

KEY 73 TV SPECIAL

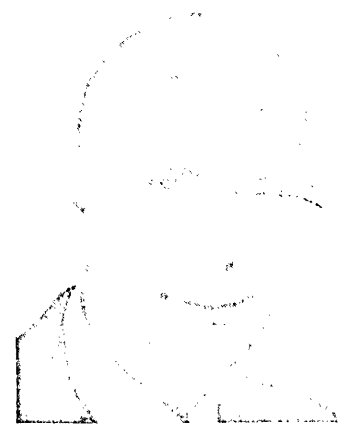
KATV, television channel 7, Little Rock, will carry the Launch TV Special for Key 73 entitled, "Faith in Action" at 6:30 p.m., Friday, January 5, 1973. Please share the news with all United Methodist congregations and other denominations.

Arkansas Methodist

91st YEAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1972

NO. 50



Dr. Kersh

North Arkansas

Mission Rally scheduled

Local church leaders who are interested in the global outreach of the church will be attending a Mission Rally for the North Arkansas Conference to be held at First United Methodist Church, North Little Rock, Jan. 9, beginning at 7 p.m.

Featured speakers for the rally will include Bishop Eugene M. Frank, Dr. J. Harry Haines, executive secretary of the Methodist Commission on Relief, and Larry Asher, missionary from Kansas who serves on the staff of the Boys Boarding School at Pakarah, Nepal.

Dr. Haines will be discussing the latest challenges of his agency, especially the work already underway for the rehabilitation of war-torn Vietnam.

The school in which Mr. Asher works is a joint mission project of the North Arkansas and Little Rock An-

Please turn to page 5

NEXT ISSUE JANUARY 4, 1973

Following our custom of other years, we will not publish during the week in which Christmas occurs. The next issue you receive will be dated Jan. 4, 1973. Sunday School lessons for Dec. 31 and Jan. 7 appear on pages 8 and 9 of this issue. Bible readings for period from Dec. 24 through Jan. 7 may be found on page 6.

Aldersgate Camp publishing "The Gateway" newsletter

The first issue of a new Methodist publication is off the press. Volume I, Number 1 of the four page news sheet "The Gateway" gives information about Aldersgate Methodist Camp in Little Rock. Aldersgate is the only agency in Arkansas supported (in part) by the National Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

The camp budget is printed in the newsletter. Over the 25 years of its existence, the camp has increased its budget from "near nothing with no paid staff" to the current \$81,700, with \$86,900 projected for 1973. When the budget reached \$30,000, the Board of Missions was paying about 90% of the total, in addition to appropriations for buildings. Today, the National Division is paying only 12% of the budget. Local churches and individuals have contributed \$24,000, whereas camp earnings have amounted to \$47,700 this year.

The report of Camp Director Ray Tribble, ACSW, reveals that 1,400 persons were served during the summer months, for a total of 20,000 camper days. In addition to serving United Methodist churches and members, the camp had contracts with: Arkansas Social Services, Pulaski County Health and Welfare Council, the YWCA, Arkansas Council of Churches, and the V.A. Hospital.

The column by Board President

Thomas P. Williams, Jr., looks to the future, with such visions as an Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Village, an Aldersgate Nursing facility, and an Aldersgate Chapel in the Woods.

The Newsletter also give information about the new program recently inaugurated with headquarters at Aldersgate. That is the Environmental Education program begun in September by the Little Rock Public Schools. Offices for the seven-member staff are located in the Matkin Building at Aldersgate. Classes in each three-week unit make a field trip to the camp from various schools. This is funded by Title IV-A federal money. (More about this program is printed in a related article on page 7.)

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors has been changed from April to January. It will be held on Thursday, Jan. 11, in Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church. The dinner meeting is open to guests, with advance reservations.

Copies of the Newsletter are still being mailed, and those desiring to be placed on the mailing list should write to the camp office at 2000 Aldersgate Road, Little Rock, 72205.

Edited by Mr. Tribble and Dr. Erwin L. McDonald, the publication will be printed only three times a year.

†

Hendrix professor new Tech president

Dr. Kenneth Kersh, chairman of the education department at Hendrix College, has been named to succeed Dr. George L. B. Pratt as president of Arkansas Polytechnic College in Russellville.

A native of Fort Smith, and a 1954 graduate of Tech, Dr. Kersh came to Hendrix in 1971 after serving as dean and director of graduate studies at Pembroke State University in North Carolina.

He received his Master of Arts in Education at the University of Arkansas in 1959 and his Doctor of Education from the University in 1966.

After teaching for six years in Arkansas, Texas and Arizona public schools, Kersh joined the faculty of Pembroke State in 1961.

A native of Fort Smith, he is mar-

Please turn to page 5

FROM THE
TREASURER'S OFFICE:
TO ALL LOCAL CHURCH
TREASURERS AND MINIS-
TERS:

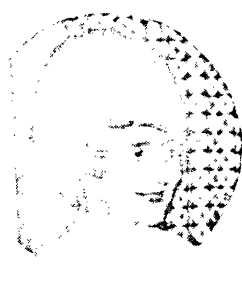
You are reminded that all apportionments for the fiscal year, 1972, are due on or before December 31, 1972.

Wishing You the Blessings of this Holy Season

Your Arkansas Methodist staff



Alfred Knox
Editor



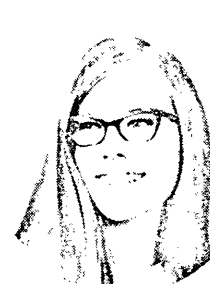
Doris Woolard
Associate Editor



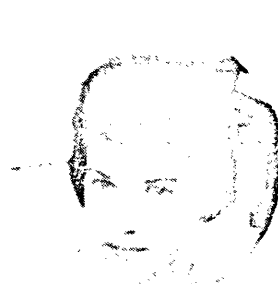
Imogene Knox
Women's Editor



Kathleen Storey
Office Secretary

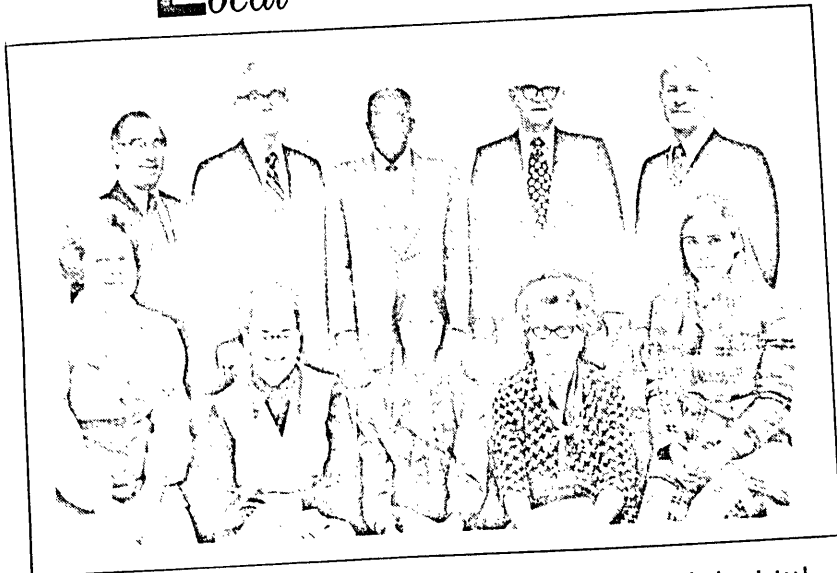


Karen Compton
Editorial Assistant



Jane Raiford
Circulation Assistant

Council Directors to Local Churches



Staff members for the North Arkansas Conference and the Little Rock Conference Councils on Ministries, who share a suite of offices in the new United Methodist Headquarters Building at 715 Center Street in Little Rock. The North Arkansas Conference staff includes (BACK ROW, left to right) Dr. Harold Eggensperger, director; the Rev. Arvill Brannon, associate director; the Rev. John Thompson, associate director (in both conferences); (FRONT ROW, left to right) Vina Calhoun, secretary, and Janice Parks, associate secretary. The Little Rock Conference staff includes (BACK ROW, second from left) the Rev. Alf Eason, director; the Rev. Joe Arnold (right), associate director; (FRONT ROW, second from right) Mrs. John L. Tucker, conference director of Children's Work; Mary Katherine Gould (right), secretary, and Martha Hambrick (center), associate secretary.

Christmas Greetings 1972

Christmas is almost here! Already our hearts thrill with the warmth and the happiness of the season. In millions of homes and hundreds of thousands of Churches the gospel story of the birth of our Lord is being read to starry-eyed children. Smiles light our faces, and strangers speak — somehow stirred until the best of human personality stands forth.

We rejoice as we recognize the wonder of the first Christmas gift: Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Because of Him, our sins may be forgiven; and there is a deathlessness about our hope for eternal salvation. Because of Him, little children are loved, and homes are cherished. Because of Him, hospitals minister to the sick, and charitable institutions across our land meet the needs of suffering humanity.

We delight in the Spirit of the Eternal Christ, and have recognized His Presence in our Churches many times during the year. We have experienced the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and have felt our hearts burn within us. We have seen men and women and children find abiding salvation at our altars. We have been moved to give of our material means for the advancement of His work. We have shared that which we have possessed with the needy people of the world. God has been good to us! Let us look forward to the accomplishment of greater things for Him in the coming year.

Your Conference Council on Ministries is designed to help you as you initiate program activities that help to fulfill your mission. Your Conference Staff Members are more than willing to assist you in every way possible. We are eager to work with you. Our wish for each of you is a most joyous Christmas; and the consciousness of the presence of the ever-living Christ all through the New Year.

Alf A. Eason
Joe E. Arnold
Mrs. John L. Tucker
Mary Katherine Gould
Martha Hambrick

Harold O. Eggensperger
Arvill Brannon
John H. Thompson
Vina Calhoun
Janice Parks



Aldersgate Camp aids public school program on environment

An Environmental Education program at Aldersgate Methodist Camp has been in progress since September. It is a project of the Little Rock School District and is funded by Title IV-A for three years. This type of program is described as rapidly becoming one of our nation's major curricular concerns. It is not a body of information so much as a process which increases awareness of the complexities of the environment, stimulates inquires into the problems of the environment, and motivates action to solve them.

The staff, comprised of a coordinator, three teachers, three aides, secretary, and custodian, has offices in the Matkin Building at Aldersgate. The program is designed for grades 5 through 12 in the public schools, but is directed toward only grades 5 and 10 in this the first year. During a three-week unit, each class will take two field trips, one to Aldersgate Camp to study a more natural environment, and one around Little Rock to study the city's environmental problems.

The staff is responsible for developing the teaching units used, for assembling the resource materials needed, for training the teachers to lead the units, for assisting individual teachers in their classrooms when such help is requested, and for conducting field trips.

The tenth grade unit has already been taught at Parkview High, Hall High and Central High.

Curriculum guides were developed during a two week workshop held at Aldersgate in August under the leadership of an environmental education consultant from the University of

Michigan.

Environmental education is considered interdisciplinary, centering on the study of the total environment — biophysical, social, economic and political. It emphasizes the study of the student's immediate environment — the school site, neighborhood and community, with as many outdoor learning experiences as possible; utilizes student and community involvement at all stages of the process, emphasizes interrelationships of living and non-living components of the environment; and expects students to assume responsibility for some aspects of environmental control and improvement.

Three unifying concepts have been used in developing the curriculum guides for the Little Rock program. As given in the recent "Environmental Education Newsletter", these are: Concept I, "Interdependence", the living organisms of spaceship-earth are interdependent and interact with one another and with the environment, using and sharing resources which are, in many instances, approaching depletion at this time; Concept II, "Modification", man is able to change the environment in such a way that will either maintain or interfere with natural processes and cycles; Concept III, "Responsibility", man must understand that his cultural, economic, social and political decisions affect and determine the balance or imbalance of the environment. He must realize the importance of natural and man-made recycling as a necessity for survival, and must assume responsibility for the restoration of the balance of nature.



Aldersgate Methodist Camp's lakeside cross is the setting for this class from the Little Rock Public Schools, as the members make a study of the environment in a natural setting. The school program has a staff of seven persons, headquartered at Aldersgate Camp.

News in Brief

The Oklahoma Supreme Court has ruled that property of Oklahoma Methodist Manor in Tulsa, a United Methodist-related retirement facility,

is not subject to ad valorem taxation. A district court earlier held that such taxes were due on all property on the 40-acre tract except a chapel.

DECEMBER 21, 1972

Guest editorial

by Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden
(Pastor, First United Methodist
Church, Little Rock)

If You Look Far Enough

Psalm 121
Hebrews 12: 1-2

During the depression, one of our ministers received an appointment in a poor little country circuit in the Ozark Mountains. The family had to make a readjustment as they came to the new work and it presented a traumatic experience for the pastor, his wife, and the children.

The charge was situated in a beautiful valley in the Ozarks. One day, soon after their move, the family was sitting on the front porch of the parsonage. A child of the home looked pensively across the valley to the great mountain beyond and said, "You know, Dad, it's really pretty here if you look far enough." I think I see a lesson in living here. More than that, an earthy articulation of a truth, deeply imbedded in Christian thought and conduct.

Speaking of the Conference, I was reading the Memoirs in the 1889 Little Rock Conference Journal recently. The Rev. John J. Jenkins was memorialized. Brother H. H. Watson was attending him in his last moments. He said to the dying preacher, "Do you have any messages?" Brother Jenkins responded, "Nothing, only I am trusting in Jesus, and I leave my family in the hands of the good Lord and the Little Rock Conference." I thought to myself, 'I would hate to leave my family in the care of the Little Rock Conference—our pension system being what it is'.

This young boy of the Conference had a message for us, as young people so often do. "It is pretty here if you look far enough." One of the primary emphases of the teachings of Jesus is an insistence on the validity of the future, a hope for better days, that is, a looking ahead. Indeed, this is the whole thrust of the Advent Season.

Christ's coming encourages us to look ahead and up. First, we are encouraged to look ahead. The Bible gives evidence of this hope from beginning to end. The people of the Old Testament literally stayed alive, actually survived, by their expectation of

a Messiah. The New Testament speaks of the New Age and the dream of a better day. They all bore their misery and distress of the moment because of their vision of the future. "It is pretty here if you look far enough."

At times in Christian history, this goal has been over-emphasized, of course. It is the 'pie-in-the-sky when you die' theology. Do not worry about anything today; do not be concerned about enormous social and personal problems; just remember the future is in God's hands. The people of American slavery drowned their sorrows in a religion that promised a land that is 'fairer than day', and it was reflected in their spirituals pouring out of the heart of a people—"All God's children will have robes and wear dem golden slippers."

But, when the New Testament speaks of hope, it never forgets the present. Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God on Earth and in Heaven, and he did not put his total trust in one at the cost of the other. The Christian has an abiding faith in the future that sustains him because he believes with all of man's fumbling and sin, that the future is in God's hands.

Second, the Christian looks up. It is fascinating how a person reflects his mood in subtle ways. A human being walking down the street fixes his eyes on the ground, his shoulder is stooped, he cannot see ahead. Another, head erect, looks to the front of him. He relays his emotion of hope in his very stride. The old American folk song calls upon us to "look down, look down that lonesome road; look up, look up, and see your Maker."

Anyone who has his eyes fixed on the everyday existence is bound to be more deeply disturbed at what happens at a given moment. The little disappointments and failures of life throw him off balance. He is defeated because this particular thing did not work out and that disappointment disturbs him. But when he sees the whole scope

of life, the wide sweep of it, what happens at the moment does not seem so vital and he is able to bear these things better.

One such man was George Washington Carver. He was one of the first of his race to champion the cause of the black man's chance. He was born in the last year of slavery, 1864, near Diamond Grove, Missouri. He was a child with an eager curiosity and a burning desire to learn. He managed to receive enough preparatory education to enter Iowa State College where he majored in agronomy, the science of agriculture dealing with the best use of the soil. He went as a teacher to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. There he spent years in research to find some way to provide improvement of the soil for the southern Negro. He hit upon the lowliest of products, the humble peanut. His research eventually developed more than forty different by-products of the peanut which not only provided food but restored thin southern soil, worn out by too many years of cotton. Before his death in 1943, he received honors all over the world.

Dr. C. M. Reves told me a story that is tender and poignant. He said that while he was pastor of Boston Avenue Church in Tulsa a black man, well-dressed and of neat appearance came to his office in the church one day, introduced himself, and asked if he could look at the church. He said he had heard a great deal

about its beauty. If you remember Dr. Reves, you know he was the very soul of grace and courtesy. He took the man through the building and when he prepared to leave, Dr. Reves said to him, "What did you say your name is?" "Carver," the man answered. "Carver"? asked Dr. Reves, "not George Washington Carver?" "Yes," responded the visitor, "George Washington Carver."

Carver was a man who looked up and ahead. Things that happened to him as a child would have crushed a lesser man, but he had a goal set before him that made the little disappointments of life less burdensome.

Well, whatever happened about the parsonage family? Slowly, they climbed back to places of prominence and strength. All the children became responsible adults. And the family rose above their disappointment of the moment. The boy was right, "It's pretty here if you look far enough."

Advent is the season of looking ahead and looking up. Christ is coming; what matter if this particular or that special desire fails? The Epistle To the Hebrews said of Christ, "Who, for the goal set before him, endured the Cross, despising the shame." It is pretty here if you look far enough.

†

Editor and Business Manager: ALFRED A. KNOX
Associate Editor: DORIS WOOLARD
Woman's Editor: IMOGENE KNOX
Poetry Editor: BARBARA L. MULKEY
Editorial Assistant: KAREN COMPTON
Office Secretary: KATHLEEN STOREY

Contributing Editors: CECIL BLAND, J. WOODROW HEARN,
HOWARD MILO, DON COTTRILL, ALF A. EASON, JOE E. ARNOLD,
HAROLD EGGENSERGER, ARVILL C. BRANNON,

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 — \$3.00 per year

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

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

MEMBER: Associated Church Press, United Methodist Press Association, and news sources including United Methodist Information (UMI), United Methodist Board of Missions, National Council of Churches, and Religious News Service (RNS).

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

news and views

OF THE WORLD OF RELIGION

by doris woolard

An editorial in the evangelical journal *Christianity Today* says that though evangelical Christians believe they must share the good news of the coming of the Messiah with all people, including Jews, the strategy of the Key 73 evangelistic program does not envision Jews as a special category. "Evangelicals believe strongly that the Jew Jesus is the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament Scriptures," says the editorial which appears in the Dec. 8 issue of the publication. "They believe that the Messiah many Jews look for to enter Jerusalem's closed gate has already come and that they must share this good news with everyone they meet, including Jews."

Geologist Dr. Harrison Schmitt, the first full-fledged scientist-astronaut, one of three astronauts participating in the Apollo 17 moon voyage, is listed as a Methodist in a late Religious News Service release. Selected as an astronaut in 1965, he took part in photo and telescopic mapping of the moon and instructed astronauts during their geological field trips. Navy Capt. Eugene Cernan, the mission commander is listed as a Roman Catholic who belongs to the Ellington Air Force Base Chapel parish where he serves as a lector (reader of scripture) at Mass. No religious affiliation was given for Navy Cmdr. Ronald Evans, command module pilot.

Addressing 1000 church and civic dignitaries in an unprecedented public meeting described as dedicated to the protection of the family "as the center of Christian society," Cardinal John Hoenan of Westminster said: "The family may be attacked with every form of licence but it must survive if our civilization is to endure." He told the assemblage, meeting at Central Hall, British Methodism's Westminster headquarter and conference center, "We are here to safeguard the family, the source of every healthy society. We shall not do so by abandoning all restraint, not by rewriting the 10 Commandments, but by making heard the voice of God and of responsible citizenship."

For the first time, according to statistics released by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the U.S. birth rate has dropped below the so-called replacement level necessary to achieve Zero Population Growth (ZPG). The data show that for 19 consecutive months the birth rate has declined and that for the first nine months of 1972 the birth rate was 2.08 children per family. This is below the 2.1 figure said to be necessary for eventual zero population growth. At a lower than 2.1 rate, the population will eventually do no more than replace itself—the goal of the ZPG movement.

A French-Canadian Presbyterian, the Rev. Jean Porret, of Montreal, told the Canadian Council of Churches that the prospect for survival of French-speaking Protestants in Quebec is bleak. In an interview, he said that about 6,000 French-speaking Protestants in the predominantly Roman Catholic Province may not be able to survive the impact of English language and culture.

Father Jack Wintz, O.F.M., writing in a church publication on "The Gift Plot," says there are "several conspiracies afoot threatening the very possibility of giving a gift." "The solution, of course, is not to stop giving gifts or even to stop buying them, but to make sure there's meaning in them," he said.

Jerusalem's Mayor Teddy Kollek, addressing the Municipal Council of Jerusalem, said he is opposed to any plan that would incorporate the city of Bethlehem within the Jerusalem municipal area . . . He said, "The (Arab) citizens of Bethlehem do not want to be incorporated within Jerusalem. They deserve to be an independent community . . ." Bethlehem, in Israeli-occupied Jordan, is just south of Jerusalem. Meanwhile, the Arab Mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Farigm, has appealed to "the world Christian community" to help the economic progress of the city which he said "has greater religious significance to Christians than Rome."

The President of the Southern Baptist Convention has challenged its members to raise a volunteer mission force of 5,000 to meet the needs of persons in the U.S. and overseas. Owen Cooper, in a talk before that church's Home Mission Bd., noted that the denomination's rate of growth has gone down in recent years. The Baptist layman, who plans to retire from the presidency of a chemical corporation next year, suggested that a good deal of the missionary manpower could come from the 80,000 Southern Baptists who reach retirement age each year.

Dr. Philip Potter, Methodist from the West Indies and newly elected general secretary of the World Council of Churches, speaking to an ecumenical group in Winnipeg, Manitoba, challenged Churches to work together in evolving new attitudes for tackling such problems as poverty. He said that church participation in the self-development of peoples becomes meaningful only when "our hierarchal, bureaucratic structures are broken down."

Giving her last major address as president of the Nat'l. Council of Churches in Dallas, Tex., Dr. Cynthia Wedel said she has gathered three impressions and "firm convictions" in her wide travels and many contacts across the past three years. The "beginning stages of a great revival of religion" was one of the three; the other two convictions were that "the ecumenical movement is here to stay" and that the church as a formal structure "run by the few" is becoming more decentralized and open to the many."

Statistical projections for the Southern Baptist Convention indicate that by the end of 1972 it will have passed the 12 million mark in membership and the \$1 billion mark in total receipts. Projections from 26,337 congregations include probable increases in baptisms, church membership, Sunday School enrollment, church music enrollment, mission expenditures, and total financial receipts.

In Charlotte, N.C. Christmas Eve carolers will be led by Roman Catholic Bishop Michael J. Begley and United Methodist Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr., in a visitation at the Mecklenburg County jail. They will tote "sacks of treats" and tell the prisoners about God's love for them. The sacks containing candy and fruit, prepared by members of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, will be given out as the clerics and college students visit with prisoners.

The baptism of believers, which has been performed for a century or so in the River Lark at Isleham in Cambridgeshire, England, has now been banned by the local Baptist minister, the Rev. Tom Chipper. He says the pollution of the river means that people come out of the water, after baptism, "smelling of anything but violets."

Six Presbyterian congregations, some of which have withdrawn from the Presbyterian Church, U.S. (Southern), announced in Savannah, Ga., the formation of a Vanguard Presbytery. Dr. L. Nelson Bell, moderator of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. and father-in-law of evangelist Billy Graham, although considered a theological "conservative," has opposed the breakaway movements of such groups.

Faced with an impasse on a proposed convention on religious intolerance, the United Nations overrode strong Communist objections and decided to work out at least a declaration on the subject next year. The Soviet Union proposed several amendments to change the course of the pro-Western resolution, but all were defeated, according to a Religious News Service report.

Anglican Bishop Maurice Wood, has recommended in Norwich, England, the formation of a "Parents Anonymous" organization patterned after the Alcoholics Anonymous self-help program—an organization to which parents could turn when there is a breakdown in the parent-child relationship in the home. History, as well as theology, suggests that the breakup of family life leads to the suicide of a nation, Bishop Wood said.

A group of Soviet Jews in Moscow has asked the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Organization (UNESCO) to sponsor a Moscow center for Hebrew studies. Israeli Radio said the group declared that many Soviet Jews want to master the Hebrew language and read Jewish literature and history. The signers of the appeal were quoted as saying, "Such desires are expressive of a natural, basic right of every man, embodied in UNESCO documents and ratified by many states, including the USSR. "However," the appeal continued, "Jews living in Moscow had nowhere to go—even to hear the Hebrew alphabet."

A joint effort in developing Christian education materials is being sponsored by two Lutheran Churches and the Church of South India. At a consultation in Guntur, India, representatives of the three church bodies developed a proposal to implement a curriculum development program and submitted it to the three India Churches. If approved, a first strategy and planning workshop will be held in October 1973.

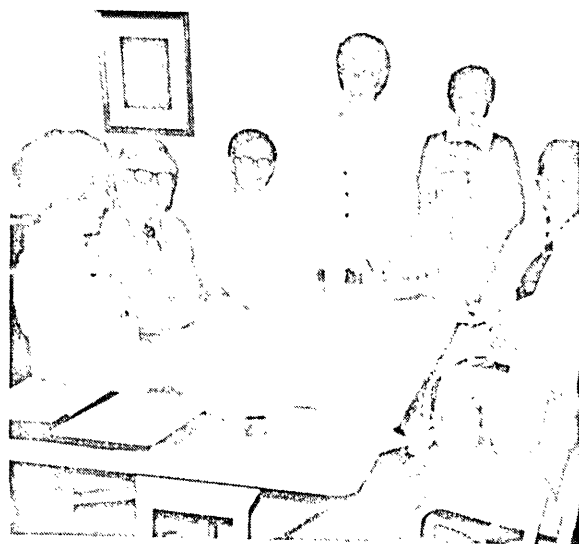
(RNS Photo)



INDIANAPOLIS — Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, 50, is the official nominee to succeed Dr. A. Dale Fiers as chief executive of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Currently head of the denomination's Texas region, Dr. Teegarden was selected by a screening committee of the Disciples Administrative Committee after a year's search. The nominee was an aide to Dr. Fiers from 1965 to 1969 and played a major role in shaping a new structure for the denomination, which has 1.4 million members in the U.S. and Canada.

Scenes from Little Rock District Mission Workshop

Participants in Little Rock District Mission Workshop held at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Dec. 7. The event, directed by the Rev. Albert M. Elder, Bryant, was planned to aid workers in churchwide mission studies. Instructors were Dr. Edward Hollenbeck of Benton, leader for study on "Romans"; Mrs. Pat Paulus of Bryant, "Faith and Justice"; Mrs. E. T. Davenport of Little Rock, "India"; Mrs. Charles Jones of Little Rock, Children's Division. FAR LOWER RIGHT photo (left to right): Dr. Edward Dunlap, Little Rock District superintendent, the Rev. Al Elder, Dr. Joe Taylor, Trinity Church, Little Rock, and the Rev. Alf De Black, St. Luke's Church, Little Rock engage in conversation during break.



ALBERT MATTINGLY GUICE

Albert Mattingly Guice, age 58, of Hot Springs, died Nov. 9, 1972 at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Mo., where he had been a patient since Sept. 15. He had entered the hospital for lung surgery.

He was a son of the Rev. C. Norman Guice of Conway, now a resident of the Presbyterian Village in Little Rock and the late Mrs. Erma Tucker Guice. Mr. Guice, a long time member of the North Arkansas Conference, will celebrate his 93rd birthday on January 11.

Albert Guice was born in Canton, Miss., Nov. 20, 1913, and lived in Conway while attending school. He graduated from Atkins High School and attended Hendrix College and the University of Arkansas Law School.

Mr. Guice moved to Hot Springs following his marriage to the former Lynn Howlett of Hot Springs. He owned and operated the Howlett Laundry and Linen Company until his retirement in 1964.

He was a veteran of World War II. He was a former president of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and the Toastmasters Club, and member of the Jaycees. He was presented an award of merit in 1953 from the Civic Clubs of Hot Springs, a certificate of merit in 1959 and 1961. He was a director of the Arkansas Bank and Trust Company and a Trustee of the Hot Springs YWCA.

Mr. Guice was a very active member of the First United Methodist Church in Hot Springs, where he had served in various capacities.

Survivors include his wife, his father, two brothers, Dr. John A. Guice of

DECEMBER 21, 1972

Mena Presbyterians and Methodists share in Key 73 effort

The congregations of First United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church of Mena began the first phase of the Key 73 evangelism effort on Sunday evening, Dec. 2 with a joint study of "Key to Luke, Part I." The two churches will continue the Sunday evening studies together at First United Methodist Church throughout the month, except for December 24, when the two churches will conduct their own Christmas eve services.

The joint effort will continue into 1973 with the study of "Key to Luke, Part II." These sessions will be held at the Presbyterian Church.

The cooperating pastors are the Rev. Osborne White of the United Methodist Church, and the Rev. Francis Holt of the Presbyterian Church.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL PROGRAM ORGANIZED AT FIRST CHURCH, LITTLE ROCK

First United Methodist Church of Little Rock has organized a girls' basketball team. They are interested in finding other girls' teams to play. If you have a team or are interested in playing basketball, call Steve Evans, Activities Director, at First Church, 372-2256.

Kansas City, Mo., and Dr. C. Norman Guice, Jr. of Detroit, Michigan; and a sister, Mrs. Erma G. Buthman of Conway; four nephews and four nieces.

from page one

MISSION RALLY

nual Conferences for the next quadrennium, and so will be a timely topic for the United Methodists of Arkansas.

The Rev. Bob Edwards of Jacksonville, conference missionary secretary, said that it is hoped that every local church will be represented by the pastor, the chairman of the missions work group, leaders of the United Methodist Women, and all others with a missionary concern.

from page one

TECH PRESIDENT

ried to the former Nancy Lou Graham of Pine Ridge. They are the parents of four children, Graham, 16; Richard, 14; Kimberly, 12; and Georgia, 2.

Hendrix President Dr. Roy B. Shilling, Jr., said he "rejoiced for Dr. Kenneth Kersh and his family, and we share the joy of our sister institution in Russellville over their good fortune.

Dr. Kersh will assume his new duties as soon as details can be worked out at Hendrix for another professor to assume his duties there.

The only niece living in Arkansas is Mrs. Robert McHenry of Little Rock, a daughter of the late Mrs. Frances G. Darr.

POWER MAGAZINE CHANGES FORMAT, NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

POWER magazine, an ecumenical daily devotional for youth published quarterly by Christian Youth Publications in St. Louis, Mo., has been given a new larger size, 5½ x 7", more photographs and art work, and greater use of color throughout. The October-November-December 1972 issue is the first issue incorporating the new design.

POWER magazine was initiated in 1941 by the former National Council on Youth Ministry of The United Methodist Church. It was made an ecumenical publication in 1960 when Christian Youth Publications was formed from members of the youth departments of six participating denominations.

POWER is published "for youth by youth" and is intended to be a resource for meditation.

The publication has retained its general content. The devotionals consist of contributions from youth throughout the country which take the form of poetry, short essays, parables, proverbs, songs, or extended metaphors.

POWER is available now at new rates: 55 cents per single copy; 45 cents for 5 or more copies to a single address; \$2.20 for one year's subscription; 10 or more to one address, \$1.80 per subscription. To place orders or for further information, write The United Methodist Church, POWER, Post Office Box 871, Nashville, Tenn. 37202.

NEWS NOTES

THE EAST END MINISTERIAL and Layman's Alliance of North Little Rock held the Dec. 12 meeting in Washington Avenue United Methodist Church. Inspector David Bentley of the Little Rock Police Department was the speaker. A singing group from the Police Department provided entertainment.

A YOUTH CRUSADE held Saturday, Dec. 16, in Hot Springs at the First Pentecostal Church featured a Methodist layman, E. H. "Tank" Harrison, who was with the Memphis Police Department before retiring to give full time to lay evangelistic work.

"A CEREMONY OF CAROLS" by Benjamin Britten was presented in Trinity United Methodist Church of Little Rock on Sunday morning, Dec. 10. Directed by Harry Scher, the Chancel Choir was accompanied by Sue Taylor on the harp. Theresa Brown was the featured soloist. Doris Woolard, managing editor of the Arkansas Methodist, and her husband, Dr. Harold I. Woolard, sing regularly with the Trinity Choir. The Rev. Joseph E. Taylor is the Trinity pastor, and the Rev. Charles E. Watt is his associate.

THE SHERIDAN United Methodist Choirs sang the cantata "God's Son is Born" by Hoffman, at the Sunday evening service, Dec. 10, under the direction of Mrs. James Gibbons. Mrs. Robert Reeves is organist at Sheridan and the Rev. Jack A. Wilson is pastor. The Baptist congregation visited the performance, and in exchange, the Methodists attended the Baptist cantata the following Sunday.

THE HOPE DISTRICT Youth Rally will be held Dec. 29 and 30 at First United Methodist Church in Hope. A feature of the rally will be the appearance of the Rev. Charles Geller, young gospel song evangelist. Host pastor will be the Rev. Norris Steele.



AT LEFT:

The Rev. and Mrs. George Martin unstuff the Christmas stockings presented to them full of "green stuff" from ministers of the Arkadelphia District, where Dr. Martin serves as district superintendent. The district Christmas party was held at the Wesley Foundation Building in Arkadelphia.

AT RIGHT: Mrs. John Miles, Ralph Hale, Dr. Martin and John Miles.
CENTER RIGHT: A general view.

IN MENA, MEMBERS of First United Methodist Church will gather in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. on Christmas Day for a worship service honoring the birth of the Saviour. This will be the fifth annual Christmas Day service to be held in Mena by the pastor, the Rev. Osborne White, and the congregation.

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED to Mrs. Harold Womack in the recent death of her mother, Mrs. Nettie Martin of Harrison. Mrs. Womack is a former president of the North Arkansas WSCS and is the wife of a retired minister living in North Little Rock.

THE REV. H. L. (Pop) Robinson, retired, of Clarendon, was guest speaker at the Sunday morning meeting of United Methodist Men in Marianna, Dec. 10.

A NEW PIANO for use in the Youth Department was given to Goddard Memorial Church, Fort Smith, by friends, members of the Senior UMY, and the family, in memory of Michael Lewis Maestri. The Rev. Archie N. Boyd made the dedication Dec. 10.

THE HARRISBURG PARSONAGE was dedicated during a Sunday afternoon service, Dec. 10, by Bishop Eugene M. Frank. A fellowship supper at the church followed, after which Bishop Frank preached at the evening service. The Rev. Tom Weir is the Harrisburg pastor.

SPECIAL MUSIC AT CONWAY'S First Church, Dec. 10, was accompanied by organ, flute, and trumpet. The Chancel Choir sang "God with Us" by Lloyd Pfausch. Dr. Ashley Coffman is director and Mrs. Elise Shoemaker is organist. Preceding the service, the Hendrix Brass Choir, directed by Dr. Coffman, gave a special program. The Rev. Ben Jordan is pastor.

BISHOP AUBREY G. WALTON, retired and living in Little Rock, was the speaker in Mabelvale United Methodist Church on Sunday morning, Dec. 17. He was introduced by William M. Shepherd, Little Rock Conference lay leader and member of the Mabelvale United Methodist Church.

AN INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE accompanied the Central Church Chancel Choir in the presentation of Heinrich Schutz' "The Christmas Story" in Fayetteville, Dec. 17. Jack Groh, tenor, of the University of Arkansas music faculty sang the role of the Evangelist. Paul D. Schultz is director of music in Central Church and Kenneth R. Osborne is organist.

HIGHLAND CHURCH MEMBERS heard the choirs present "King Forever" by Frank Cross, under the direction of Don Howard, Dec. 17, at the morning service. Mrs. Harold Wilson was organist. The Rev. Bryan Stephens is pastor.

THE CLARKSVILLE CHANCEL Choir presented "The Night the Angels Sang" by John Peterson at the Sunday evening service, Dec. 17. Mrs. Larry Hurst is the choir director and Mrs. Everett Stewart is the organist at First Church, Clarksville. The Rev. Clarence Wilcox is pastor.

THE POCAHONTAS CHURCH'S Chancel Choirs sang Handel's "The Messiah" at the Sunday morning service, Dec. 17. Mrs. Adrian White directed and Mrs. Vernon King was at the organ. The Rev. G. A. McKelvey is the pastor.

MARSHALL TOWNSEND directed the presentation of the cantata "The Saviour Has Come" in First Church, Benton, Sunday morning, Dec. 17. Singers were members of the Chancel and Wesley Choirs. At the evening service, three choirs participated: NOW Singers, Wesley Choir and Chimes Choir. Dr. Ed Hollenbeck is the Benton pastor.

A COMBINED CHOIR consisting of members of choirs from three churches in Malvern sang a Christmas cantata in First United Methodist Church under the direction of Arthur Honeychurch. Co-operating churches for the Dec. 17 performance were First Baptist, First Presbyterian, and First Methodist.

THE EUREKA SPRINGS United Methodist Church held a "Welcome To The Family" supper and Thanksgiving celebration, Nov. 26. Honored guests were the 14 people who had joined the church during the year. Special entertainment was provided by Cindy Peterson, a well known local folk singer. The pastor is the Rev. Du-Bois Pettit.

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.

Dec. 24—Sunday	Isa. 13:6-11
Dec. 25	Joel 2:1-11
Dec. 26	Joel 2:12-17
Dec. 27	Joel 2:25-32
Dec. 28	Zech. 14:1-9
Dec. 29	Matt. 25:31-46
Dec. 30	Rev. 11:15-19
Dec. 31—Sunday	Rev. 22:16-21
Jan. 1	Matt. 11:25-30
Jan. 2	Is. 1:16-20
Jan. 3	Is. 55:1-3, 6-9
Jan. 4	Is. 48:10-18
Jan. 5	Deut. 30:11-14
Jan. 6	Deut. 30:15-20
Jan. 7—Sunday	Psalms 8:1-9

THE REV. JEFF SHERMAN NOTES 95th BIRTHDAY

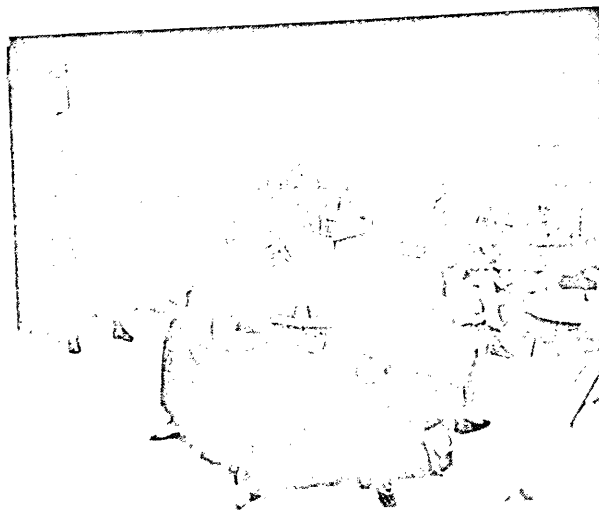
The Rev. Jefferson Sherman was honored on the occasion of his 95th birthday. An Open House was held in Gurdon by his son, Edwin Sherman, and wife on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 19. Approximately 70 guests attended and were served by grand-children: Mrs. Bob DuVall of Benton and Mrs. James Gray of Little Rock.

"Brother Jeff", as he is affectionately known, has served pastorates in Eureka Springs, Dardanelle, Rogers, Greenwood, Bentonville, Earle, Blytheville, Batesville, Marianna, North Little Rock, Newport, Jonesboro, Judsonia and Searcy, and was presiding elder of the Searcy and Batesville Districts.

He was born at Eim Springs, graduated from Hendrix College more than 60 years ago, and now resides in Gurdon.

†

PARKIN UNITED METHODIST Youth were hosts to the Delta Sub-District UMY meeting on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 10. Principal speaker was the Rev. David Driver, associate pastor of First United Methodist Church in Paragould. He spoke on the Methodist Children's Home in Little Rock. Young people attending from West Memphis, Rosewood and First Churches, and from Crawfordsville, Marion, Earle and Parkin brought gifts to the altar for the Children's Home. The Rev. Gerald Rainwater was host pastor.



DECEMBER 21, 1972



Four Pine Bluff women received Special Memberships in the Women's Society at the Christmas luncheon held in First Church, Dec. 4. They are, from left: Mrs. Donald Jenkins, Mrs. Fred Condray, Mrs. W. L. Burroughs, Jr., and Mrs. Guy Gill, Jr.

RECIPROCAL BENEFITS DERIVED THROUGH ADOPT-A- GRANDPARENT PROGRAM IN ATLANTA

Anyone who thinks it impossible for youth to relate to the elderly or old folk to the teen-age generation hasn't seen or experienced the Adopt-A-Grandparent program as conducted by Rev. Frank Windom, staff member of the Atlanta Urban Ministries; a group of Ga. Tech students, and a host of elderly residents of Techwood Homes, a public housing development in Atlanta.

The program began out of the Tenth Street United Methodist Church where Mr. Windom not only directs this unique program but organizes special activities for children, youth, and adults such as crafts, games, and handicraft as part of the North Ga. Conference's program to aid one of the vital churches of the inner-city where Rev. Kenneth Kulp is the pastor. The church has a membership of 400 persons with a worshipping community of about 100 people.

It began when Mr. Windom became concerned with the loneliness and lack of meaning in the lives of so many elderly in the Tenth Street United Methodist Church Community. So many of the elderly had led meaningful lives in the past but because of age or physical handicap felt cut off from friends, family, and meaningful relationships.

Under the minister's guidance a number of Tech students from the Circle K Club were recruited to be "grandchildren" for those elderly persons who felt a keen need for companionship.

The students attended an orientation session and then were matched with their "grandparents". They visited with them, took them on shopping trips, provided needed transportation and shared with them their own youthful dreams and ambitions.

At the same time, the elderly discovered they had a lot to give also. The students welcomed homemade pies and cookies and even a home-cooked meal.

Soon the word "adopt" was dropped between the youth and the senior citizens as they came to know, appreciate, and love each other. The youth learned that life can have meaning in the sunset years and the elderly saw that the

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED BUSINESS WOMEN TO MEET

The Annual Meeting for the installation of officers of Church Women United, Central Arkansas Business Women's Group, will be January 5, 1973, at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church. Registration begins at 6 p.m. and dinner (\$1.50) will be served at 6:30. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, Jan. 2.

Hostess groups will be the three Wesleyan Service Guild units in Pulaski Heights Church: Blanche Burnett Guild, Jessie Ehlers, president; Winnie Waites Guild, Jennie Monan, president; and Vera Butler Guild, Sue Holtzclaw, chairman.

Barbara Petrocelli, president of the Business Women's Group, will preside. Special music will be by Richard Hunter, choirmaster of the host church.

younger generation had its idealism and enthusiasm.

The program has proved so successful that President Nixon has written a letter of commendation, and the Mike Douglas Show had Tech student Frank Lambert and Mrs. Mary McKerley, 84 year-old resident of the Techwood Homes flown to Philadelphia for a special network appearance.

To hear the "grandparents" brag about their "grandsons" you'd think the Tech students were perfect! Mrs. Nora Cheney, a widow with no children thinks her "Doug is the greatest". She's referring to Doug Case, a Tech freshman who in a member of Wesley's Chapel United Methodist Church in Decatur, Ga. In like manner, Mrs. McKerley says that her Frank "renews my faith in the younger generation. Everytime I think the world is going to 'pot' I meet a boy like Frank and my faith is renewed." Mrs. McKerley went on to say, "It's not a disgrace to be old, just inconvenient" Speaking of the younger generation in her own frank way, she said, "They are not any worse today than when I was a girl. There's just a lot more of them."

Dr. Bill Tyson, Director of Urban Ministries for the North Ga. Conference calls the "Adopt-a-Grandparent" program one of the most successful of the many ministries under the inner-city over-all program which includes parish houses, youth hostels, and rehabilitation centers.

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION HELD AT MALVERN

The women of First United Methodist Church, Malvern, held a Service of Celebration on Sunday afternoon, December 3, for the uniting of the Women's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guilds into the new inclusive organization, United Methodist Women. A reception followed this service.

The officers were installed by the pastor, the Rev. Charles G. Ashcraft, at the worship service on Sunday morning. These officers for United Methodist Women to serve for 1973 are as follows: President—Mrs. R. Hilliard Jones; Vice President—Mrs. Curtis Toler; Secretary—Mrs. George McClure; Treasurer—Mrs. Virginia Hamilton; Chairman of Nominations—Mrs. Tom Stalnaker; Chairman of Membership—Mrs. Cecil Riley; Circle Chairman: Mrs. Jerry Grigsby, Mrs. Henry McClure, Mrs. H. H. Overton, Mrs. M. E. Scott, Mrs. W. A. Smith, Mrs. Bill Starkey, Mrs. J. B. Vaughan, Mrs. William Weaver, Mrs. Robert White.

†

THE BESSIE McKNIGHT WSCS CIRCLE, First United Methodist Church, Lewisville, held its annual Christmas party Dec. 11, at 7:00 p.m., with 26 members and guests present. The opening prayer was by Mrs. Mary Hodge. After a potluck dinner, Chairman Mrs. Lillie Bray introduced Mrs. Audrey Wells, who presented the program entitled "The Christmas Story." Fellowship Hall was appropriately decorated by Mrs. Alvis Fuller and Mrs. J. B. Jackson. Gifts were exchanged and a gift was presented to the Arkansas Methodist Children's Home.

†

MONTICELLO RECEIVES SUBSTANTIAL GIFTS

The First United Methodist Church of Monticello has been the recipient of a number of fine gifts recently. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Baxter have given a new Allen Digital Computer Organ with Antiphonal Speakers in memory of her parents and grandparents. The organ which was installed in November is the first of this type with the antiphonal speakers in the state.

To complement the new organ a new public address system has been purchased and is now being installed in the church.

The money to purchase 35 new choir robes was given in memory of Mrs. Agnes Lindhe by her son and daughter in California. Mrs. Lindhe is a former organist in the church and taught piano many years in Monticello. The new robes were selected and ordered by the Committee on Worship, Mrs. James Jordan, chairman. The robes were promised for delivery early in December. Some months ago the Worship Committee purchased new altar appointments including a four foot high hanging cross, matching candlesticks and a new communion set. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Ballard have given a matching Bible stand for the altar.

A family in the church gave \$10,000 recently to establish a living endowment fund for the church. The proceeds from the interest on the fund will be used each year by the church.

In addition to these gifts and purchases, in October the church made the final payments on the parsonage and parking lot debts. The \$45,000 debt on the parsonage was paid in seven years and the debt on the parking lot in three years.

The Rev. William D. Elliott is the pastor of the church.

†



**Make Christmas
more joyful**

with a gift subscription to
Arkansas Methodist

Just \$3.00 for 50 issues

SEND TO _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

FROM _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Mail with payment to THE ARKANSAS METHODIST, box 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203



The Sunday School Lesson

By: Alfred A. Knox

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 31: The Reshaping of Life

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 18:1-11; 32:1-25.

MEMORY SELECTION: Yet, O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou art our potter; we are all the work of thy hand. (Isaiah 64:8)

AIM OF THE LESSON: To study the attitude of positive trust in a time of crisis and the ways we may exemplify and express our faith through our deeds as Christians in today's world.

We are strong for self-improvement programs these days. We revive our energies with vitamins and build up our muscle tone with special exercises. We indulge in so-called natural foods to reduce the quantity of ingested pollutants, and take lessons in rapid reading. There are "quick," all but "instant," courses in learning a language and in learning how to speak before a group. There are methods by the hundreds or thousands which presumably are designed to help us improve ourselves in as many ways.

There is one way to become a truly good person, but without shortcuts and not in "six easy lessons." The steps to godliness are easily discernible in scriptural descriptions. We are told that the Messiah is the bearer of our sins: "The Lord laid upon him the sins of us all." (Isaiah 53:6) There must be belief in Christ: "If on your lips is the confession, 'Jesus is Lord,' and in your heart the faith that God raised him from the dead, then you will find salvation." (Romans 10:4) Then follows the new life in Christ: "Thus we are transfigured into his likeness, from splendor to splendor; such is the influence of the Lord." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Self-improvement is possible in many things, but God-improvement of self requires special "treatment" because a special malady is present. Many of our ills stem from a sense of guilt. Keeping busy, spending many hours in pleasant pastimes, staying in crowds, enjoying conviviality—these are some of our means of avoiding a hard look at ourselves and our faults. We don't heal our spiritual illness by such "selfforgetment" methods, for these are like trying to purify the water by painting the pump.

AN UNREALIZED POTENTIAL

The common earthy material we call clay has been used for thousands of years in the making of bricks, pottery, writing material, decorations of walls and buildings, and countless other purposes. Clay isn't much good by itself but requires the human touch to bring forth its potential.

The reshaped pot which Jeremiah observed the potter completing on the wheel became useful to man. It could store oil for use as an ointment, for cooking, for lamps and other household needs.

The potter fashions a lump of clay so its possibilities as a useful vessel are available to man, just as God may take the willing life and re-orient and re-direct it for the enhancement of peace and love. Many direct benefits thus were to come from God's keeping many of the Jews alive and ultimately useful for his purposes.

As we study the exiled ones we discover that they produced various sections of the Old Testament. They were the continuing link by means of which Jesus came to us, as we noted a week ago. Also, apparently that innovative institution the synagogue was developed during those generations as a substitute for worship and study at the Temple in Jerusalem. When the Jews left Babylonia some returned to Palestine while others migrated to many scattered areas of the Mediterranean world. Those same synagogues became focal points of early Christian evangelization as the apostles went out with the message of Christ.

In the intervening centuries church leaders helped reshape specific efforts of Christianity to meet changing human situations. One of the first great realizations was the apostle Peter's acceptance of the principle that the Gospel was not only for the Jews but also to be taken to the Gentiles. A few centuries later Augustine emphasized the eternal God who illuminated man's soul with the light of salvation—and this was near the beginning of the Dark Ages! When Calvin pointed out that man's sinfulness could only be forgiven by a mighty God, he helped re-direct man's thoughts about the Christian faith. And Luther reiterated the apostolic principle that we are saved "by faith" and not by works.

SOMETHING IS NEEDED

The potter wanted to reshape the clay because he was dissatisfied with its imperfect state. He visualized the unfinished pot as being substandard when compared with his own inner sense of quality. He knew that with his skill he could do better.

The range of man's freedoms allows him to select inferior goals and ignoble deeds, but if such choices become a pattern his "shape" becomes distorted, for sins repeated leave their deep marks. The fears and fantasies of many "confused" persons among us today are often a result of the negative, wearing, cumulative effect of sins. Our life style is more than a meld of our heredity and the environment of our living; it also includes what we wilfully do and don't do. Each of us "chooses which experiences and what persons will shape his life," Irons states in Adult Bible Studies.

The reshaping of self rests in part upon one's acceptance of the hope and idealism potentialized in the manger Babe. That hope includes the confidence that God doesn't give up on man although men may give up on God. God's role regarding each of us is to remember us, to remind us, to reprove us, and to restore us. The complete process is likely to be a lengthy one for most of us! Our aim should be to grow a little at a time for, as a proverb states, "A long journey is completed a step at a time."

THE TOUCH OF A SKILLED HAND

The potter had an 'eye' for what could be formed out of the misshapen mass, and he had confidence in his ability to yet bring forth an acceptable piece. With a reputation at stake he wasn't about to turn out an imperfect one. In addition, his idea of what useful thing he could make from that which was less prompted him to try again.

The potter works the clay while it is still malleable, not after it has hardened. This would say to

church leaders to guide the energies and wills of the people to provide sound and spiritualizing programs for our children and youth of yet malleable, flexible standards and ideals for living. Parents have the same opportunities in their homes. It is easier to train than to reshape in Christlikeness, and a younger person properly directed invests more of a lifetime as a faithful spokesman for God.

We may feel "locked-in" by our presumed inability to really grow each day. But here we reveal our pessimism! We can rise above the past, we can resolutely seek to improve each day. We do indeed have a bright, hopeful future. God can see to that. The long look, as we have noted in recent lessons, is the basis for optimism.

It is interesting to observe the efforts of responsible journalists today who point out possibly dangerous trends in certain governmental practices and certain attitudes of citizens. They often draw on the perspective of history to illustrate and validate their points. In self-analysis we should do likewise. From two hundred centuries ago—across the span of some eight hundred generations of men—comes the strong assertion: "But everything is possible for God." (Matthew 19:26) And Jesus said, "I am the way; I am the truth and the life." (John 15:6) These foundations still stand.

THERE IS A POSITIVE WAY

In an early Disney movie "Bambi" the cute little rabbit Thumper is made to say something like this: "If you can't say something good about somebody, don't say anything at all." There are many biblical examples of the positive approach as it deals with spiritual verities.

Jeremiah while in prison and during the conclusive Babylonian siege on the city purchased a plot of land only a few miles from Jerusalem, referred to in our scripture selections. This is convincing evidence that he believed Judah will recover and the region will again offer hope and prosperity to those of faith. There were several legal witnesses to the transaction, who must have felt that it was a total waste of money. The prophet had the ability, however, to see through the mists of calamity to the clear light of God's hope for his people. Contrary to a "commonsense" view of those who saw only destruction for Judah, he proceeded gratefully and confidently. Following the description of the transaction is his prayer to God: "Nothing is impossible for thee." (32:17) This is not a trembling effort at justifying his purchase but a strong assertion of his firm confidence in God, without which he would not have made the purchase.

A TIME FOR POSITIVE ACTION

Two keynote principles are present in this week's scripture selections. First, reshaping is a necessary duty when something of lower quality must be redone to make it measure up to a high standard. Second, that which is undertaken audaciously out of implicit trust in God gives God an opportunity to justify that faith in him. These are foundations on which we can build our own life structures at year's end and for the months of 1973. As the believer opens himself to God, the Father engages in a continuing renewal and purifying of one's very self, reshaping the "clay" as needed.

This is a time for dedicated, positive participation in our churches. Many of them are now preparing for a new year of service through their programs and ministries. Some are planning major investments in new buildings and other needed means for serving. The Christian can multiply his dollars and his talents through his pledge and in other direct forms of support. Such positive Christian deeds are powerful sermons in action!

"I am but one," a believer may say. Wrong! He is one plus God. And plus all others who have such an allegiance. The believer can be like that lad whose loaves and fishes were blest and multiplied by Jesus.

The New Covenant of God with his people spells out the believer's responsibility in the many-faceted areas of his living. This is next week's lesson topic.

DECEMBER 21, 1972

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 31; 32:-36-41

MEMORY SELECTION: I will put my law upon them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Jeremiah 31:33)

AIM OF THE LESSON: To understand the nature of the promised New Covenant and its application both to the people of the prophet's homeland and to us Christians today.

* * *

We are all interested in getting something for nothing. The thought of gaining a valuable thing without having to work for it intrigues us. There is a vicarious sharing of the excitement when we read about somebody unexpectedly inheriting a fortune from a forgotten relative. We enjoy watching a contestant win prizes on a television quiz show. How wonderful it would be, we muse, to have that kind of good fortune.

Something for nothing! The price of "nothing" can be high. We often learn important lessons as we strive. Sound principles of energy and character management are thus acquired. In general, to get a good thing calls for personal sacrifice; we are willing to invest thought, strength, and time if the reward is the gaining of something desired. In our total life efforts and dedication, we get approximately what we are willing to pay for in commitment of self. The astronaut studies and practices and works with dedicated, sacrificial intensity of labor over a period of several years, after earlier years of demanding training, to prepare for a space journey. A strong second effort follows an intensive initial effort.

It is not recommended that one point toward a dreamed-of lucky coincidence, a rare windfall of good fortune. If this should come, a strenuous test of character begins. There was a man who several years ago was notified that he had just been declared holder of the winning ticket in a huge lottery. He was instantaneously wealthy, he thought. In celebration he decided to start his new life with a new wardrobe indicative of his new status. He called his friends to a backyard bonfire onto which he gleefully flung all his old workclothes. As he excitedly watched the flames he suddenly realized that his lottery ticket was in the pocket of a coat already destroyed!

The apostle wrote a fitting antidote to the something-for-nothing infection: "Be alert; stand firm in the faith; be valiant and strong." He then added reference to the "second effort": "Let all you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

Jeremiah persevered, even choosing to remain among the rubble and degradation of his defeated homeland so he could minister to human need there rather than going into exile. His writings abound in courageous and profound witnessing. The concept of the new covenant was perhaps his most notable declaration—a statement about God's "second effort" to bring man to him redemptively.

* * *

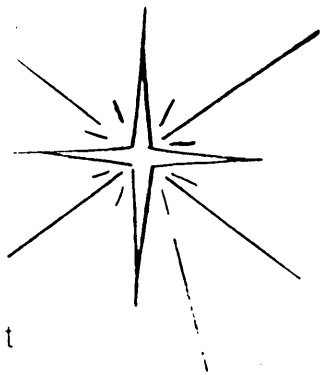
RENDEZVOUS WITH GOD

When one suffers a broken arm, the pain can be eased with internal medication — but the fracture itself must be repaired to effect full recovery. Under the old covenant man in his perversity sought to heal himself of his waywardness by occasional, often perfunctory, acts of sacrifice and temple prayers under the direction of the priest. The new covenant administers healing where it is needed: to the heart, which the ancients believed was the source or fountainhead of one's attitudes and behavior.

The former covenant to Moses in Exodus 20:1-17 is the Decalogue or Ten Commandments. It was a moral and ethical code. Properly motivated by implicit faith in God, this was a sufficient method. In the new covenant the accent is on the continuously worshiping person whose thoughts and deeds would then issue forth without the possibility that they would be below God's necessities as a good Father. So the new covenant didn't abrogate or cancel the former one but sought to give man an inner energy and will for doing his thing through God-motivation. Under these conditions man could pray

The Sunday School Lesson

By: Alfred A. Knox



LESSON FOR JANUARY 7: The New Covenant

to him and worship him without an intermediary priest. This same feature was one of the major issues which prompted the Protestant Reformers to action in the sixteenth century.

The New Testament (or Covenant) reasserts this theme in many passages. Jeremiah's statement of the new covenant is repeated in Hebrews 8:8-12. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 is its essence: "When anyone is united to Christ, there is a new world; the old order has gone, and a new order has already begun." In Paul's description of the Lord's Supper he states that Jesus held up the cup saying that it was "the new testament" in his blood. (1 Corinthians 11:25)

The transition is from the written commandments to an inner response of the self, from a creedal statement to a felt sense of oneness with God. It is almost a matter of living service as opposed to lip service. One's life must be a "living sacrifice", as Paul put it. Recently the Apollo Fifteen astronaut, James Irwin, stated that he found his faith in Christ while walking on the moon and viewing the earth of man against the infinite space over which God rules. And now, he said, he is happy in letting his life speak forth about that Christ. This is the new covenant taking hold of one!

The covenant principle applies to exultant situations and complicated problems of whatever magnitude. The more difficult the circumstances are, the more profound is the consolation to be found in the covenant. There was much comfort for Jeremiah in the covenant promise: "I will be their God." God first made this promise to the prophet as he sent the young man forth to his people. To them he proclaimed that destruction was near if they persisted in ungodly living. Through Ebed-melech the Ethiopian court attendant the promise was again fulfilled. Then came the full-ranging scope of the promise, stated in this week's scripture selections, that God would send One who will bring man to a glorious and continuing relationship with the Father. Then under God's care, men and nations can enjoy the fruits of righteousness. And many people regard Jeremiah as the prophet of doom!

* * *

OLD TESTAMENT BASIC TO NEW

We see in these thoughts that the Old Testament provides a basic and essential background to the Gospel proclamations in the New Testament. In the pre-Christian scripture is a description of human encounters with the God of history, especially as the newly unified people sought both national permanence and personal faith. Their travails began, the Old Testament makes clear, when they lapsed in God-loyalty in favor of other-gods loyalty. The promise of the Messiah set the stage for his coming and for the beginning of the New Testament.

In the book of Hebrews is the statement, "But now Christ has come." (Hebrews 8:11) Then follows a section outlining the nature of his coming in relation to the ancient Decalogue: "The Law contains but a shadow, and no true image, of the good things which were to come." (Hebrews 10:1) Appreciation for the new promise is enhanced by an understanding of the precepts contained in the former code.

The intervening centuries have brought progress. We are increasingly aware of problems among men which were hardly recognized as problems in ancient times: slavery, poverty, profligate and intemperate rulers, the nature of human freedom, a nation's responsibility among the family of nations. Man possesses the God-given capability of determining his courses of action. And this must be our attitude in the matter or we confront two impossible dilemmas: Either God is not, or man is a mere puppet not actually controlling any part of his decision. It is a more sound approach to accept the fact of God along with the fact of man's inferior choices. The new covenant was designed to take care of the well-

spring from which those choices come! So we should be ready to re-phrase the memory selection in the assertion, the affirmation, "He will be our God, and I and my family will be his people."

* * *

THE CLARION CALL

The prophet's note of urgency rests upon his alertness to God. Then naturally followed an alive sensitiveness to human need. Inevitably this led to an inner tension as he recognized God's standards for man in contrast with man's standards for himself. But through it all the prophet spoke courageously because what he said was an extension of his inner being. He didn't understand why God commissioned him and not somebody else, but he went forth to speak for God anyway. He was, like John the Baptist, one who prepared the way of the Lord. He said, "Behold the days are coming." (31:31) John the Baptist proclaimed: "Prepare a way for the Lord; clear a straight path for him." (Mark 1:3) Jeremiah's word was "Behold—to take note of; listen to me! John the Baptist said: "Prepare"—make yourself ready; be ready now! Both spoke with certainty. One spoke about a promise; the other about its fulfillment.

The individual must "make a straight path" for the Lord. He must remove all obstacles to his own full and complete acceptance of the Son. If he doesn't make his path straight, he winds up in a dead end. That is to say, if his life is not squared with spiritual principles, he is sure to live in circles—purposeless, frustrated.

The believer must give himself without reservation. In the giving, he gives up something. He can only give out of the overflow of his own being. This is not the same thing as giving things out of an abundance of things he has.

* * *

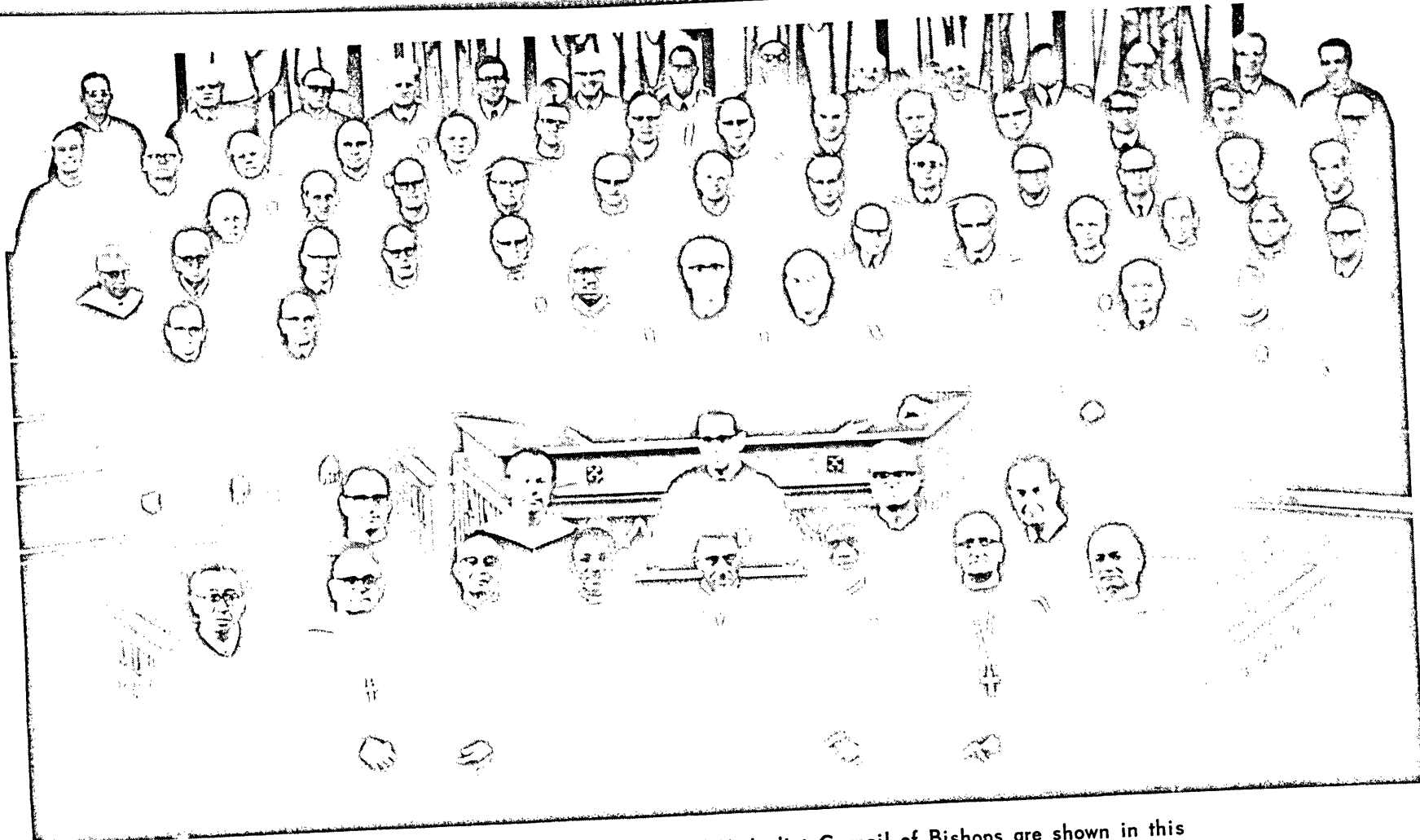
A "GO FORTH" YEAR

And now we are in a new year. The writer was in a hotel room in Athens one morning listening to a weather report on the radio. The reporter described the promise of a bright, sunny day with gentle breezes. Then for the benefit of the many Greek sailors who would be out in their boats that day, he gave this reassuring word: "This is a go-forth day!" Our 1973 is a go-forth year! We should do more than just change the calendar on the wall or desk. This is a time to study one's own life directions also. We did not just ring out the old year; we also rang in the new one. This is a prime time to think about our relationships with others: with husband or wife, with sons and daughters, with persons everywhere, with God. Ah yes, with God first of all!

Our generation, as with most generations, must face up to the large social concerns. There is the nagging frustration among all whose lives are directly touched by the folly of war. Young people today often are victims of a deep disgust with the effects of war because of its wanton destruction and maiming of human life, wastefulness of natural resources, and tragic diversion of resources from positive, constructive purposes to multiplied deteriorative purposes. These are terrible prices to pay for our flaws in soul and will, and they are symptoms of problems which, we believe, only the relief available through the new covenant and the Christ of redemption can really resolve. Peace is of the inner will, enervated by God, or it is not.

The old covenant looked back; the new looks ahead. It is a guaranteed safe passage through the seas of sin, the storms of trouble and sadness, and the swells of temptation.

This lesson concludes our brief study of Jeremiah. Next week we begin a four-week study of Ezekiel with a pointed topic: "A Watchman for God's People."



Most active and retired members of the United Methodist Council of Bishops are shown in this photograph which will appear in color in the January issue of *Together*. (Photo by George P. Miller — copyright 1972, *Together*.)

TOGETHER looks at Council of Bishops

PARK RIDGE, Ill. (UMI) — The United Methodist Church's Council of Bishops is undergoing a series of distinctive changes, according to an in-depth analysis in the January issue of *Together*, the denomination's general circulation magazine edited here.

"In three distinct ways the (present) Council of Bishops . . . is unlike any predecessor body in the 11 religious traditions now merged into the United Methodist Church," says the article by John A. Lovelace, an associate editor of the periodical.

The most obvious distinctiveness cited is the 21 new bishops elected in 1972—19 in the U.S. and 2 in

Africa, which means that one-third of the church's 61 active bishops are new.

A second point listed "is a new openness of style" demonstrated in the decision to hold at least one session at the 1973 spring meeting which will be open to invited outsiders. Meetings of the Council of Bishops traditionally have been closed.

But, says Mr. Lovelace, perhaps the change of deepest significance to the church is the Council's structuring itself into four committees with each of the 80 active and retired U.S. bishops assigned to one of these units—Pastoral Concerns, Teaching Concerns, Relational Concerns and Administra-

tive Concerns.

The article quotes some of the Council's leaders as saying the new style of operation will permit "more participation in council affairs by all bishops," make possible "the kind of leadership which we believe the church wants and expects the bishops to give," provide for "a new involvement, a moving out for the bishops to do some things they should have been doing," and create a higher visibility for the church's episcopal leaders.

Background information and details of procedures provided by committee chairmen is featured in the article, along with a listing of sub-committees

for each of the four units.

Two other features in the January issue relate to the episcopacy — an article on "What is a Bishop?" by Herman B. Teeter, an associate editor, and a four-color photograph of the Council taken at its autumn meeting by George P. Miller, staff photographer and picture editor.

In a companion story in the December 21 issue of *Christian Advocate*, the magazine for pastors and other church leaders also edited here, the comments written by the chairmen of the Council of Bishops committees are carried in an expanded form.

Samoans draw up bylaws for Mission

NEW YORK (UMI) — About 75 Samoans from California and Hawaii have drawn up bylaws for a Samoan Mission within the Southern California-Arizona United Methodist Conference, according to the Rev. Dr. Harry S. Komuro, ethnic and language ministries executive secretary for the Board of Global Ministries' National Division.

The mission will serve approximately 700 Methodist Samoans from 15 congregations — six in Hawaii, four in Southern California and five related directly to churches in Samoa, Dr. Komuro said.

The proposed bylaws will be presented to the 1973 annual conference session for approval. Writing the bylaws followed 1972 conference approval of a resolution authorizing the Samoan people to develop a plan for a mission to be related to the Conference Board of Missions and the National Division.

The Rev. Dr. J. Irwin Trotter, Los Angeles district superintendent, who convened the bylaws meeting, said there has been an emigration of people

from American Samoa in the South Pacific to the West Coast for about 10 years. Many of them are Methodists, coming from British Methodist Churches in Samoa, he said, and now they seek fellowship with United Methodists here.

Purpose of the new mission, according to Dr. Komuro, will be to unify the Samoan church programs and to provide general church assistance for a specialized ministry to people who have their own language and cultural patterns.

The consultation included a traditional Kava Ceremony, a Samoan custom at which friends and guests are honored, as well as a Sunday morning worship service, Dr. Komuro reported.

The Board of Global Ministries executive said he was impressed by "the spontaneity of the worship" and by the Samoans' "sense of community." He called formation of the new mission "a symbol of the internationalization of mission" and stressed that Samoans at the consultation said they hope to make a contribution to the total United Methodist Church.

Bishop Carleton elected president of Pension Board

EVANSTON, Ill. (UMI) — Bishop Alsie H. Carleton, Albuquerque, N. M., has been elected president of the United Methodist Church's General Board of Pensions here.

Bishop Carleton's election came at the board's organizational meeting December 6-7 for the 1973-76 quadrennium. J. Wesley Hole, San Clemente, Calif., was chosen vice-president, and Mrs. Betty L. Nusbaum, Harrisburg, Pa., recording secretary.

The Rev. Claire C. Hoyt was re-elected general secretary of the board. Other staff members re-named to posts include Vernon A. Sladek, assistant recording secretary, Donald R. McKee, treasurer, and G. Warren Dare, assistant treasurer.

A total of eight persons were elected as at-large members of the board, bringing to 30 the total membership. Ministers named here were John E. French, Milford, Del., C. J. Lupo, Jr., Greenville, S. C., Paul D. Martin, Jr., Richmond, Va., Arnold T. Herbst,

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Harry V. Rankin, Lake Jackson, Texas. Lay at-large members are DeWitt C. LeFevre, Beaver Falls, N. Y., Loring W. Powell, Waban, Mass., and Dr. Hole.

In one business action, the board voted to continue through 1973 distributions to individual and organizational accounts from regular earnings and realized appreciation at the rate of 6½ per cent. This is expected to total about \$15,000,000 during the year, Dr. Hoyt said.

The distributions are made possible by favorable investment and earnings records of assets managed by the board which totaled \$419,516,027 in market value as of September 30.

Dr. Hoyt said that only about 20 per cent of the denomination's pension liability is presently funded. The average monthly pension check to a retired minister is about \$200.

Next semi-annual meeting of the Board of Pensions was set for June 13.

Sudanese need outside help as refugees face resettlement problems

JUBA, Sudan (RNS) — The trickle of refugees returning home to the southern Sudan is slowly increasing as conditions inside the region improve.

According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 30,000 persons have returned from neighboring countries, while more than 200,000 displaced south Sudanese have come out of hiding in the bush.

Peace has become part of the normal pattern of life for the first time in 17 years. Following an agreement reached in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in March 1972, between the Sudan government in Khartoum and Anya-Nya forces in the south, reconciliation has moved ahead. (The All Africa Conference of Churches and the World Council of Churches were instrumental in bringing about the peace agreement.)

Former Anya-Nya troops have been integrated into the Sudanese army and former exiled political leaders have taken their place in the regional government of the south. But urgent problems of resettlement and planning for the long-term future of the country persist.

Sudan is the largest country on the African continent. It covers an area of about a million square miles. A population of 15 million depends largely on the sale of cotton, and the annual per capita income rarely rises above an average of \$120.

The southern region has no natural resources, no paved roads, bad communications and little in the way of basic infrastructure. Years of war have left a legacy of destruction. Houses have been obliterated, schools burned, and hospitals and modern medical facilities are almost non-existent.

Clement Mboro, head of the government's resettlement commission, describes the south Sudan as "back in the Stone Age."

Yet the land of the "forgotten war" — that raged for nearly two decades without much interest from the outside — is in danger of becoming the land of the forgotten peace, and the forgotten relief and rehabilitation program.

Few governments and relief agencies have come forward with substantial help to aid the region in picking up the pieces.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has started repatriation and plans efforts in health, agriculture and education. The government is doing what it can with inadequate resources

and a lack of trained personnel. The struggle is up-hill, with emergency needs missing except in a few isolated places. South Sudan is really faced with the problem of how to develop itself from scratch.

The greatest resource is the people. Through 17 years of war they showed remarkable self-reliance and dignity. Bush schools and medical centers flourished with hardly any outside help.

In uniting Protestant, Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches, the Sudan Council of Churches is trying to utilize the resources of the people in an ambitious \$2 million program to restore community facilities.

With the help of Churches around the world, through the World Council, the Sudan council's Commission on Relief and Rehabilitation has drawn up a five-point plan of relief, reconstruction, support for the new regional government, training of Sudanese and recruitment of foreign personnel.

Food, clothing, blankets, medicines, seeds and tools valued at more than \$400,000 have been rushed to the Sudan. Church World Service, Catholic Relief Services and Lutheran World Relief, American agencies, are cooperating in a food program of 300,000 returning refugees.

Now attention is turning to reconstruction of hospitals, schools and community buildings. A key feature in the reconstruction is the development of nine "growth villages," which the government hopes will attract returnees. Churches are restoring communal facilities and giving aid in such areas as agricultural extension and vocational training.

Bethuel Kiplagat, the young and energetic Kenyan who directs the relief and rehabilitation work of the Sudan Council of Churches, says his commission "will stay close to the villages to enable the people to participate further in the development process."

He is confident the Churches have a great deal to offer to the Sudan as it faces the future.

A secretarial training school, mobile medical teams, mechanical transport and well digging are other aspects of the Churches program. However, the nature of the country, the problems with supplies and transportation makes the work slow and difficult.

The church efforts, welcome as they are to the government, can only meet a few of the vast needs of southern Sudan. A crucial question is whether the international community will respond in the same generous way as it did in Bangladesh. Or will the Sudan fight on alone in peace?

OMISSION

The name of the Rev. Allen B. Bonsall, director of the Wesley Foundation at Southern State College in Magnolia, was inadvertently omitted from the list of adults who accompanied the Little Rock Conference United Nations Tour group on their recent trip to the New York and Washington, D.C. area. A photograph of the group appeared on page two of the Dec. 7 issue of ARKANSAS METHODIST.

INDIA BISHOPS ASSIGNED

NEW YORK (UMI) — Two United Methodist bishops in India have new assignments, and two continue in assignments they have held since early 1969. The four are bishops of the Southern Asia Central Conference of the United Methodist Church, which is called in India the Methodist Church in Southern Asia.

The bishops were assigned to their respective episcopal areas by the Central Conference, which met in regular quadrennial session Nov. 28-Dec. 5 in Jabalpur. According to reports to the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, these are the episcopal assignments:

Delhi Area — Bishop Eric A. Mitchell, succeeding Bishop A. J. Shaw who retired at the Central Conference session.

Hyderabad Area — Bishop M. Elia Peter, succeeding Bishop Mitchell who headed the area during the last quadrennium. Bishop Peter, formerly educational secretary of the Central Conference, was elected to the episcopacy at the Jabalpur session.

Bombay Area — Bishop R. D. Joshi, returning as episcopal leader to an area he has served for the last quadrennium.

Lucknow Area — Bishop Joseph R. Lance, returning as episcopal leader to an area he has served for the last quadrennium.

Bishops Mitchell, Joshi and Lance were elected in January, 1969. The Methodist Church in Southern Asia has about 600,000 members and has the largest United Methodist membership outside the U.S.

FORREST CITY DISTRICT

Ministers' Families
Hold annual party

The Forrest City District United Methodist ministers, wives and families met Friday, December 8, for their annual Christmas dinner and party. The Rev. and Mrs. W. Leonard Byers served as the hosts in Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church in Marianna. About 75 persons enjoyed the dinner and Christmas Program which followed.

Dr. Ethan Dodgen, district superintendent, and Mrs. Dodgen were presented with a "Money corsage and boutonniere". It was suggested that they use the money to buy a tape recorder, which they have long wanted. Dr. and Mrs. Dodgen in return presented each minister with a Christmas gift in appreciation for the work done in the Forrest City District.

HENDRIX PROFESSOR RECEIVES TWO HONORS

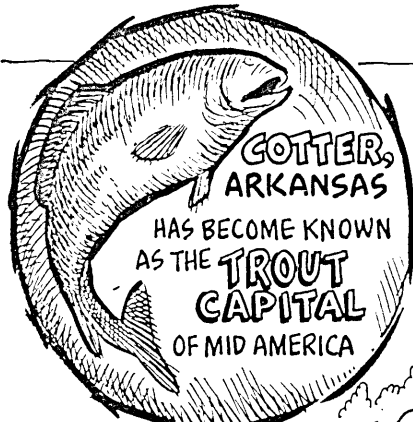
An assistant professor of mathematics at Hendrix College has recently been notified that an article which he wrote will be published in the Pacific Journal of Mathematics. Dr. Tommy Teague, who has been at Hendrix since 1971, titled his article which will appear in the quarterly magazine sponsored by 14 West Coast universities, "On the Engel Margin."

Dr. Teague has also been notified that he has been chosen for listing in the publication, **American Men and Women of Science**. His name will appear in the February or March issue of 1973.

Arkansas


ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST
PIECES OF
POLISHED MARBLE
CAME FROM
NEWTON COUNTY
AND WENT INTO THE CONSTRUCTION
OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

THE MARBLE PIECE
WEIGHED 9,000 POUNDS



**COTTER,
ARKANSAS**
HAS BECOME KNOWN
AS THE **TROUT
CAPITAL**
OF MID AMERICA

UNTIL 1872,
GOVERNORS OF ARKANSAS
WERE INAUGURATED
THE SAME DAY THEY
WERE ELECTED.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ARKANSAS, WRITE
ARKANSAS DEPT. OF PARKS AND TOURISM, 149 STATE CAPITOL, LITTLE ROCK 72201

250 OPERA (or theater type)
SEATS FOR SALE: non-padded,
folding, excellent condition.
\$2 each — some or all.
First Baptist Church, Atkins,
Ark. 72823. Telephone 641-
2693.

For
GOLDS
take 666

Poetry Panorama

by barbara mulkey

It has been said that the only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. It seems just as valid to acknowledge that the only limit to God's love is that imposed by our doubt, or fear, or willfulness. For Christmas reminds us that, otherwise, there is no limit... He sent His only son, the personification of love, to show us the way to eternal love.

The First Christmas

Along the ancient, dusty road
Well-nigh a fortnight they had trod;
The gentle wife, now worn and wan,
Dragged weary feet o'er stone and clod.

Now Joseph spoke, "A few hours more,
And then a quiet room and bed."
Nor did he know the evening held
No rest for Mary's throbbing head.

The churlish master of the inn
Surveyed the pair with scornful sneer;
With haughty insolence he speaks,
"I have no room to serve you here."

"This is no place for peasantry,
For pregnant wench or low-born knave;
My inn doth serve a nobler class;
Go rest you in some stable cave."

So in that humble manger bed,
My Lord the Christ came down to earth,
That all men, rich or poor, might feel
Their kinship through His lowly birth.

-by Charles A. Stuck

As It Could Be

We hear, once more, an angel song;
Recall the Christmas story,
Of shepherds following a star
To find the King of Glory;

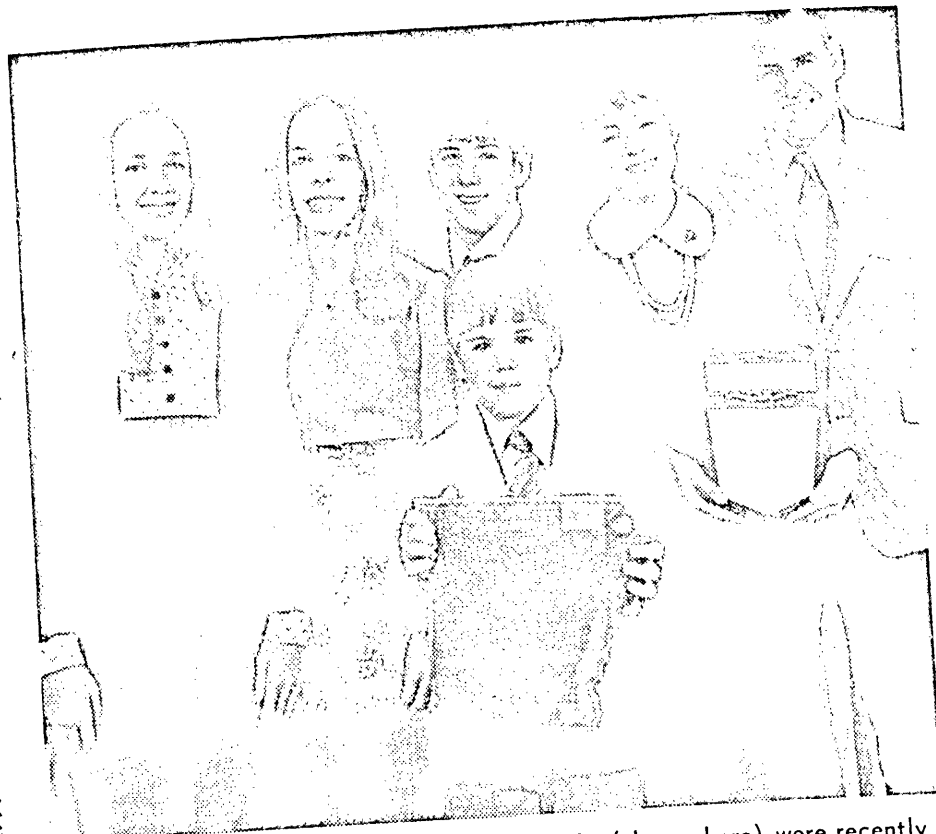
Envision Wise Men bearing gifts
Into a humble manger,
Where Mary, when her time had come
Brought forth a tiny stranger;

No tiny stranger anymore!
This Prince of Peace, immortal!
Love came to earth on Christmas Day
To open Heaven's portal.

The Christmas star is shining, still
Just as we felt it would be.
We see our world, not as it is,
But as Christ knew it could be...

Where love and faith and hope abide
To add a zest to living,
And brothers dwell in peace on earth,
Forgetting and forgiving.

-by Catharine W. Deaver



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fancher and their family (shown here) were recently named "Arkansas Farm Family of the Year" at a program at the Sheraton-Little Rock Hotel. All of the Fanchers are active members of the Berryville United Methodist Church, where Mrs. Fancher is Family Life coordinator and daughter Kaye is president of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship. The Fancher children are (left to right) Cindy, 13, Kaye, 16, Rosh, 14, and Danny, 8. The Fanchers operate an 857-acre livestock and poultry farm in Carroll County and lease 850 more acres for pasture. The Rev. Victor H. Nixon is their pastor.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE photo

Spanish edition of INTERPRETER resumed

EVANSTON, Ill. (UMI) — *El Interprete*, the only United Methodist periodical of its kind in Spanish, is again circulating among some 275 Spanish-speaking United Methodist churches in the U.S. mainland and Puerto Rico.

The magazine is an edition of *The Interpreter*, denominational program journal published by the Division of Interpretation. First issue in the new series is being mailed to churches in December.

Editor of *El Interprete* is the Rev. Fines Flores, and the Rev. Guillermo Debrot is managing editor. Both men are pastors in Chicago, Ill. The Rev. Roy Barton, Rio Grande Annual Conference council director and a member of the church's Joint Committee on Communications, is chairman of the editorial board.

While some of the contents will be a translation of articles in the parent magazine, much of the Spanish edition will be original material of particular interest to the Spanish-speaking membership, according to Edwin H. Maynard, editorial director of the Division of Interpretation.

El Interprete will appear quarterly. The Rev. Howard Greenwalt, staff head of the Division of Interpretation is publisher, and the Rev. Warren M. Jenkins is business manager.

British Methodist Journal publishes 6,000th issue

LONDON (RNS) — Glowing tributes from Methodist and other Church leaders occupied space on three pages when the Methodist Recorder, leading independent organ of British Methodism, issued its 6,000th edition in its 111th year of publication here. It is regarded as the first "penny" religious journal in Britain.

Details of the anniversary formed the major feature in the edition, in which an editorial pointed out that Americans had claimed the newspaper to be the Methodist world's leading newspaper.

The 6,000th issue published many tributes from British Church leaders, some from the leaders of numerous Methodist Churches overseas.

These included messages from Bishop Prince A. Taylor, Jr., of Princeton, N.J., Executive Committee chairman of the World Methodist Council, Bishop O. Eugene Slater, president of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church of the United States and Dr. George M. Morrison, secretary of the General Council of the United Church of Canada.

An inside two-page feature on the history and development of the Recorder pointed out that, from the beginning, the profits have largely gone to charitable purposes in Methodism.

Live with men as if God saw you;
converse with God as if men heard
you.—Seneca

I used to ask God to help me. Then
I asked if I might help him. I ended
up by asking him to do his work
through me.—Hudson Taylor