicals convention assembled in St. Louis, the Assemblies of God clergyman criticized institutional Christianity for its alleged failure to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing today's youth to Christ.

The "sex-is-everything" myth that pervades society today is responsible for much of the sexual hangups that prevent Americans from becoming mature human beings, a Maryknoll priest said in the May issue of Redbook magazine. "The myth would have us believe that no action is undertaken, no glance exchanged, no creative image set sparkling, that is not motivated by a sexual impulse of one kind or another," said Father Eugene C. Kennedy, professor of psychology at Loyola University in Chicago.

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld a lower federal ruling in Missouri which held that the state constitution could prohibit the use of public funds for church-related schools. A provision in the Missouri Constitution barring state aid was challenged by a group of parents who charged that the state was unconstitutionally inhibiting the right of parochial school students to free exercise of religion by withholding tax funds to non-public schools.

# news and views

OF THE WORLD OF RELIGION

by doris woolard

"Amazing Grace," one of America's best known hymns, has become the most popular song in England and continental Europe. A recording, made without lyrics, by the bagpipe band of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards a British regiment stationed in Germany, topped the charts in mid-April. Written by the Rev. John Newton, an Anglican rector in London, the words to "Amazing Grace" first appeared in 1779 among a collection called "Olney Hymns."

A Santa Barbara, Calif. pastor has influenced Western Airlines to change its advertising on "champagne flights." The Rev. Bill H. Lewis of Temple Baptist church wrote a letter challenging Western's statement that the airline "serves cocktails to all passengers." Mr. Lewis wrote: "I have ridden Western many times and not once have you ever served a cocktail to me. . . ." After several exchanges of correspondence, the minister received a communication from Western stating: "The new copy, which will appear in newspapers, on radio and television will say, 'Champagne is offered to adult passengers.'"

Supreme Court Justice William H. Rehnquist is described by Edgar R. Trexler, The Lutheran articles editor, as "something of a two-dimensional man . . . strict in dealing with the law but sensitive in his relationships with people." "He's an Old Testament lawman with a touch of new Testament grace," said Trexler, in the April 19 cover story of The Lutheran published in Philadelphia.

"Lack of cohesiveness" and "finances" topped the list of major problems related to marriage and family life found in a survey of members of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. (Southern). A questionnaire revealed that Southern Presbyterians believe the American family today is still "very effective" in nurturing and supporting infants, but not so effective in giving support to teenagers, husbands/wives and the elderly. Finances was listed as a major problem by 40 per cent of those responding to the questionnaire. The emphasis was on money management—not on the lack of money, the summary said.

Nearly one-half the world is now closed to "foreign missionaries," Dr. John Haggi of Evangelism International told members of the Religion Newswriters Assn. meeting in Atlanta. "Despite these developments, the missionary effort is not dying, 'only changing radically,'" Dr. Haggi maintained. Third World people are not rejecting the Christian Gospel as much as they are rejecting American and Western influences, he said. "It's time," he continued, "we take Jesus from Jerusalem directly to the geographic point of action rather than routing Him through the United States."

Presidents of three major branches of Lutheranism in U.S. have joined in calling for "responsible efforts to insure free exercise of the God-given right of freedom in conscience" for Soviet Jews and people of all faiths. The statement on religious liberty was issued in response to requests from several Jewish organizations that the Lutherans support a National Solidarity Day for Soviet Jews.

The Nat'l. Assn. of Evangelicals voted down a resolution to officially endorse Key 73, the national ecumenical evangelism campaign scheduled for next year. Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, NAE's general director told Religious News Service that the vote was taken at 12:15 p.m., when three-fourths of the voting delegates were attending convention luncheons. He estimated that only about 120 of the 800 voting delegates were present for the vote, and said that about 75 or 80 per cent of NAE's member denominations are participating in Key 73.

—RNS Photo



Dr. T. A. Raedeke (left), as executive director, and Dr. Thomas F. Zimmerman, as executive committee chairman, are coordinating plans and activities leading up to Key 73, the first joint evangelistic effort ever undertaken by North America's leading churches. Dr. Raedeke of St. Louis is taking leave from his post as secretary of evangelism of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to direct Key 73. Dr. Zimmerman, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God, heads the executive committee which includes members of 16 of the more than 100 denominations and church organizations taking part in the year-long effort.



# Program Directors to Local Churches

## SEED SOWING

### III. CLASS SEEDS

Ever hear the statement, "We need a new class in our Church School?" Ever thought that before such a hope becomes a reality a little class seed must be planted and nurtured? Here it is. Look it over and plant the seed (idea) for a new class.

#### Need

Young adults seeking identity, a sense of belonging and the joy of Christian fellowship.

#### Audience

1. Single adults could make up a class
2. Young married couples could too
3. Older persons who want a class built around a special need.

#### Task Force—(Example)

Design a task force composed of young adults, from the church constituents and membership, willing to cooperate and work to establish a new Church School Class. Include in the task force one or two older adults who are concerned. This task force might be directed by the coordinator of adult ministries or someone else selected because of interest or ability.

#### Procedure

1. Task Force meeting to discuss the possibilities and compose a list of young adults who might be interested in a new class.
2. Task force plans a dinner at the church or in the home of someone

interested in seeing the new class established.

3. Members of the task force invite face to face those persons assigned to them.

4. During the meeting explore

- (1) needs of the group
- (2) Interest of the group
- (3) Resource materials
  - (a) Personal development issues
  - (b) Social Issues
  - (c) Theological concepts
  - (d) Faith, Discipline, action
- (4) Possible Leaders
- (5) Time and place for future weekly meetings.

**P.S.** You are so right! It is not easy. Before the harvest the class seed must be sown, watered, cultivated. You are so right . . . this is hard work. But the joy will last forever. Go to planting . . . DO IT NOW!

†

from page one

### HENDRIX GRADS

banking, and insurance circles in Shreveport and Little Rock is a 1935 graduate of Hendrix. He attended Wharton Graduate School of Finance and has made his home in Shreveport since 1936.

Dr. Martin has become prominent as he has pioneered in the field of electronic data processing and quantitative business analysis. His books in these fields are being used as a text by the best graduate schools of business in the country. A 1947 graduate of Hendrix, he holds a Ph.D. from Ohio State University. He is in demand as a consultant and lecturer throughout the U. S. and abroad.

Dr. McClurkin served as a high school science teacher, principal and superintendent of schools at Blytheville, Ark., before joining George Peabody College in 1946 as professor of Educational Administration. He has been the director of numerous comprehensive school surveys throughout the country and has been consultant to the ministries of education in Bolivia, Columbia, Costa Rica and Iran.

Richard M. Moose received the M.A. degree from Columbia University after graduating from Hendrix cum laude in 1953. He became a foreign service officer, serving in Cameroon and Mexico, before joining the Secretarial Staff in Washington. He has been a staff member of the National Security Council working as assistant to Walt W. Rostov and Henry A. Kissinger before joining the staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Miss Ethel K. Millar was born on the Hendrix campus and is the daughter of the College's second president,

## Jonesboro District Workshop at Truman, May 6

A Jonesboro District Vacation Church School Workshop will be held at Truman United Methodist Church this Saturday, May 6, from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The event has been planned to acquaint vacation church school teachers and workers with procedures and use of materials, according to Mrs. James Barton, district director of Children's Work.

The Rev. Joe Wilkerson and the Rev. James Chandler will administer the workshop, assisted by the following instructors: Nursery, the Rev. James Barton; Kindergarten, Mrs. Walter Lindley; Elementary I-II, Mrs. James Barton; Elementary III-IV, Mrs. James Chandler; Elementary V-VI, the Rev. Robert English.

The day's activities will begin at 10 a.m. with the showing of two films in the sanctuary entitled, "Hello Up There" and "The Toymaker." From 10:30 until 12:30 training sessions will be conducted. The afternoon sessions will resume at 1 p.m. following a sack lunch. A nursery will be provided for teachers who wish to bring their small children.

†

### A Fair Reminder

Saturday, May 6 is THE DAY—for the Aldersgate Camp Country Fair. Activities will be in progress from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Entertainment will feature youth singing groups, several of them from over the state performing at various times of the day. The lake will be available for fishing, swimming and boating. A festival atmosphere will prevail, with square dancing at night.

Exhibits will be of arts and crafts, woodworking, soap making, spin art and others.

Items for sale will include baked goods from the Country Kitchen, rummage, books, plants and a mini-flea market.

The antique auction will be held at 6 p.m., and items will be auctioned by professional Auctioneer Tom Blackmon. Tom Blackmon and Company, a father-son combination, has been auctioning in Arkansas for 33 years. Articles to be auctioned will be on display all day, and will include many treasured items not considered antiques.

Space is still available for campers and tents, or in cabins. Call 225-1444 to make arrangements for Friday or Saturday nights.

†

the late Dr. A. C. Millar. After receiving her professional training as a librarian she returned to the College where she served until her retirement. After her official retirement she has continued to maintain a clipping file on all Hendrix alumni and has worked as a class agent for the Half Century Club of the Hendrix Alumni Association.

### Quotable Quotes

"Thou shall not try to save the church. It is God's church, and so trust Him to save it. Thou shall be the church." — United Methodist Bishop W. McFerrin Stowe, Kansas City.

—0—

"The realities of living the Christian life are that it's tough being a Christian and it's not easy to be honest as a Christian in a pagan society in 1972. Don't ask us to avoid the issues. I'll not be party to tip-toeing through the tulips while the world is burning." — Rev. Dr. Henry M. Bullock, United Methodist church school publications editor.



## Laymen speak out

In the May-June Lay Witness number of The Upper Room daily devotional guide, some 48 laymen from around the world — Norway, Alberta, California, Australia, Ohio, Brazil, New Zealand, Scotland, Mexico — attest to their faith in Christ.

Join hands with the millions who strengthen their lives through the use of The Upper Room's daily Bible readings, meditation, prayer and thought for the day.

Get The Upper Room at your church or order direct, using the special 10 plan — keep 1 copy for yourself and give 9 to friends — only 15¢ each. As a service to its readers, The Upper Room also offers individual subscriptions, 3 years for \$3.00.



Order from  
**The Upper Room**  
1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tenn. 37203

# NEWS and NOTES

**INDEPENDENCE COUNTY AREA** United Methodist Men will meet on Tuesday, May 9, at Southside Church, Batesville. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Merle Johnson, Siloam Springs minister.

**AN ELECTIVE STUDY** being offered in Conway First Church during the church school hour, April 30 - May 28, is concerning family finances. Speakers are: John Jackson on Estate Planning; Bill Farris, Calvin Shock and Ray Price on Insurance; Robert Sly, Ed Floyd and Robert Henry on Credit Buying and Loans; Robert Baker on Budgeting; and Mrs. Hubert Blanchard on Consumer Economics. Dr. Waddy W. Moore is supervising the program. The Rev. Ben Jordan is pastor.

**MT. MAGAZINE** was the site for the weekend retreat of Senior High and Junior High youth of the Levy Church, North Little Rock, April 21 and 22. Counselors with the group were Mrs. Phyllis Kirk, Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie Roy, Mrs. Doyle Counts, Mr. and Mrs. Jon Guthrie, Kurt Wulfekuhler and Richard Lancaster. The Rev. Gerald Hammett is their pastor.

**MARIANNA YOUTH** were hosts to young people from the Forrest City Church on Sunday, April 23. This completed an exchange visit begun in March.

**A FOLK FESTIVAL** in First Church, Blytheville, honored graduating seniors. Guitarist Johnny Tolley entertained. Mrs. James C. Guard was general chairman of the event, held Monday, April 24. Other chairmen were Mrs. Elbert Johnson, Mrs. Richard Rose and Mrs. Richard Burrow. Dr. Virgil D. Keeley is pastor.

**MARKED TREE YOUTH** had charge of the evening service, April 23. The speakers were John Frost and Mike Orr, both of whom have made commitments to the Christian ministry. The Rev. Bob Orr is pastor.

**A MISSION STUDY** on Africa is being held in Hot Springs with several churches participating. The opening session was in Oaklawn Church, Wednesday, April 26. The Rev. Charles McKees, missionary to the Congo, was the speaker and Mrs. Ruby de Linde was discussion leader. The program on Kenya was at First Church, led by Mrs. William Pate; South Africa will be the subject at Grand Avenue Church, led by Mrs. Brice Williams; Nigeria will be led by Mrs. Bartlow at Gardner Church.

**EVANGELISTIC SERVICES** will be held in Hendricks Hills United Methodist Church, Fort Smith, the week of May 15-18. Guest preacher will be Dr. Sam Coker, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Host pastor will be the Rev. Waymon Hollis.

**MALVERN'S FIRST UNITED** Methodist Church will present Dr. W. J. A. Power in a Bible Preaching Mission, May 7-10. Dr. Power is associate professor of Old Testament at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, Dallas. The Malvern pastor is the Rev. Charles Ashcraft.

**THE REV. JOHN WALKER**, pastor of Hawley Church, Pine Bluff, will be the leader for the concluding session of the study of "New Machines and the New Humanity" on May 7. Leaders for the April Sunday evening sessions have been Mrs. Eddie St. John, Mrs. Ralph Saltee, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brabston, and Basil Ridgway.

**A NEW ORGAN** has been installed in the Watson United Methodist Church. Members of the Women's Society of Christian Service sparked the drive and the organ is now paid in full. Runners for the church aisles will be installed and an addition made to the kitchen, the cost to be paid from proceeds of a recent Mexican supper. The Rev. Fred L. Arnold is the pastor.

**THE REV. HORACE M. GROGAN**, pastor of Park View Church, Benton, preached to the Arkansas Association of National Campers and Hikers at their spring camp on the Saline County fair grounds, Sunday, April 23. Charles Dains, Sr. association president presided.

**THE CABOT UNITED** Methodist Church observed Women's Day on Sunday, April 9. Women of the church were in charge of the entire morning worship service, led by Mrs. Cone Magie and Mrs. Jackie Moran. Mrs. Jerry Ridgway directed the Women's Choir, and Mrs. A. E. Montgomery was organist. Speakers were Mrs. Learny Owen and Mrs. Hugh Devin. The Rev. Braska Savage is their pastor.

## MUSICIANS HONORED AT HOLLY GROVE CHURCH

The organist and pianist were honored in a surprise "This is your life" program at the close of the morning worship in the Holly Grove United Methodist Church, April 23. Mrs. P. E. Williamson, Jr. was recognized for 35 years of playing the piano in church school and organ in morning worship. Mrs. T. C. Sain has played the piano for 25 years, along with the organ during the services. They were presented corsages, which were pinned on by their husbands. The Rev. Charles Nance is their pastor.

**A LAY REVIVAL** will be held in the West Helena United Methodist Church this weekend, May 5, 6 and 7. B. C. Hendren, a Methodist layman from Dyersburg, Tennessee, will conduct the series. Hamilton Bryant, also from Dyersburg, will lead the singing. The Rev. William Haltom is the host pastor.

**A DISTRICT YOUTH RALLY** will be held in Forrest City, May 12 and 13. Two youths from Little Rock who pattern their singing after the United Methodist team "Dust and Ashes" will provide the program.

**THE MARION CHURCH** held evangelistic services the week of April 16 with the Rev. Bob Orr of Marked Tree bringing the messages. The Rev. B. W. Stallcup is the Marion minister.

**RECOGNIZING RETIRED** Ministers on April 9, the Rev. Robert E. Woody invited the Rev. Robert S. Beasley to speak in the Tigert Memorial Church, and the Rev. O. L. Huffman to speak in the Morning Star Church, Hot Springs.

**THE MOUNTAIN VIEW** United Methodist Church had as guest speaker on April 9, District Superintendent Charles McDonald of Fort Smith. His wife, Lois, and his mother, Evangeline, accompanied him. The Rev. J. T. Byrd is pastor.

**NEW OFFICERS** of the Grand Prairie UMYF Sub-District elected at the April meeting in Mt. Tabor Church are: president, Pam Magness (Mt. Zion); vice-president, Mark Kennedy (Mt. Tabor); secretary, Patty Woods (Hazen); treasurer, Pam Brummett (Lonoke); and reporter, Suzanne Cobb (Des Arc).

**A YOUTH ENCOUNTER** will be held in the Hope District, May 6 and 7, in the DeQueen United Methodist Church of which the Rev. David B. Wilson is pastor. Lodging will be in the homes of DeQueen members.

**DR. FRED G. ROEBUCK**, retired minister of Fort Smith, gave a series of sermons during the "Four Nights for God" in March at the Mountain View United Methodist Church, Fort Smith District. The Rev. J. T. Byrd, retired, serves the Mountain View Church.

**THE GRIFFITHVILLE CHURCH** was host to the area meeting of United Methodist Men, April 12. Dr. Milton Harbuck, a dentist from North Little Rock and member of Lakewood Church, was the speaker. Officers are Robert Corder, president; James O'Donnell, vice-president; and Wilbur Dobbins, secretary-treasurer.

**TRI-COUNTY** United Methodist Men will hear Bishop Paul V. Galloway when they meet in Opelo, Thursday, May 11, at 7 p.m.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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.

May 7—Sunday	Job 13:3-16
May 8	Job 14:10-22
May 9	Psalms 16:1-11
May 10	Psalms 23:1-6
May 11	Psalms 90:1-17
May 12	Jer. 17:9-14
May 13	Lam. 3:22-36
May 14—Sunday	John 1:1-14

**MIDLAND HEIGHTS GUILD** members were hostesses for the annual banquet of business women's circles of all churches in Fort Smith on April 25. Mrs. Iris (Bell) Hightower, a former deaconess in the Methodist Church, was the speaker.

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** of the Little Rock Conference Women's Society of Christian Service will meet in Magnolia, at First United Methodist Church, Wednesday and Thursday, May 10 and 11. Mrs. E. T. Davenport, conference president, will share some of her experiences at General Conference, which she attended as a lay delegate, and report on actions taken there. She will tell of the role of women under the new organization.

**"WOMEN OF THE BIBLE"** will be presented in costume in Mabelvale Church, Tuesday morning, May 9. They are being recreated by members of the Women's Society. Visitors are invited. Mrs. Ovalene Allen is president.

**THE GRAND AVENUE WOMEN'S** Society and Wesleyan Service Guild held a joint meeting in Hot Springs in April. The dinner was served by WSCS members, and the Guild presented a program on Drug Abuse Prevention. Mrs. S. R. Allman is WSCS president; Mrs. Jane McHugh is WSG president.

**RECENT UMYF ACTIVITIES** in Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Austin Charge, Lonoke, presented a program, entitled "The Cross." They carried out their theme by displaying an Old Rugged Cross and each member brought flowers and gifts to the cross in memory of Christ. The youth also had charge of the morning service on April 16. Larry Weathers was superintendent, and had as his helpers: Connie Travis—piano, Terry Carpenter—song leader, Randy Walter—men's teacher, Pam Magness—women's teacher, Diane Weathers—Junior High Class, Connie Travis—Senior High Class, Sharon Walker and Brenda Wilson—Primary Class. Their leaders are Mrs. Jackie Walker and Mrs. Jimmie Taylor. Pastor for Mt. Zion Church is Rev. T. G. Poss.

## United Methodist women are united under new plan

by Mrs. T. E. Kirkpatrick

(This article was written for Louisiana Methodist women, but it is of interest to all United Methodist Women. Mrs. Kirkpatrick lives in Shreveport and is president of the Louisiana Conference Women's Society of Christian Service.)



Mrs. Kirkpatrick

One of the actions of General Conference was approval of the constitution of the one new organization of women in the church. This becomes church law and it is a part of the Discipline. It does not mean, however, that the new group has come overnight and is a full-blown functioning organization immediately. Much

work yet remains. The constitution does not really tell much about United Methodist Women — the new name which was the choice of over 80% of the approximately 18,000 local societies and guilds who sent in ballots in the name selection process. It remains for the bylaws, which are not yet written, to spell out just what kind of structure the organization will have. After they are written, the bylaws must be approved by the Women's Division which meets in the Fall. After that, we will begin to know more about the new group and the time table for organizing in the local, district and conference.

It is important for both the Women's Society and the Wesleyan Service Guild to continue functioning as they are at this time. We know this will be true for 1972; we believe it will be true for several months beyond that. No one at this time can give a definite date for the beginning of the new organization for it has not been determined. As soon as plans are developed and approved and information is available, it will be reported in *The Arkansas Methodist*. District presidents of the Women's Society and District chairmen of the Guild will also have it and relay it to local societies and guilds. There are no secrets about any of this. We are all anxious to see how the structure will look, but we will wait until it is developed. We believe that some preliminary "working paper data" will probably be used during the summer for Regional School and Conference School of Christian Mission (July 18-21) and Guild Weekend (July 22-23). This kind of material, however, will not be final. It will, though, give all of us another opportunity to react to some proposals and thus contribute toward the development of the finished product.

We recognize that not all the women in the Women's Society and the Guild are looking forward to the new organization. Some are opposed to the idea of a new organization because they wish to remain divided into two groups—society and guild—in the local church. They fear that having one organization will mean that one of the former groups will dominate and dictate times of meetings. Some oppose it because they do not feel enough women were involved in making the decision and they would have preferred a vote on the question. Some oppose it because they feel they have been successful in their own situations and they fear that the new will not be as good. Others probably oppose it for other reasons, and all of these are real concerns.

I do not propose here to defend the one new organization, rather, I plan to set forth some of the reasoning for it, how the decision came to be made, and what it may mean. After you have read all these facts, I hope you will be in a better position to think through what it can mean to have United Methodist Women.

Six years ago, in planning for the present quadrennium, the Women's Division brought groups of women together to discuss the jurisdiction organization of the Women's Society and the Wesleyan Service Guild. Out of this came the concept for the jurisdiction Society/Guild (a combined and new structure), and the jurisdictions have had this type

organization since 1968. A meeting of the South Central Jurisdiction Society/Guild was held at Lakeview in Texas in March of this year. Conference delegates were members of the Women's Society and the Guild.

### Plans Are Results of "Soundings"

For the past two years "soundings" have been taken in Regional Schools, Conference Schools, Guild Events and most all other gatherings as to how to find a better way to reach more women and better meet the needs of all the women in the church. Informal and speculative conversation has, of course, taken place wherever the women have met.

During the past two years, six different official groupings of women have looked at and studied the needs of the women in the church and the present organizations and the ways they were responding to those needs. These were deliberative, unhurried meetings where women honestly wrestled with their own problems. Among them were:

— A "Consultative Work Group" composed of 43 women — "employed, unemployed, young, old, middle-aged, multi-class, multi-race, etc."

— The Division Long Range Planning Committee plus the jurisdiction society/guild Core Planning Groups totaling about 111 persons.

— The Quadrennial National Seminar with about 240 women from 75 conferences. Each conference was entitled to send three persons.

— Division Committee of the Wesleyan Service Guild composed of members of the Division plus one Guild member from each jurisdiction (elected by the Conference Guild Chairmen), and five Guild members at large. This would be about 35-40 persons.

— Ad Hoc Committee of 9 persons.

— Women's Division Executive Committee totaling about 20 persons. (Note: The Women's Division is composed of women from local societies and guilds who have been nominated in their conferences and jurisdiction meetings and elected at jurisdictional conferences as women members of the Board of Missions. It does not include staff persons.)

Everyone of these groups recommended that there be one new organization of women in the church to replace both the Women's Society and the Guild.

After hearing all the separate recommendations and engaging in a period of open discussion, the members of the Women's Division voted unanimously in October, 1971 to replace the two present women's organizations with "one new, inclusive organization for women, with a new name." (A news story on this was carried by *The Methodist*.)

Also approved was a method of setting up a Planning Committee composed of eight members of the Women's Society, eight members of the Wesleyan Service Guild and eight women members of the church who were not members of either organization. All persons were to be committed to mission.

### Basic Thrust to be Mission

Some of the criteria for the new organization was set forth. The basic thrust is to be mission, it is to offer greater opportunities for involvement of younger women, it is to be flexible enough to meet the program and activity needs and interests of as many women in the church as possible. Meeting times are to be set at the convenience of the women in the church.

From the very beginning it has been made clear that there will be no "phasing out" of either the Guild or Society while keeping the other, and that one would not "absorb" the other. Quite to the contrary, it has been made most clear from the initial steps taken and the recommendations leading up to the action, that the Women's Society and the Guild will both be replaced by one new organization with a new name.

Some persons have been concerned as to just

what "one new inclusive organization" means. It simply means that this new organization — United Methodist Women—will be a voluntary membership organization open to all the women in the local church. This means that those who are presently members of the Women's Society and Guild and those who are not now members of either group will be eligible and welcomed in the United Methodist Women. The society and guild together have been reaching only about one-half the women in the church. The potential is much greater; the hope is that the new group will appeal to more women.

There are many reasons for reorganizing the women in the church. No one has to be reminded that we live in a changing world. Teaching methods today are not like they were 10-25 years ago; communication systems have vastly influenced people by being an immediate presence in the home; the standard of living for most persons has risen over the last decade; more women are working; more women are remaining unmarried by choice; more married women are going back to college; transportation is more rapid and available; technological advances for home, industry, farm, space, medicine, etc. have had a far reaching effect on all our lives. The list of how times have changed is endless. The point of it all is that not just "times" but the people also change. Ideas, attitudes, behavior, customs—in so many ways—these changes become visible and call for a response. In many instances we are finding that the new cannot be poured into the old. This does not mean that we change the meaning or the aim of what we are as a people (organization), but it does mean that if we are going to do any good it will take more than a "face lift".

That is what it is all about. The purpose of United Methodist Women is to help women to know God better and to expand our concepts of mission as we participate in the ministries of the church. This is the purpose of the Women's Society and Guild, too. The only problem is that the structures of the two present groups have begun getting in the way of our accomplishing the purpose in the best possible way.

The Women's Society and Guild and their predecessor organizations have had a great history. They have accomplished almost unbelievable results within the course of the years. We are reminded, though, that there have been many, many changes since the women's groups first organized in 1873 and 1875. The Woman's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild were organized in 1939-40, changes were made through the years and as late as 1968 there was a name change and other minor changes in structure.

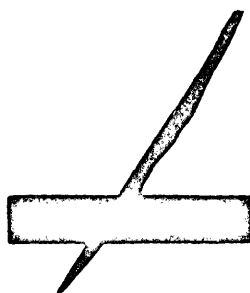
The old dress has been patched about as much as it can take. It is time for a new one. The genius of the women of the Methodist tradition has always been their ability to recognize a situation and adapt their style to the need and time without compromising their goal and purpose. They have done this time and time again in the mission field, and they have done it in their internal organizations.

I am convinced that the women of the United Methodist Church will continue to recognize the need for a strong women's organization in the church. As they do, they will respond to the new organization with a new affirmation and dedication to the mission which calls all of us. When this happens, we will be able to better serve the needs of the women and also fulfill our purpose in reaching out to others. We can be a part of a greater ministry than we are able to be through the present two organizations. It can happen this way if the women in the church want it to, for it will be the kind of organization the women make it in the local church. It will not work at all unless women are willing to recommit themselves to something larger than themselves. I do hope that all the women in the church will understand that the real issue involved here is to maintain and improve upon our response in fulfilling the mission of the Church (Christ). I have faith in their faith. United Methodist Women? Yes.



# The Sunday School Lesson

By: Alfred A. Knox



## LESSON FOR MAY 14: Proclaiming the Gospel

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** Luke 4:16-21;  
Romans 10:14-18; Ephesians 3:7-13

**MEMORY SELECTION:** I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

**AIM OF THE LESSON:** To help persons understand the place of preaching in the worship of the church and the place of the preacher in the interpretation of the Word.

\* \* \*

The place which preaching ought to occupy in the worship service is interpreted in a different manner by various individuals. I can remember that during my service as a military chaplain those of us who came from diverse denominations often discussed this matter. We were required to fill out reports in which we listed the main preacher in services of worship in which more than one of us participated. Usually those from a "high church" background felt that the liturgist should be indicated as the one in charge, while those of us from "low church" traditions always insisted that this place of honor should be given to the one who brought the sermon.

Today's lesson is based on a story of Jesus' return to the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth after a period of absence in his ministry. He was asked to read from the Scriptures, and he chose a passage from Isaiah which emphasized the place of proclamation—of preaching. Starting from this base we will discuss the place of preaching and that kind of proclamation which is relevant and effective in our time.

Even in a day when new forms of worship are being encouraged and all kinds of innovations are taking place in the services, this writer believes that nothing has taken the place of the challenge to commitment and the interpretation of current needs that takes place in the pulpit.

There may be differences of opinion about the place of preaching, but it is my observation that the people are looking for an interpretation of the "good news" when they attend the services. But then, those who listen have the responsibility of proclaiming what they understand to be the word for our time. Among all the institutions in our world, the church is the one which has the responsibility for proclamation, and we must seek to understand why Jesus lifted up the words of Isaiah in the Nazareth synagogue, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor."

Dr. Eric Titus says of this passage in International Lesson Annual: "God's anointed one is sent to 'preach good news to the poor . . . to proclaim to the poor . . . to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.' This is an interesting list. In Jewish thought the Messiah was a powerful figure, often connected with military might. But here he is pictured as concerned with the poor, the imprisoned, the blind, and the oppressed. This description of the Messiah's function is more in keeping with the suffering servant concept of Isaiah 40 through 55. In any case, the preaching is compassionate, directed to people in great need."

\* \* \*

### WHAT GOOD NEWS DO WE HAVE TO PROCLAIM?

Referring again to this passage from Isaiah, quoted in our passage from Luke, we discover several bits of "good news" which Jesus said he felt he was commissioned to proclaim. They were related to both physical and spiritual blessings.

There was the good news for the poor—redemption is for them as well as for the rich. Of course, it has never been enough to assure the hungry that he has not been excluded by God because he lacks material wealth. This assurance should be included in proclamation so that all classes may know that there is a place for them in God's church. However, this proclamation must also include words of empathy which communicate the idea that all are concerned to do something about material need. No preaching—no proclamation is complete today if it does not speak of the deep concern of the church for all who are hurting and suffering.

The passage speaks also of good news for the captives. In Jesus' day this meant those who were bound by the sin in their life. There is still a challenge for us to align ourselves with all those groups which have dedicated themselves to breaking all the ties which keep persons and groups from realizing their full personhood.

During the recent General Conference in Atlanta the delegates listened carefully to the messages which came from many groups speaking of their inability to be all that God intends them to be. This Conference spent a major portion of its time in replying to these cries, and during the next quadrennium we will be challenged to make such proclamation in every church and every pulpit.

There is also good news for the blind—sight. Jesus restored sight to many blind persons during his ministry. He made men see the truth that sets them free, and apart of our proclamation continues to be the educational ministry which helps all men to see what it is that God has revealed to them through Christ. The pulpit has a responsibility here, but so has the pew. Together we will proclaim the truth that makes men free.

\* \* \*

### THE GOSPEL THAT SETS LIFE FREE

It was characteristic of Jesus that he should have spoken in his home synagogue of this passage which glows with the message of God's pity and compassion. Dr. Walter Russell Bowie comments on the material in The Interpreter's Bible: "The power God sent to earth in Jesus was the power of his love. The only weapon Jesus ever used to win his way was love. So he lived and so he taught, and in the end he imparted that same spirit to his disciples. He made them know that as their lives reached out to touch and heal the lives of others, their own personalities would be touched by the greatness of God."

Whatever the prophet intended by these words, Jesus saw them as a description of his ministry. He understood that his mission was to persons suffering under various kinds of affliction. To those he brought the good news of relief, release, and recovery; and that news was to be communicated through preaching.

Because of the custom which allowed visitors to preach during the informal synagogue service, Paul and his followers used them as starting points in the cities they visited. Thus the Jewish institution provided a means for spreading the knowledge of the gospel, through preaching, in country after country. Later when Jewish opposition made this impossible for Christians, they developed their own form of worship services in which reading from the

Scripture and preaching were at the center.

\* \* \*

### THE CALL TO THE PREACHER

Our second Scripture passage is from the 10th chapter of Romans and deals with the importance of the message and the messenger. In verse 14 we read: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Paul was saying here that those who have felt the saving power of the good news are expected to share it with others. He makes the simple case that if men are to call on God in faith they must first believe in him, and if they are to believe they must first hear about him and his salvation. For them to hear, a preacher is necessary. Although our emphasis today is on preaching, we must not put too narrow a meaning on the word. We should recognize that Paul included all who, in any way, make known the good news.

The apostle places a strong emphasis here on the calling from God and the great moving force behind the preacher. He was remembering those who made his ministry possible by setting him apart for missionary service.

\* \* \*

### THE CENTRALITY OF PREACHING

In the religious environment in which most of us have been nurtured, preaching has occupied a central place. Most of you are probably like this writer in being able to recall sermons which influenced the great decisions of your lives.

John the Baptist came out of the wilderness to preach with a message that prepared the way for the coming of Jesus. Jesus continued the emphasis which had been found in John's preaching and added to it the ingredient of teaching. Dr. William J. Carter says in Adult Bible Series: "Preaching in its true form was born on the day of Pentecost when Peter stood before the multitude and proclaimed that God had fulfilled the promise of the Old Testament and had brought salvation to his people. . . The true preacher was the herald of the fact that redemption had been accomplished."

The early church emphasized the task of preaching. Those who had been empowered by their personal experiences with Jesus and/or their direction by the Holy Spirit went out to call men to a new life through Christ.

Then as time moved on, the liturgy and the Mass moved into a central place and the sermon became secondary. With the coming of the Reformation, preaching was again brought back to the center of the service. The early leaders of the Reformation did not move immediately away from the regular participation in Holy Communion in every service, but they did give a place of more and more prominence to preaching.

The story of Protestant Christianity in America is one in which preaching played a most prominent part. The great revival movements in our land, beginning with the Great Awakening in New England were the results of spirit-filled preaching, and the word "preacher" became the common term for the clergyman.

\* \* \*

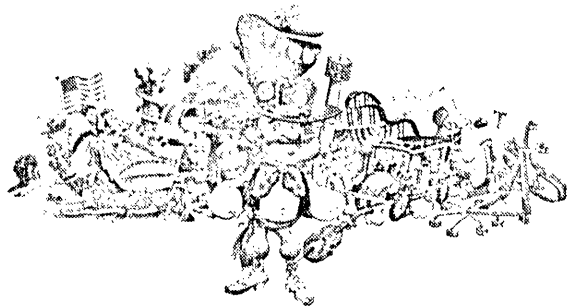
### PREACHER AND CONGREGATION IN DIALOGUE

In the contemporary church there is a new emphasis on relevance in the message. The man who stands in the pulpit is expected to know his Bible, be acquainted with the Holy Spirit, and be aware of the hunger and needs of the day.

It is generally recognized that the congregation must be a part of the proclamation. The message is sometimes presented in dialogue form, but beyond that is the recognition that the congregation must be ready to go out from the worship service to give witness to the truth in all that they do.

As Dr. Carter says: "The proclaimed word is made manifest as those who hear become those who do the work of the world. The completion of the process waits upon the willingness of men to become 'doers of the word, and not hearers only,' (James 1:22)."





## THREE-WAY FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT.

There's only one thing better than wholesome family entertainment.

That's a three-way choice of wholesome family entertainment.

That's what you get when you come to Astrodomain.

*First, Astros baseball.* There's nothing more family than chomping on a hot dog and watching major league baseball in the world's only domed stadium, the Astrodome.

*Second, Astroworld.* Across the street from the Astrodome, but a million miles from this world. With 60 acres of rides, shows and attractions in 10 magical lands to entertain family members of any age.

*Third, Astroworld Hotels and Motels.* Across the street from the Astrodome and Astroworld, in the middle of all the excitement. With huge swimming pools, and color TV and queen-sized beds in every room.

That's Astrodomain three-way entertainment for you and your family. And if you get together a group of 30 or more we can offer you a reduced rate. (See the prices in the order form.)

### ASTROWORLD SCHEDULE

#### 1972 Operating Schedule:

##### Spring Season:

April 1 - May 21

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sundays 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

##### Summer Season:

May 27 - August 27

Daily 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 12 midnight

##### Fall Season:

September 2 - November 12

Saturdays & Sundays 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

##### Front Gate Prices:

Adult - \$5.50 (12 years - 64 years)

Child - \$4.00 (4 years - 11 years)

Infant - Free (Children not yet four)

Senior Citizens - Free (65 years of age and older)

### ASTROS BASEBALL SCHEDULE

#### EXHIBITION SEASON

March 31, April 1, 2, 3 ..... Minnesota Twins  
June 15 ..... Texas Rangers

#### CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

April 10, 11, 12 (L), 13 ..... San Diego  
April 15, 16 (F), 17 ..... San Francisco  
April 24, 25, 26 (L) ..... Chicago  
April 28, 29, 30 (F) ..... St. Louis  
May 12, 13, 14 (F) ..... Pittsburgh  
May 15, 16, 17 (L) ..... Atlanta  
May 26, 27, 28 (F) ..... Los Angeles  
May 29, 30, 31 (L), June 1 ..... Cincinnati

June 12, 13, 14 (L) ..... Montreal  
June 16, 17, 18 (F) ..... Philadelphia  
June 19, 20, 21 (L) ..... New York  
June 30, July 1, 2 (F), 3 ..... Atlanta  
July 4, 5 (L), 6 ..... Pittsburgh  
July 17, 18, 19 (L) ..... St. Louis  
July 21, 22, 23 (F) ..... Chicago  
July 27, 28, 29 ..... Los Angeles  
July 30 (F-DH), 31 ..... San Diego  
August 1, 2 (L) ..... Cincinnati  
August 11, 12, 13 (F), 14 ..... San Francisco  
August 25, 26, 27 (F) ..... Montreal  
August 29, 30 (L), 31 ..... Philadelphia  
September 1, 2, 3 (F) ..... New York  
September 4, 5 ..... Atlanta  
September 13 (L), 14 ..... San Diego  
September 15, 16, 17 (F) ..... Los Angeles  
September 22, 23, 24 (F) ..... Cincinnati  
September 26, 27 (L) ..... San Francisco

Tickets must be ordered 15 days in advance of date you plan to attend. Please address all correspondence to:

Group Sales, P.O. Box 288, Houston, Texas 77001/Phone: 748-4500

NAME OF SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF GROUP \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ASTROWORLD: Date You Plan to Attend \_\_\_\_\_

The Discount Price Is Available Only to Groups of 30 or More.

Regular Price

Adults 12 years and over \$5.50

Child under 12 years \$4.00

Number of tickets desired:

Adult \_\_\_\_\_ x \$4.95 = \_\_\_\_\_

Child \_\_\_\_\_ x \$3.60 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_

ASTROS BASEBALL: Date You Plan to Attend \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Price

Box Seats \$4.00

Mezzanine Reserve \$3.00

Number of tickets desired:

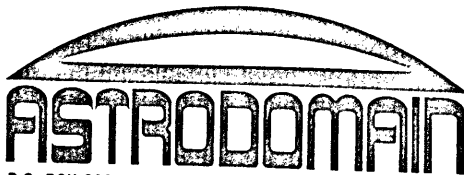
Box Seats \_\_\_\_\_ x \$3.60 = \_\_\_\_\_

Mezzanine Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ x \$2.70 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total = \_\_\_\_\_

Guided Tours of the Astrodome are available for \$1.00 per person.

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER  
MUST ACCOMPANY THIS ORDER BLANK.



P.O. BOX 288 • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001 • (713) 748-4500

Astrodome, Astrohalla, and Astroworld are registered trademarks of Astrodomain Corp.

# GENERAL CONFERENCE



This was a part of the international group which was presented to the General Conference on World Methodist Night.

The three basic priorities suggested in the report presented by Dr. Virgil Sexton of the denomination's Program Council are: "Commitment, renewal and nurture: new ways of operation in the church; and meaningful and relevant theology."

**STATEMENTS ON WAR AND PEACE:** The General Conference adopted two reports relating to war and peace. During the first week they adopted the bishops' challenge asking each local church to develop study and action programs to create world peace. This Call for Peace and Self-Development of Peoples was overwhelmingly passed by Bishop James Armstrong of the Dakotas Area. It asks each of the 78 annual conferences to develop its own initiatives and to use "its distinctive opportunities and expertise" to implement the Call.

In the second action, taken after a long debate, the delegates voted by a narrow margin to urge the United States to withdraw completely from the war in Indochina by the end of 1972, including the release of all prisoners of war.

The strong majority committee statement against the U.S. involvement in the Indochina war was adopted after a milder minority committee version was defeated by about a 5 to 4 majority. The adoption of the report was strongly opposed by delegates from the Philippines and South Korea. In fact, the Korean group staged a symbolic walkout from the conference. They said that the action "slapped the Korean people

and the people of the Far East in the face. . . Our men are dying there too, and we want them to come home just like you, but our country's safety is involved as well as South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and all of East Asia."

**SOCIAL PRINCIPLES STATEMENT:** The delegates devoted the major part of a day to the debate on the Statement of Social Principles which had been prepared by one of its quadrennial commissions. In spite of assertions that the new document was too permissive, the delegates adopted it by a wide margin with few alterations.

The statement as adopted recognizes that homosexuals are "persons of sacred worth" but said that "we do not recommend the practice of homosexuality and do not consider it compatible with Christian teachings."

Included in the statement is the provision that "a decision concerning abortion should be made after thorough and thoughtful consideration by the parties involved, with medical and pastoral counsel." The conference adopted an amendment offered by a woman obstetrician asking states to remove abortion regulations from the criminal codes and put them with laws governing medical procedures."

The conference reaffirmed its 1958 support for the rights of civil obedience, and for the first time, approved the principles of selective conscientious objection.

Following the approval of the statement, the delegates joined in reading a liturgical "Social Creed" which is a

part of the document. They were led in this by Bishop James S. Thomas of Iowa, chairman of the study commission which prepared the statement.

**REAFFIRMATION OF ECUMENICAL INVOLVEMENT:** In action taken on the last day of the conference, the United Methodist Church reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to and participation in ecumenical and inter-faith relations. With only token opposition among the 1,000 delegates, the meeting voted: (1) A proposal for initiation of dialogue with Jewish communities; (2) Continued participation in the nine-denomination Consultation on Church Union (COCU); and (3) Continued membership in the National and World Councils of Churches.

The conference ordered published a statement of the "many positive reasons" for United Methodist membership in the NCC and WCC, for mass distribution throughout the denomination, saying "There is much misinformation spread about the Councils and trouble is sometimes caused by groups trying to disrupt the church."

**LOUISIANA LAYMAN ELECTED TO JUDICIAL COUNCIL:** Tom H. Matheny, Hammond, La. lawyer and Conference Lay leader of the Louisiana Annual Conference, was one of four members elected to eight-year terms on the nine-member Judicial Council, United Methodism's "Supreme Court." The others elected were: Ms. Florence Z. Lucas, who became the second woman and the third black person on the Council. She is deputy commissioner of the Division of Human Rights for the State of New York; Dr. Truman W. Potter, minister of Christ Church (United Methodist), Charleston, W. Va., and Dr. Hoover Rupert, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church, Ann Arbor, Mich., who was reelected.

The Judicial Council met on Thursday to elect officers. Dr. Ralph B. Houston of Hempstead, N.Y. was named president; Theodore M. Berry, mayor-designate of Cincinnati, Ohio, was named vice-president, and Mrs. D. Dwight Grove of Philadelphia, Pa. was named secretary.

**MERGER OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES:** The conference voted that all racially segregated annual conferences in the denomination should be merged "not later than July 1, 1973." The four remaining all-black



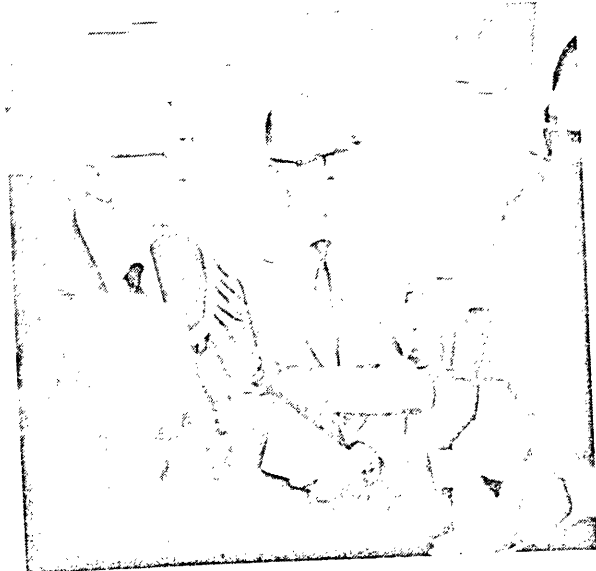
Bishop O. Eugene Slater assumed the gavel as president of the Council of Bishops during the meeting of the General Conference.

annual conferences were called on to take initial steps toward merger at their 1972 sessions. In cases where the conference might not be able to develop mutually-agreeable plans, an arbitration team composed of the presidents of the five jurisdictional Colleges of Bishops was asked to settle the differences.

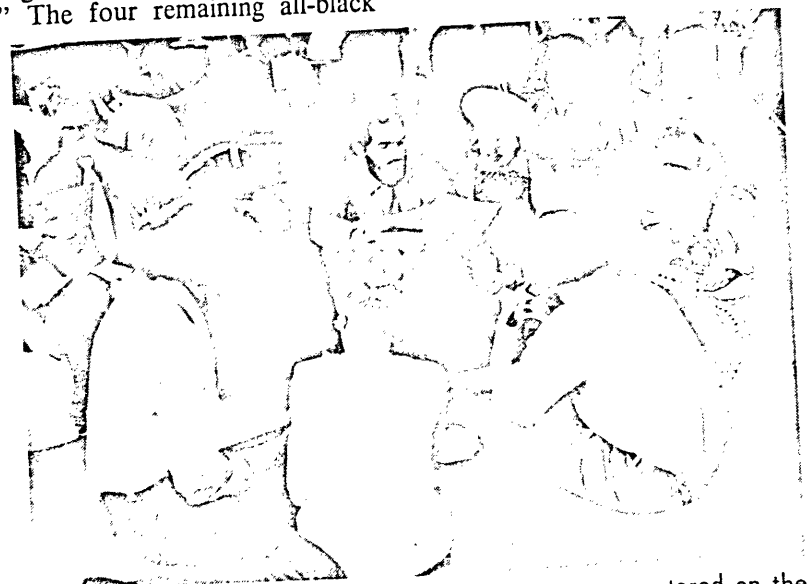
**COMMISSION ON STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN:** A Commission on the Status and Role of Women, one of whose major functions would be to encourage women to enter the pastoral ministry, was established by the General Conference. The 43-member commission is charged with "fostering an awareness of problems and issues related to status and role of women with special reference to full participation in the total life of the church."

The commission is to include 15 men, two laymen and one clergyman from each jurisdiction, plus 20 women from the jurisdictions, three women members-at-large, three women named by the Women's Division of the Board of Missions and two bishops named by the Council of Bishops.

**YOUTH LEGISLATION:** The two major requests of youth caucuses across the church were written into the legislation adopted by the General Conference. These were the provision that 70% of the money raised for the Youth Service Fund be used in the projects of the annual conferences and that 50% of the membership of the Youth Team in each annual conference be composed of young people from minority ethnic groups.



Arkansas/Louisiana Editor Alfred A. Knox listened intently to an exchange between Dr. Albert Outler and George Cornell of The Associated Press during a press conference following one of the sessions of the General Conference.



A Love Feast sponsored by the Women's Caucus centered on the theme "A Feast of Fools" suggested by the title of the book by Dr. Harvey Cox.

## NEWS and NOTES

FORREST CITY DISTRICT women attended a "Day Apart in Missions" on Thursday, April 27, and traveled to Memphis by chartered bus to visit the Methodist Community Center and the Methodist Hospital. Mrs. H. E. Wright of West Helena is district president.

IN PREPARATION for the recent revival in Rose City-Beacon Church, WSCS members held a prayer retreat led by Mrs. Edwin Outlaw of Russellville. They also sponsored a luncheon to which guests were invited. Mrs. Ramone Thomas was in charge of the retreat, and Mrs. Dell Leech was chairman of the lunch. Mrs. E. W. Reynolds is WSCS president.

MRS. JAMES NIX of Brinkley, conference WSCS/WSG treasurer, was guest speaker when Guild members of Augusta and McCrory held a joint meeting on April 24.

"CHANGE - CHANGE" was the subject when Mrs. John Christian, conference chairman of missionary education, spoke at the joint meeting of Women's Society and Guild members in Winfield Church, Little Rock, April 11.

AT TEXARKANA'S First Church, Mrs. Ralph Hillis led the April WSCS program on the theme "Freedom for Expression of Faith." Sarah Corban was leader for the Wesleyan Service Guild program on "A Church for Others."

DeQUEEN YOUTH of First Church visited Dallas, April 22 and 23. Visiting church ministries in ghetto situations, their tour guide was the Rev. Billy Boyd Smith, SMU student from Arkansas. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hobart and the Rev. and Mrs. David Wilson.

### MRS. LILLIE MAE OSMENT

Mrs. Lillie Mae Osment, a member of the Oak Forest United Methodist Church in Little Rock, died at St. Vincent's infirmary on April 11 following a prolonged illness. She is survived by her husband, John R. Osment, with whom she was united in marriage in 1946; one son, Leon Ellison, Jr. of Chicago, Ill.; two sisters, Mrs. Catherine Combs and Mrs. Christine Salmon, both of Forrest City, and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services for Mrs. Osment were conducted from Stevens Funeral Home with the Rev. Charles Ashcraft, the Rev. William Stewart and the Rev. Pharis Holifield officiating. Burial followed at Oaklawn Cemetery in Jonesboro.

Mrs. Osment was born March 23, 1917 in Coon Creek, Tenn. and was the daughter of Mary Hardy Woods and Leonard B. Woods. She had made her home in and near Forrest City most of her life, and had lived in Stuttgart before moving to Little Rock in 1960.

CROSSETT YOUTH will benefit when the Alpha-Omega Players from Dallas present a performance of "Luther" in First United Methodist Church on May 14. Proceeds will go toward paying expenses of young people to attend "Explo '72" in Dallas in June. Louis Burgess is in charge of ticket sales. The Alpha-Omega Players were in Crossett in January with "The Diary of Adam and Eve." The Rev. Ferris Norton is the pastor.

CLARKSVILLE UNITED Methodist men heard Dr. T. L. Smith speak on "The Cross as a Symbol of Worship" at the April 26 dinner meeting. Dr. Smith formerly taught at the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville.

THE BRINKLEY MEN'S Fellowship sponsored a churchwide supper, April 27. Guest speaker for the occasion was "Tank" Harrison, former Memphis policeman who is now a lay evangelist.

EL DORADO United Methodist Men invited the ladies to hear the Rev. Merle Johnson, Siloam Springs minister and author, speak at the April 12 dinner meeting. Harold Smith is president of the men's group in First Church.

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The littler, the poorer, the more suffering, the more defenseless, even the lower a man has fallen, the more he deserves to be assisted, raised up, cared for, and honored. We learn this from the Gospel."—Pope Paul VI.

"Education is continuous — it is never accomplished or finished. Therefore, to educate a congregation for mission, we need to develop a year round program which will keep mission concerns before our people throughout the year."—Rev. Donald Struchen, executive staff, United Methodist Board of Missions.

### MRS. MOLLY BEAVERS

Mrs. Molly Cox Beavers, 93, widow of L. L. Beavers, died at her home April 19. She was born in Waldron, and moved to Mt. Ida in 1904. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Mt. Ida, an honorary member of the official board, and had a lifetime membership in the WSCS.

She attended the University of Arkansas and Galloway College.

She was preceded in death by a son, Milus M. Beavers, and a daughter, Mrs. Virginia B. Jolly.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Mabel B. Manville and one son, John Beavers, both of Mt. Ida; one grandchild, James G. Manville, and two great-grandchildren of St. Louis, Mo.

Funeral services were conducted from the Mt. Ida United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Harold S. Bailey, pastor, officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Methodist Church.

## SOUTHWEST WIVES REPORT

Ministers' wives of the Little Rock District, Southwest Conference, met in the home of Mrs. Roberta Piggee, Pankey's Addition, Little Rock, on April 22. Twelve members and four guests were present.

The meditation was given by Mrs. Queen Esther Brown. A report of the year's activities was read by the president, Mrs. Ruth Johnson. Plans were mentioned for the group to attend the National Ministers' Wives Association in Denver, Colorado, June 25-30.

A report from the Nominating Committee and installation of officers at the next meeting will conclude activities for the year.

"There are some false but very wide spread views often expressed outside my country that when Africans demand justice, human dignity, equality and freedom, they want to expel white people from Rhodesia. This is a vicious lie designed to smear the African leaders as racists. Secondly, it is often alleged that the racist regime in Rhodesia is fighting communism, but all I can say is that Africans have no tendency to any foreign ideology and, indeed, they want to remain African at all costs. If ever a foreign ideology such as communism spreads into southern Africa, those that are responsible for oppression in the name of 'civilization' and 'Christianity' in southern Africa will have been the creators of this situation." — United Methodist Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa of Rhodesia, speaking at the United Nations.

## HENDRIX BRASS CHOIR TO PRESENT TWO MAY 7 CONCERTS

The Hendrix College Brass Choir will give concerts on May 7 at the Markham United Methodist Church in Little Rock at 10:15 a.m. and the First United Methodist Church in Gurdon on May 7 at 6 p.m.

In each place the choir will present a concert entitled "The Use of Instruments in the Worship Service." Featured soloists are Mrs. Kay Speed and Miss Cathy Monroe of Conway, the organ accompaniment will be played by Miss Lynne Kibore of Fayetteville. There are 20 instrumentalists who will make the trip.

The Brass Choir is under the direction of Dr. Ashley Cottoman, head of the Hendrix College Music Department.

"The widespread revolt against the war in Vietnam in particular, and war in general, is shaking America as never before. Youth especially are being heard and our elected representatives in government are getting the message. It's our guess that this nation psychologically is further from war than at any time in this century, notwithstanding what's going on in Vietnam, but because of it." — John I. Marvin, editor, Michigan Christian Advocate.

**LITTLE GIANT**  
FIBERGLASS  
SPIRES, CROSSES  
BAPTISTRIES  
WATER HEATERS  
Church credit plans available  
Free colored brochure  
**LITTLE GIANT MANUFACTURING CO.**  
Box 518 Orange, Texas 77630  
Phone 713 853 4245

## TOUR EUROPE WITH DR. EARL HUGHES

Visit Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Venice, Florence, Rome, Paris and Brussels.

15 days only \$849 — total cost

Free Brochure, Write: Wholesale Tours  
620 E. Broadway  
Forrest City, Ark. 72326

Also brochure on Mediterranean Cruise & Holy Land Tour.

## IF YOU CAN'T GIVE YOUR GRADUATE THE MOON . . .

how about a piece of this earth to call his own? A gift that can only appreciate in value. 1 to 5 acres, \$699 to \$3995. Near fishing, swimming, boating on Greer's Ferry. Best buys in area. Let me show you. W. O. Scroggin, Lake Shore Hills, Rt. One, Higden, Ar. 72067. 825-6995. Office on Hwy. 92 at Van Buren/Cleburne county line. Free brochure.





Some of the Persons who attended the Arts and Crafts show at Hawley United Methodist Church in Pine Bluff on April 22. Winners in the various categories were chosen by members of the Brush and Palette Club of Pine Bluff, and their work was entered in the Pine Bluff District Art Show held at First Church in Stuttgart on April 30. Winning art work from the district showings will be on display at the Little Rock Annual Conference which will be in session at First United Methodist Church in Little Rock from May 22-25. The Rev. John Walker is pastor at Hawley.

†

### Both Power and Danger in Prayer

FERNDALDE, Mich. (RNS) — A United Methodist layman who died of terminal illness in February had counseled his friends not to pray for his recovery because it might damage their faith if he did not survive.

At a memorial service held for the late George Wells at First United Methodist church, here, the Rev. Joseph T. Edwards read a letter Mr. Wells had written to a member of his Sunday School class which had been praying for his recovery.

In the letter, recently reprinted in the (United Methodist) Michigan Advocate, the 56-year-old layman said:

"It occurs to me there is not only power in prayer, but danger as well. Numerous friends brought me articles about faith and the fact that if I would simply and absolutely trust God

he would make me well.

"I know that these dear friends did not realize that such a statement carries with it the implication that if you do not recover, your faith was too weak, you simply did not trust God enough.

"I have complete faith in the ability of God to perform a miracle and cause me to jump up and start running once again, if He chose to do so."

Mr. Wells added, however, that he saw no reason why God should perform a miracle on him since others were "far more deserving."

Therefore, he told the student, "you must be prepared for the probability that your prayers for my recovery will be denied and if it be so, you must not let this shake your faith."

†

## Poetry Panorama

by Barbara L. Mulkey

Thomas a Kempis was a medieval Christian religious writer, the author of *Imitation of Christ*, one of the most famous devotional books ever written. He has written . . . "Those who feel the gale of the Holy Spirit go forward even in sleep."

### Sundown

I walk into the end of day  
With heart atuned, expectant, glad;  
The once that I shall pass this way  
Must not be tinged with grief, nor sad.

For life is but a resting place  
Of souls before eternity —  
The waning spiral leaves no trace,  
Excepting death's serenity.

I see the evening as a dawn —  
One moment resting on the air  
As frozen as a startled fawn,  
When all of birth and death is there.

Why dwell on such, or fear the grave —  
A cradle and a stepping stone,  
As morning unto day, to pave  
The way. I shall not walk alone.

—by Etta Caldwell Harris

### A Prayer

God fill my heart with heavenly prayers,  
That I may overcome my cares.  
Please help my spirit take its flight  
To endless realms both day and night.  
And when the golden day appears,  
The sun to out shine all my fears.  
May your good and godly grace  
Replace the frown upon my face.  
And when I cross the great divide,  
I hope to talk close by thy side.

—by Leota Taylor

## WORLD SERVICE BULLETIN

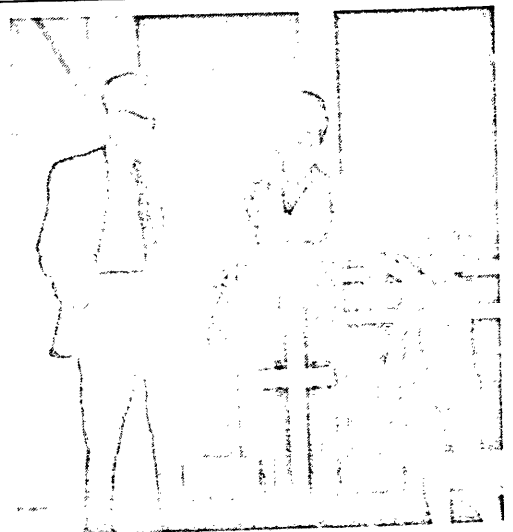
COUNCIL ON WORLD SERVICE AND FINANCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
R. BRYAN BRAUNER Treasurer 1200 Davis Street, Evanston, Illinois

BENEVOLENCE FUNDS	MONTH			FISCAL YEAR		
	March 1971	March 1972	Percent Increase (Decrease)	Thru March 1971	Thru March 1972	Percent Increase (Decrease)
World Service.....	1,740,815.79	1,619,903.32	(6.95)	2,727,387.97	2,703,127.83	(0.89)
General Advance Specials						
World Missions .....	456,360.62	349,877.46	(23.33)	1,925,042.29	1,744,018.77	(9.40)
National Missions.....	124,712.81	123,533.61	(0.95)	518,949.78	565,657.90	9.00
Overseas Relief .....	91,187.79	69,670.97	(23.60)	502,486.94	355,174.54	(29.32)
One Great Hour						
of Sharing .....	35,817.61	64,781.67	80.87	44,755.17	73,993.59	65.33
World Communion .....	21,358.95	15,843.48	(25.82)	41,286.78	40,765.71	(1.26)
World Service Specials .....	5,678.43	4,347.72	(23.43)	19,490.43	19,642.72	0.78
Temporary General Aid .....	69,140.81	58,534.45	(15.34)	118,549.50	102,153.22	(13.83)
Fund for Reconciliation .....	131,293.50	163,869.17	24.81	207,530.63	260,675.86	25.61
Ministerial Education .....	335,723.50	284,394.00	(15.29)	733,224.46	593,166.23	(19.10)
Race Relations .....	86,401.92	138,970.78	60.84	116,926.87	195,838.78	67.49
U. M. Student Day .....	10,885.63	6,799.90	(37.53)	20,985.36	22,280.56	6.17
Youth Service Fund .....	19,717.17	14,336.66	(27.29)	30,355.47	28,850.59	(4.96)
Bishops' Appeal for Pakistan .....		384,286.80			1,010,764.68	
ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS						
Episcopal Fund Receipts ...	266,396.02	247,816.91	(6.97)	455,455.76	439,222.65	(3.56)
General Administration						
Fund Receipts .....	130,090.39	106,152.96	(18.40)	221,085.03	202,616.47	(8.35)
Interdenominational						
Cooperation Fund .....	53,052.10	41,450.46	(21.87)	92,403.24	82,659.86	(10.54)

We were quite disappointed in receipts to World Service in the month of March after the excellent showing in February. Our hope was, of course, that we could go to General Conference with World Service payments greater than for the same period last year. Although the decline is less than 1%, it is nevertheless a decline, and even though we have General Conference, all of the general agencies require just as much or more funding.

We have been delighted with the response to the Special Appeal for Pakistan to which receipts are now in excess of a million dollars. We have also been quite happy about the trend in the payments to the Fund for Reconciliation. There has been a substantial increase over the same period last year. The same can be said about Race Relations Offering.

The leadership of the church must accept the responsibility for its financial health. As we approach annual conference time, all of us should be very keenly aware of this responsibility.



The "teaching stand" shown here was crafted by E. O. Davis of Sylvan Hills United Methodist Church from a piece of walnut donated by John Page of Dover United Methodist Church and presented to the Women's Class at Mt. Zion Church, near Lonoke after Mrs. Jackie Walker (at center) teacher of the class, mentioned her need for such a piece of equipment in casual conversation at her work one day. Sharing in her admiration of the gift are J. B. Glover (left) and a youthful member of the Mt. Zion congregation. A contribution will be made to the Arkansas Methodist Children's Home in Little Rock in appreciation to the donors of the stand.