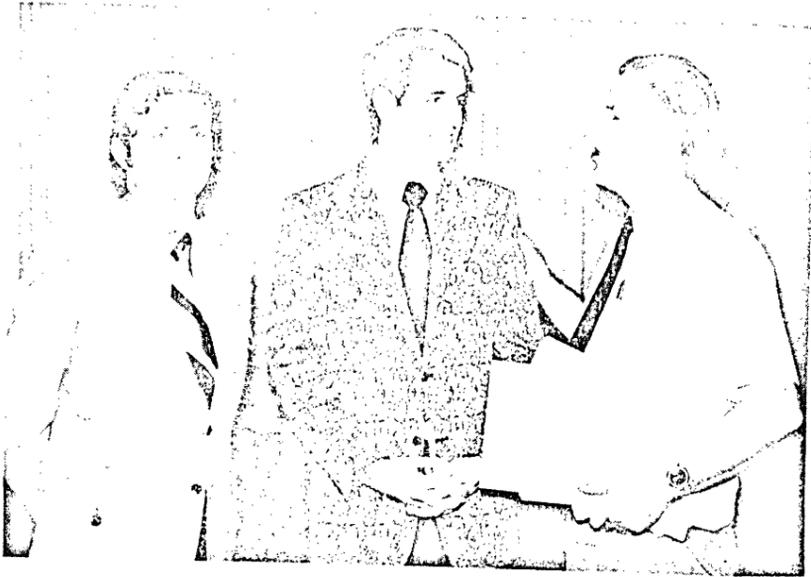


Arkansas Methodist

92nd YEAR

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1973

NO. 19



The Rev. Ed Matthews (center), pastor of Lakeside Church, Pine Bluff, was among pastors from several conferences attending the recent series of Field Instructors' Institutes at Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, Tex. With Matthews are the Rev. Jim Gwaltney (left), associate director of the Perkins Intern Program, and the Rev. Dick Murray (right), director of Continuing Education at Perkins. The institutes are training sessions which certify ministers as field instructors for the Perkins Intern Program. Through this Program, pastors and congregations participate directly in the education of young men and women for the Christian ministry.

†

Little Rock Conference Council on Ministries announces priorities

In a series of working sessions the Council on Ministries of the Little Rock Annual Conference has developed a set of objectives and priorities to be submitted for the consideration of the Annual Conference during its May 28-31 session, according to the Rev. Alf A. Eason, Council director. The sessions will be held at First United Methodist Church in Hot Springs. Strategies for meeting the objectives and priorities listed below will be determined by the Responsibility Group (indicated in parentheses) and the Conference Council on Ministries. Scheduling of events will be arranged by the Responsibility Group, the Conference Council on Ministries, and the Council director. The priorities are suggested for implementation during the 1974 calendar year.

I. PURPOSE: The purpose of the Little Rock Conference shall be:

1. To proclaim the gospel of Christ;
2. To challenge our own members to a deeper involvement with God;
3. To train leadership that the program of the local church may be enhanced;
- 4.

To listen and learn from all individuals and groups that seek a voice in their own destiny; 5. To participate in ecumenical activity with the recognition that Christianity encompasses more than any single denomination; 6. To seek justice for all humankind under God; 7. To labor for peace that reflects God's harmony with the world; 8. To develop a workable plan for fulfilling these purposes.

II. PRIORITIES:

Basic Priority I — Commitment, Renewal and Nurture:

1. A strong program of evangelism with active ministerial and lay participation. (Board of Evangelism);
2. The recruiting and training of Confirmation Classes in each local church on an annual basis (Board of Evangelism);
3. The development of a program of Christian Education involving the training of teams from each district in a conference-wide coaching conference—the district teams will then train leaders in the local churches (Board of Education — Conference Council Staff).

Basic Priority II — New Ways of

Operation in the Church:

1. The Annual Conference makes firm commitment to implement programs through organization of and the practical use of District Councils on Ministries (Conference Council — Cabinet — District Councils);
2. Communication: **A.** New ways of listening to the local church (The Listening Process: Questionnaires, the bishop, the district superintendents, the Conference Council staff, the board and agency chairmen, and the Council on Ministries — Local, District, Conference); **B.** New ways of communicating to the local church (Conference Council, Conference Council Staff, publications, Cabinet, District Councils on Ministries, Boards and Agencies);
3. The use of Conference and General Boards as resource personnel (Conference Council Staff);
4. Clarification of initiating and implementing responsibility in program (Annual Conference Structure Committee — Discipline);
5. An active effort to serve the churches better through Parish Development (Board of Missions — Task Group who attended Kansas City meeting — Area Commission on Religion and Race);
6. The provision of missionary education, interpretation, and promotion (The Cabinet — the Conference Council Staff — Board of Missions);
7. Ecumenical Activity: Arkansas Council, schools, and conferences (Commission on Ecumenical Affairs);
8. Recruitment for Church Related Occupations (Commission on Enlistment — Board of the Ministry);
9. Celebration of 50th Anniversary, Mt. Sequoyah, June 24-28, 1973 (Conference Council Staff — Bishop).

Basic Priority III — A relevant, living theology, that confirms belief in

Please turn to page 5

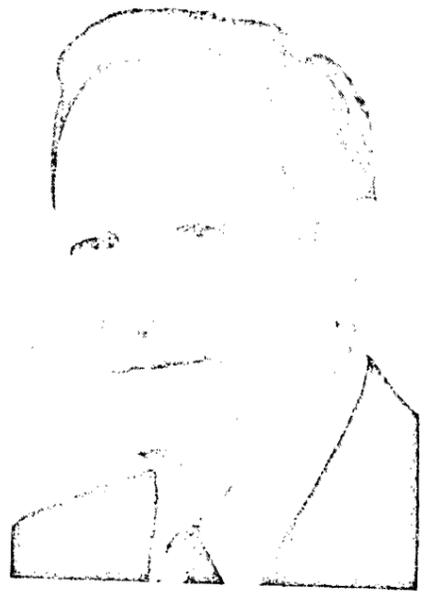
Arkansas Pastors' School set for Sept. 10-13

Plans have been completed for the annual Arkansas Pastors' School scheduled to be held at Hendrix College in Conway, Sept. 10-13, according to the Rev. Owen Beck of Stuttgart, dean of the school.

Dr. Ira B. Loud, pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church, Dallas, Tex., will be the preacher for the Pastors' School Week.

The teaching staff for the school and their subjects will include:

Dr. Emerson S. Colaw, pastor of Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church, Cincinnati, O., "Doctrinal Standards of the United Methodist Church;"



Thomas E. Sparks

Hendrix Alumni Association elects Fordyce attorney

Thomas E. Sparks, a Fordyce attorney and state representative, was installed as president of the Board of Governors of the Hendrix College Alumni Association during the April 28 annual Alumni Day luncheon.

Sparks was born in Crossett, Ark., and received the bachelor of arts degree from Hendrix in 1932. He received his LL.B. from Washington and Lee University in 1935.

The same year he was admitted to the Arkansas Bar and has practiced law in Fordyce since that time. He is president of the Benton Casket Manufacturing Company, Inc. and the Benton Furniture Company, Inc. and other related H. B. Benton Companies of Fordyce.

He is a member of the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association and the State Democratic Committee, and is past president of the Fordyce Chamber of Commerce.

Sparks succeeds Ken Parker of Little Rock, who served a two-year term of office.

Four individuals received "Distinguished Alumni" awards at the meeting. They were Dr. Frank B. Davis, head of the speech department at Auburn University; Jon B. Riffel, vice-president of the Southern California Gas Co.; Dr. Ada L. Ryland, a senior research chemist with DuPont Chemical Co.; and George W. Wells Jr., former manager of OK Storage and Transfer Co.

†

Dean Francis Christie of Hendrix College, Conway — "Christian Beginnings: The Book of Acts;"

Dr. Virgil W. Sexton, assistant general secretary of the General Council on Ministries of the United Methodist Church, Dayton, O. — "Process Planning in the Local Church;"

Dr. John R. Brokhoff, professor of homiletics, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. — "Preaching."

The Hendrix gymnasium will be open for the pastors' use and plans are being made for a volley ball Round Robin.

Arkadelphia churches cooperate in variety of service projects

As part of its Key '73 Program, the First United Methodist Church of Arkadelphia has entered into a cooperative venture with the First Baptist, the First Presbyterian, and St. Michael's Episcopal churches to coordinate community service projects.

Laymen have been elected from each church and form a Council of Twelve. Projects such as: The Benevolent House formerly staffed and operated by First Baptist; the Pantry which supplies food for transients and distressed families within the community which was operated by First United Methodist; the Mother's Day Out program which has been sponsored by First Presbyterian and First United Methodist jointly, and many other projects are now a cooperative venture with people from each church participating in all projects.

The Council of Twelve recently cooperated with the Children's Colony director, Mr. Lorenzen, and the Ross Foundation in setting up Group Living, Inc., a separate, non-profit corporation which will operate two half-way homes for the mentally retarded who have been trained at the Children's Colony for public employment, but have no supportive place to stay.

One of the homes is for young men, and one for young women. These homes have been secured and are undergoing renovation. An early opening date is anticipated.

A radio program called "Candles in the Rain" is sponsored by the four churches each Thursday night from 7-8 p.m. for the purpose of discussing community events and interviewing

community leaders, with opportunity for audience questions and participation. This is an attempt to communicate a joint concern for the community's welfare.

Projects such as hot-lines dealing with narcotics, suicides and personal troubles are being worked out. Plans are being made to aid distressed families in case of fire, flood, etc. A city-wide telephone set-up that would check on the elderly, the sick and the shut-ins daily is another project in process.

This is a lay venture supported by the four ministers who set it up: the Rev. Dan Blake of First Baptist, the Rev. Joe Sheeler of First Presbyterian, Dr. John P. Miles of First Methodist and Father Horton of St. Michael's Episcopal Churches.

Breakfast meeting to honor chaplains

A breakfast honoring all chaplains in the United Methodist connection will be held at 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 5 at Wyatt's Cafeteria on the Mall in Jonesboro. The breakfast is Dutch Treat, and all interested persons are invited.

Col. Robert B. Howerton, Jr. is in charge of the event and Dr. A. Purnell Bailey, executive secretary of the United Methodist Commission on Chaplains, will be the speaker for the occasion.

News in Brief

Richard W. Pearce has been elected president of Methodist College of Fayetteville, N. C., succeeding Dr. L. Stacy Weaver who is retiring. Dr. Pearce has been vice-president and dean of Florida Southern College, Lakeland.

According to a Religious News Service dispatch, election officials in Holly Springs, Miss., have been charged by the U. S. with illegally refusing to register 47 qualified black students at United Methodist-related Rust College.

United Methodist Heritage Tour for Arkansans

United Methodists of the Little Rock and the North Arkansas Conferences are invited to share the inspirational experience of a nine-day United Methodist Heritage Tour of England this Fall. Dr. Earl Hughes, pastor of First United Methodist Church, Forrest City, will provide Area leadership for the tour group which is scheduled to depart from Shreveport, La. on Nov. 19.

Bishop Eugene M. Frank, has given his endorsement to this "powerful spiritual experience."

Dr. Hughes is one of 14 members from across the country who serve on the Methodist Heritage Advisory Board, sponsoring agency for the annual tour. Hughes said, "Every Methodist longs for the day when he can visit the land and churches of the Wesleys and Asbury. It is my prayer that as we visit the birthplace of Methodism and follow the path of the Wesleys that the events of history will be authenticated in our lives."

Cost of the trip will be \$499. Interested United Methodists should write Dr. Earl Hughes, 620 E. Broadway, Forrest City, Ark. 72335, or telephone (501) 633-2280 or 633-1094 for more complete information.

PAGE TWO



Mrs. Richard (Susan) Muha has been employed as full-time Program Coordinator at Aldersgate Methodist Camp, Little Rock. A native of Georgia, Mrs. Muha holds the B.S. Ed. Degree from the University of Georgia at Athens, and has more recently received her Masters' degree in Health Education from State College of Arkansas. She has previously been employed as assistant youth director of Recreation Services at Little Rock Air Force Base, and for four summers served as assistant manager of Swimming Complex in Warner Robins, Ga. In addition she has had camping experience at Aldersgate Village on St. Simons Island, Ga. Mrs. Muha and her husband are members of First United Methodist Church at Jacksonville.

Church School workers' training event at Sequoyah

A Laboratory Training Enterprise for the Ministry of the Church School will be held July 1-6, at Mt. Sequoyah Assembly, Fayetteville, Ark.

Sponsored by the South Central Jurisdiction Council on Ministries of the United Methodist Church, the Enterprise provides leadership training for workers with children, youth, adults, library, and weekday kindergarten. A Seminar for prospective Laboratory leaders will also be held (Prerequisites include attendance at two previous Labs.) The Weekday Kindergarten and Seminar sessions begin June 30.

Resource persons will include: LEADERS OF CHILDREN — Hardy Tippett, Houston, Tex.; the Rev. Richard Monroe, Nashville, Tenn.; the Rev. Robert Havens, St. Paul, Minn.; Jose Bove, Coral Gables, Fla.; Miss LaDonna Bogardus, Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. L. L. Hackler, Bartlesville, Okla.;

LEADERS OF YOUTH—the Rev. James Pomeroy, Jamestown, N. D.; the Rev. David Chaney, DeKalb, Ill.; the Rev. Cliff Kolb, Jr., Nashville, Tenn.;

LEADERS OF ADULTS — the Rev. Gene Rushing, Denver, Colo.; Miss Martha Jones, Nashville, Tenn.;

SEMINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE LABORATORY LEADERS — Miss Nancy Eastridge, Wichita, Kans.; Miss Aileen M. Sanborn, Nashville, Tenn.; AUDIO VISUALS — L. L. Hackler, Bartlesville, Okla.

Registration Fees are as follows: Adults — Lab Classes: \$35; Lab and Seminar: \$50; Youth (Grades 7-12 Fall 1972) — \$10; Children — \$6.

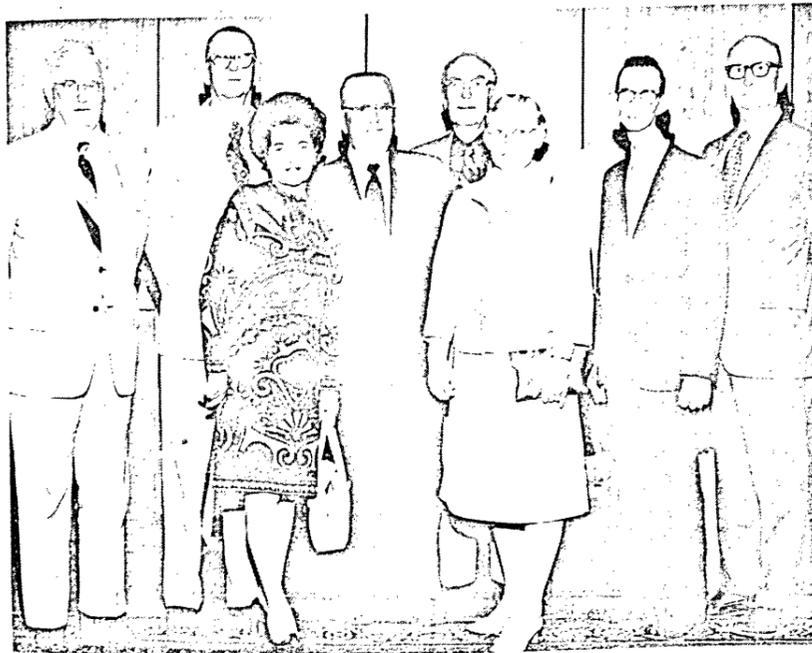
Fees should be sent to your Conference Council Director: Little Rock — the Rev. Alf A. Eason, 715 Center St., Little Rock 72201; North Arkansas — Dr. Harold D. Eggenberger, 715 Center St., Little Rock, 72201. Room deposits of \$2.50 per person should go to Room Registrar, Mt. Sequoyah Methodist Assembly, Fayetteville, 72701.

Bradford D. Ansley, Jr., Englewood, N. J., chairman of the board of Piedmont Capital Corp., has been elected chairman of the board of trustees of the National Methodist Foundation chartered in 1966 to obtain greater understanding and support for United Methodist-related schools and campus ministries.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Alumni of Perkins School of Theology, in attendance at the Little Rock Annual Conference, which will be held at First United Methodist Church, Hot Springs, are requested to meet at the rear of the sanctuary, Tuesday evening, May 29th, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to select a representative to the Alumni Council. There will be a representative from Perkins to greet the Alumni.

MAY 10, 1973



Eight members of the Hendrix College Class of 1923 who were honored at recent Alumni Day celebration. (From left) Lewis Cabe, Gurdon; Hilliard Stroud, McGehee; Myrae Wills Greer, Bakersfield, Calif.; Ewing Pyeatt, Searcy; Dr. Clifford Blackburn, North Little Rock; Dr. Margaret Pittman, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Ellis Mosley, Batesville, and Eugene Stewart, Little Rock.

Are Good Women Out of Style?

by Dr. Alvin C. Murray
Pastor, First Church, El Dorado

Perhaps the most famous paintings of mothers were painted generations apart. One of them was by James McNeil Whistler of his mother. He called it, "Arrangement in Grey and Black," and it has come to symbolize the dignity and patience of motherhood. It shows this mother sitting there gravely and quietly, as though having earned the right to rest.

The other portrait is one painted by the great artist Raphael, this one called "The Madonna of the Chair." It is said to have been painted when the artist visited a poor cottage. There he saw a young mother sitting in a chair clasping her baby in her arms. Raphael thought he had never seen anything so beautiful. He looked around for something on which to draw a picture. All he saw was the round head of an old wine-cask. On that he sketched the figures with a pencil, and afterwards painted in the colors.

One day a young woman stood before these two portraits as they hung in an art gallery. She first looked at one picture and then the other — motherhood at the two extremes: in the sunset years and happily clasping a baby. Then she turned to another person standing by and said, "Women like that are sure out of style today."

She undoubtedly made a wise observation. There can be no doubt that these paintings do not represent the kinds of women we give our attention to in our day. The most widely viewed pictures of women in American life now are those of Carrol Baker, Elizabeth Taylor or Bridgette Bardot. They are referred to as our "modern sex symbol." We might interpret this as just a passing phase, but it is much more than that. Whether we like it or not, it is the kind of womanhood that is lifted before the young people of our day.

At the risk of being archaic and old-fashioned, I want to refer to one of the most beautiful and appropriate descriptions of a good woman that has ever been written. You will find it in the 31st chapter of Proverbs.

I

"A good woman who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from afar. She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and tasks for her maidens." (10-15)

The good woman is first of all lifted up as one who willingly and faithfully knows how to

work. She provides for her family the things necessary for comfort and strength. Her ability to labor is regarded as one of the brightest of her virtues.

Truly this is an aspect that might seem to be out of style. Who teaches their daughters today that they are to prepare for a life of work? Labor-saving devices are considered to be the thing today. "More time" is the watchword. One of the pathetic goals which has been imposed upon us is the one that says: "Have more time to get away from the home."

The question is: More time for what? If it is just more time to go out and find time-killing activities, it is tragedy indeed. If it's more time to use life productively and usefully, if it's more time to enable one to be a better wife and mother, then it's good time.

Leisure and responsibility should be thought of together today. In a well-ordered life they should be blended harmoniously. For many today work is a disagreeable necessity; a mere means of doing what has to be done. Leisure is the great aim and goal of most people.

But I say to you: It takes more character to rightly use leisure time. In our affluent society, we have the time and money to play to our hearts content. Unless we have the right kind of character, we will find ourselves playing and leaving undone some of the truly fine things our lives can accomplish.

A woman who can play cards or golf or swim or go to parties three or four days a week, but has only a small percentage of that time to give to service and church activities, will do well to look at the shallowness of her character. Leisure time has become a threat to her soul rather than a blessing to her existence.

A good woman is first of all one who fulfills her everyday responsibilities.

II

"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness." (25-27)

Next we find that a good woman is one who teaches. She sees herself as not just a house-keeper, but she is a home-maker and a life-maker. Wisdom is in her mouth and kindness is taught by her tongue!

The teacher is the home! Here is a role that every woman is meant to assume. We remember Suzannah Wesley with 19 children. Each week it was her custom to take one hour during which she took each child into her room to teach him religion. Think of it! 19 hours a week of instruction!

Marguerite Harmon Bro, in the book, "When Children Ask" emphasizes the point that the most important needs of children are overlooked when mothers do not think of themselves as teachers. The child comes to ask a question, it can be just looked upon as a question, or it can be a deep, searching need.

And a good woman's teaching ability goes outside the home. Where would we be if there were not women who are willing to give of themselves for all children? This is a matter of the Sunday School, the public school, the Scouts and countless other areas.

Back in the gold rush days of the 49ers, a woman named Faith Adams died in a camp on the gold trail within view of the Sierras. So far as we know there is little record of her life, except the dates of her birth and death on a remote gravestone. However, she did leave other significant markers to her memory. When her husband decided to leave Connecticut in search of gold, she loyally, but fearfully, followed him. Through the long wagon trip, she carefully nursed plants and seeds from her old garden and got them to the west. She lost a child in an Indian raid but she went on trying to meet the challenge. Her husband and other men were intent on gold, but she persuaded them to build a home and a chapel.

We don't know much more about Faith Adams, except that one of the miners in later years said she was a heroine of the West. He wrote, "But she held life together somehow. She had preserved the beauty that someday will enrich the world."

Wisdom in her mouth and kindness upon her tongue! What a wonderful thing to say about a woman! Good women like this can never go out of style.

"Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,

But a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." (30)

Here I wonder what experience the writer of Proverbs must have had! It is as though he is saying, "I have been attracted to charming and beautiful women, but I found that these things are not so important as beauty of soul."

No one, I least of all, want goody-goody or pious women. Please deliver me from anyone who drips religiously for all to see. But to have a deep 'fear of the Lord' — an abiding faith is an entirely different thing.

Such a faith will be apparent to a child and a husband. They will see it in action. But it should also be faith that expresses itself and shares with the whole family. A child should have the opportunity to study the Bible with its parents. A child should have a living witness of faith from its parents. It isn't enough to turn it over to the Church or Sunday School, they can't teach your child religion and faith. They represent part of the effort of the parent but that's all.

One of the finest tributes to a modern mother was written by Eric Gill, a British sculptor, about his wife. In his autobiography he penned these words:

"I had a dream in which I was walking in heaven with my wife, Mary, and our children. We met our Lord and I said to Him, 'This is Betty, and this is Petra, and this is Joanna, and this is Gordian.' And He shook hands with them all. And then I said, 'And this is Mary'. And He said, 'Oh, Mary and I are old friends.'"

What a lovely thing! Her life had expressed something that came forth in this dream — he believed that his good wife would be acquainted with the Lord.

"Her children rise up and call her blessed;

her husband also, and he praises her:

'Many women have done excellently,

but you surpass them all'.
Give her of the fruit of her hands,

and let her works praise her in the gates."

Good women may be out of style today. If they are, God help us! We need them and the children of today need them.

We had better cast off some of our pseudo sophistication and call for the women of this day to seek to be 'good women'. And we had better teach our daughters: "A good woman who can find? She is far more precious than jewels."

†

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NEWS and views

OF THE WORLD OF RELIGION

by doris woolard

In an Easter pastoral, Archbishop Coadjutor Leo C. Byrne, St. Paul-Minneapolis, warned Christians against any involvement in the occult. He described the occult as "such things as astrology, witchcraft of any kind, the worship of natural powers, and, of course, any diabolical cult." "The Christian should never compromise his faith in Jesus Christ as true God and true man by an involvement in the occult," the archbishop wrote.

The American Hospital Assn., which embraces 7,000 hospitals, and four state hospital associations, have registered opposition to a bill before the House of Representatives which would authorize formation of unions at non-profit (including church-related) hospitals. In a statement to a special House subcommittee on labor, AHA said "Our opposition to the bill is based on the sincere belief that the provisions of the Nat'l. Labor Relations Act should not be applied to hospitals or other health care institutions because strikes, picketing, and work stoppages—basic elements in the collective bargaining process under the NLRA — cannot be tolerated in the life and death situations faced daily by hospitals."

The Rumanian Orthodox Church (in a Communist country) has placed an order with the United Bible Societies in London for sufficient paper to produce 100,000 Bibles on the 300-year-old printing plant operated by the Church. The Church placed a second order for 5,000 copies — in Braille — of the Gospel of St. Matthew which is being produced by a Lutheran women's organization in the U. S.

The Greater Minneapolis Assn. of Evangelicals, at its annual meeting, deplored a "religious and moral vacuum" which is developing "in much of our educational system today." A resolution on "The Christian Parent and Public Education" noted that evangelicals "believe firmly" in separation of church and state. But, it said, "this does not necessitate the exclusion from our public schools of all reference to God Who is the Supreme Object of all learning and wisdom, and of all reference to His laws, which must be the basis of well-being for men and for nations."

Bill Russell, of basketball hall-of-fame — now a sports broadcaster — was keynote speaker during a week-long "Festival of Black Culture" at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He stressed the importance of all Americans to think as citizens, not as black, white or yellow. Advising the cadets and their guests (which numbered 1,800) to shun alcohol and drugs, Russell said, "You shouldn't have to retreat to drugs to keep from seeing the truth. Truth is the most beautiful thing in the world when you see it through clear eyes."

Decreasing income from the 33 Protestant and Orthodox Churches making up the National Council of Churches is reported as the major reason for cutting its Division of Church and Society executive staff by nearly half and trimming its budget by \$79,000. Peggy Billings, a top executive with the Women's Division of the United Methodist Bd. of Global Ministries, is head of a committee which will write job descriptions for the reduced staff, as reordering of priorities gets underway.

In recognition of Israel's 25th anniversary, the Pat Boone family presented a cake with 25 candles to Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem. The presentation was made on behalf of more than 400 Christian pilgrims during a reception held by Mayor Kollek for the visitors to Jerusalem. "No other city in the entire world is as important to Christians and Jews alike," said Boone in presenting the cake. "No other is as rich with history of both religions. If we are to present a birthday cake as symbolic for all of Israel, the official representative of Jerusalem obviously is the man who should receive it."

"To my present way of thinking, unrestricted abortion—left up to the woman and her doctor—is but one more example of the retreat from responsibility which seems characteristic of the times," declared Dr. C. Eric Lincoln in the April 25 issue of *Christian Century*. Dr. Lincoln, a leading sociologist of religion, a United Methodist clergyman, and black, is leaving his professorship at New York's Union Theological Seminary for a post at Fisk University in Nashville.

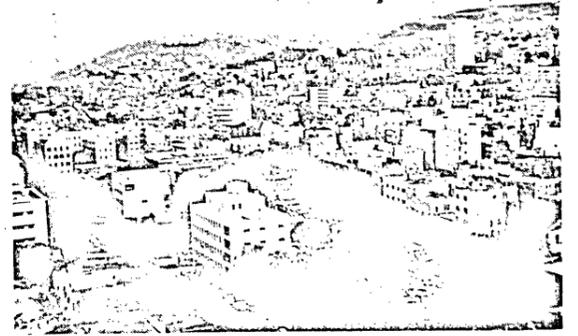
Blaming technological advances for an erosion of the human dimension of life, Father Caesar Caviglia, editor of a weekly newspaper at Henderson, Nev., has turned his attention to Growth Opportunities, Inc. The Reno diocesan priest said the multi-faceted program established in that suburban Las Vegas community to aid the poor, the aging, the hopeless and the powerless, "is an important aspect in coping with the 'problem of rebuilding a person's self-worth.'"

The financial struggle of American seminaries is far from over but a "significant first step" toward balancing budgets was made in fiscal 1971-72, the American Assn. of Theological Schools has reported. For more than five years, most seminaries have been hard-hit by inflation, rising costs, a need for higher faculty salaries and greater demands for student aid. The AATS has discovered that it takes nearly twice as much money to educate a seminarian in a school with less than 50 students than it does in an institution having more than 500. The 1971-72 average for 13 United Methodist seminaries, none over 500 and none under 50 students, was \$3,346. As a denominational group, only the Southern Baptists showed a per student surplus, of \$192 per person, last year.

British Prime Minister Edward Heath was given "a major disposal problem and massive food for thought" according to a Religious News Service report, when a delegation of 17 people, including two prominent churchmen, delivered 17 bundles of petitions at 10 Downing Street. The petitions, signed by 1,350,000 people from throughout the country, called for a campaign for national decency. Collection of the petition signatures was organized by the Festival of Light—a nationally operating permanent movement which began the campaign against pornography in 1971. An "open letter" handed to Prime Minister Heath said the organizers were sending telegrams to the governments of the other eight members of the European Community, asking common action in the fight against indecency.

Judge Margaret A. Haywood, the first black woman to serve on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, has been nominated to serve as moderator of the United Church of Christ. If elected at the denomination's June 22-26 biennial meeting in St. Louis, Judge Haywood would become the first woman ever to hold the top unsalaried slot in the two-million-member Church.

"Focus on the Family" has been chosen as the theme of the National Salvation Army Week, May 14-20, to emphasize the organization's concern for family life. "The Salvation Army believes that family life is the 'cement' of society," a spokesman said.



Israel, now marking its 25th anniversary as a "modern" nation, is a new country and an old land, with modern cities and biblical settlements, space-age jobs and timeless occupations. The newness of Israel is seen in the modern port city of Haifa (above).



The antiquity of Israel is typified by Safed, a Galilee town best known as the city of the Cabala, a mystic Jewish sect.



Shepherds still tend their flocks on Israel's hills.



Modern Israel maintains a strong and disciplined army.

Siloam Springs pastor authors third book

"... the Bible when indiscriminately used can be and has been the source of much emotional distress." writes Merle Allison Johnson in his new book, "The Kingdom Seekers," released May 7 by Abingdon Press.

Pastor of The United Methodist Church of Siloam Springs and a former Baptist minister, Johnson is author of two previous books, "How to Murder a Minister," and "Beyond Disenchantment," and numerous newspaper and magazine articles. A frequent guest lecturer on college campuses, Johnson has also been on several radio and television programs.

In "The Kingdom Seekers," Johnson provides guidelines for young kingdom seekers with true faith, explaining that the "grab a Bible verse" answer is not adequate for today's church. He indicates the need for an educated, historical overview of Christianity and the Bible.

"The Kingdom Seekers" is available from Abingdon Press, 201 8th Ave. South, Nashville, Tennessee 37202 for \$3.75.



Dr. Bruce Rahtjen, professor of biblical studies at St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Mo., recently presented a series of five lectures at First Church, Jacksonville, on the origins of the New Testament. Dr. Rahtjen is the author of two books, "Scripture and Social Action," and "Biblical Truth and Modern Man." Approximately 600 persons representing various denominations attended the series. The Rev. Bob Edwards is pastor of First Church.

from page one

PRIORITIES

Jesus Christ in terms of contemporary attitudes and values.

1. A study of the theological position of Methodism — Doctrinal Standards (Board of Education — Conference Council Staff — the Board of Managers of Pastors' School); 2. The setting up of Bible Conferences, Seminars, and other learning experiences (Board of Evangelism — Board of Education); 3. The encouragement of variety in forms of public worship (Commission on Worship); 4. The implementation of the training program of Lay Speaking and Lay Participation. This program will include proper certification, and utilization of those trained (Board of the Laity — Commission on Worship).

Ministry Priority I — Concern for Persons

1. Promotion of the Black College Development Fund (Area Commission on Religion and Race — Council on Finance and Administration); 2. Continued support of the Children's Home (Board of Health and Welfare); 3. Strengthening of the Ministers' Pension Program (Board of Pensions); 4. Salary Aid for Churches in mission situations (Board of Missions — Commission on Minimum Salary — Cabinet); 5. The development of a ministry to the handicapped (Board of Health and Welfare); 6. Promotion of Golden Cross Sunday (Board of Health and Welfare); 7. Program for the non-institutionalized aged persons in our churches (Board of Health and Welfare — Conference Council Staff); 8. Encourage the plan for a proposed retirement home (Board of Health and Welfare — Aldersgate Camp); 9. Cultivation of local church support of Advance Specials (Cabinet — Conference Missionary Secretary).

Ministry Priority II — Concern for Justice and Self-development of peoples.

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1. Support of the "Bishops' Call for Peace and Self-development of Nations" (Board of Christian Social Concerns — Bishop — Commission on Ecumenical Affairs); 2. Church Extension and Special Mission Projects (Board of Missions); 3. The inclusion of minority representation on conference boards, institutions and agencies (Area Commission on Religion and Race — the Cabinet); 4. Conduct Consultations on Religion and Race (Area Commission on Religion and Race); 5. Study of Social Principles and introduction of the revised Social Creed (Board of Christian Social Concerns).

Ministry Priority III — Concern for Human Culture.

1. To prepare a history of Arkansas Methodism (Commission on Archives and History); 2. To prepare a history of the Southwest Conference (Commission on Archives and History).

Ministry Priority IV — Concern for the quality of human life.

1. Strengthened Youth Ministry (Youth Council — Board of Education — Conference Council Staff); 2. Strong Campus Ministry (Council on Ministries); 3. Marriage Enrichment Programs (Council Staff — Board of Ed-

Group session at recent Marriage Enrichment Conference sponsored by First Church, Jonesboro, and held at First Church, Cherokee Village, under the auspices of the Division of Evangelism, Worship and Stewardship. Mr. and Mrs. George Delaney and Dr. and Mrs. Grover Poole were co-chairmen for the weekend Conference, which was directed by Dr. Carl Clarke of Atlanta. Mr. and Mrs. Ron Tarrent of Port Huron, Mich., were in charge of general sessions. Small group sessions were led by couples from Kentucky, Kansas, and Texas. The Rev. Worth W. Gibson is pastor of Jonesboro First Church and the Rev. Roy Poyner is pastor of Cherokee Village First Church.

Council Directors to Local Churches

Key 73

Religious News Service named Key 73 the number one religious news story of 1972. There can be little doubt that this mushrooming movement will be the single most important religious event of 1973! It is clear that Key 73 is providing a new focus on evangelism in churches across America and that the new focus is characterized by great enthusiasm and a cooperative spirit. Significant effort is being made to produce and distribute appropriate resources and programmatic aids for the remaining phases of Key 73.

Many programs that have already proved successful in local church ministries hold great promise for Key 73 during phases 4, 5 and 6. New resources for evangelism ministry are also being offered for implementation in local communities.

PHASE FOUR RESOURCES

The theme of phase four is CALLING OUR CONTINENT TO NEW LIFE. Here is a focus on ministries in leisure settings, arts festivals, and other places outside the church where people gather for celebration experiences. The focus is also on personal evangelism through visitation and personal witnessing. An important resource for ministries to persons in leisure settings is the LEISURE MINISTRIES PACKET.

Here is a multi-media packet of resources that includes a filmstrip, cassette recording, and three books for use by local churches interested in reaching persons at play. A most significant new program for personal witness is the SHARE YOUR FAITH visitation resource. This is a practical program for training and involving laymen in visitation and personal witnessing. Phase four is an appropriate time for a tried and tested program of ministry to youth, the YOUTH WIT-

ness MISSION, a lay witness mission for youth.

NESS MISSION, a lay witness mission for youth.

PHASE FIVE RESOURCES

The theme of phase five is CALLING OUR CONTINENT TO PROCLAMATION. The concluding weeks of the summer provides many good opportunities for innovative ministries in leisure settings.

The proclamation phase of Key 73 is a perfect time to conduct LAY WITNESS MISSIONS and NEW LIFE MISSIONS in local churches. Introductory packets for NEW LIFE MISSIONS and LAY WITNESS MISSIONS are available from Tidings. Tidings is also offering a Christian literature consignment program for groups wanting to provide a book display in state, county and community fairs and festivals.

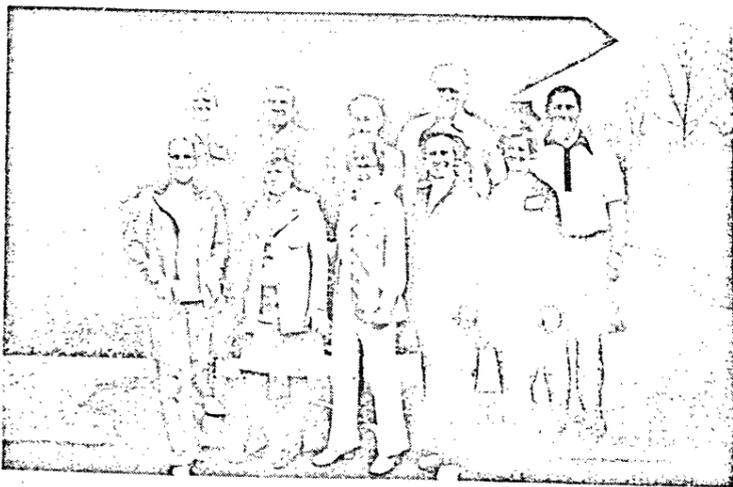
PHASE SIX RESOURCES

The theme of phase six is CALLING OUR CONTINENT TO COMMITMENT. Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas are three festival occasions which provide windows on God's gracious dealing with his people. A special series of six bulletin inserts, beginning with Thanksgiving and including the four Sundays of Advent is being prepared by Tidings. These leaflets along with a variety of Covenant Services and commitment registration materials will help give form and substance to the call to commitment.

DESIGN FOR WITNESS is a program for involving persons in a highly disciplined program of small group experiences and a caring, continuing outreach to others.

The NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN is a simple plan for organizing your congregation for visitation, small groups, social action and shepherding ministries.

The last phases of Key 73 will be as critical as the first. This will be the time when the Christian invitation will receive its response. The most fruitful ministries will be undergirded by prayerful preparation and the best resources available.



NEWS and NOTES

BISHOP WILLIAM C. MARTIN, retired, of Little Rock was guest speaker at the Father-Son fish fry held at Washington Avenue Church, May 8.

MISS INEZ MARTIN, a member of Asbury Church, Little Rock, was named "Teacher of the Year" by the Greater Little Rock Federation of Women's Clubs. At a banquet in her honor, her pastor, the Rev. Fred H. Arnold gave the invocation. Miss Martin has been on the teaching staff at UALR for 27 years and has the longest tenure of anyone on the faculty.

DR. E. CLIFTON RULE, retired, of Pine Bluff, was guest preacher at Hawley Memorial Church on April 29 when the program featured retired ministers. The Rev. Herman G. Bonds is pastor.

THE LONOKE CHURCH observed National Family Week with a Family Night dinner on May 9. Speaker for the occasion was Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden, minister of First United Methodist Church in Little Rock. The Rev. Michael Clayton is the Lonoke pastor.

WEST HELENA Methodists held Holy Week services with the Rev. Thomas M. Price, superintendent of the Nacogdoches (Tex.) District, as guest evangelist. Host pastor was the Rev. William Haltom.

THE OAK FOREST Churchwide study is being held on four Sunday evenings. While the children are studying India, the young people will be studying Romans, taught by Joe Scruggs, and the adults will have a depth study of Romans under the leadership of Dr. and Mrs. Carl Wenger, who are area directors of the Bible Study Fellowship. Mrs. Charles Ward is chairman of the Work Area of Missions at Oak Forest, and the Rev. David Hankins is pastor.



Three God and Country Awards were presented in the Piggott United Methodist Church recently by the pastor, the Rev. J. B. Harris (right, rear), and Scoutmaster Paul Garrison (left, rear). Receiving the awards were Blake Richardson, at left, Kevin Knauts, center, and David Gregory.

CORRECTION CONCERNING THE GIVING BY WOMEN

Last week we printed an article concerning the Centennial of women's work in Warren, Ark. We compared the giving of \$50 by that first group of seven women 100 years ago with the national membership and giving today. We must, however, correct the figure we quoted. We stated that 1,500,000 women gave \$4,183,444 to missions. The correct figure is more than \$13,000,000, or approximately 36% of the total giving by United Methodists to missions.

†

THE MARIANNA-LEE COUNTY Ministerial Alliance sponsored an Easter Sunrise Service held at Bear Creek Lake Methodist Youth Camp. The Rev. W. Leonard Byers, pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Marianna, brought the message. Other ministers on the program were: William Fitzhugh, Jack Bledsoe, Wayne Willis, Robert Hicks, Max Goins, Kenneth Walls, and Rodney Plumley.

A **PERSONAL GROWTH** Seminar was held in First Church, Crossett, May 4 and 5. The ten-hour seminar stressing self-understanding and self-affirmation, is sponsored by Perkins School of Theology, SMU, Dallas. The Rev. Bill Black from the North Texas Conference was assisted by the Rev. and Mrs. Larry Robertson from Mer Rouge, La., in leading the participants. The Rev. Ferris Norton, Crossett pastor, and Bobby Harris, administrative assistant, are leading a similar seminar in Monroe, May 18 and 19.

NEW EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT AT FIRST CHURCH, BATESVILLE

Mrs. Peter W. Musgrave, formerly Helen Rose Gennings, has been employed by the First United Methodist Church of Batesville as full-time Educational Assistant. She received her degree in Music Education from Ouachita Baptist University in 1971. While in school at OBU she sang with various groups - The OBU Choir, Madrigal Singers, Ouachita Singers and the Ouachi-Tones. She made two USO tours with two of these groups. In the summer of 1968 she was chosen Miss Arkansas and upon relinquishing her crown made a USO tour of military stations in Vietnam. After teaching for a year and a half in the Bald Knob school district, she accepted the job in Batesville in January of this year.

†

THE PASTOR of the Higginson United Methodist Church, the Rev. Gaston Matthews, brought the Easter message at the Union Easter Sunrise Service at the Higginson Baptist Church. The Assembly of God Church also participated.

BAY UNITED METHODIST Church held the fifth Sunday singing April 29. Persons participating in this event were: Joe Ewing and The Pages, Memphis, Tenn., The Douthitt Family, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Payton, Jonesboro, Leroy Bruner, Robert Holt, The Stone Sisters, Mrs. Barbara Faulkenberry, a newly formed quartet consisting of Jim Ladd, Greg Watts, Butch and Buddy Warren, and The Bay United Methodist Chancel Choir. These Fifth Sunday Singings are sponsored by the Methodist Men's Club with Billy Joe Gammill as president. Buford Edwards served as master of ceremonies. The Rev. Jack Skelton is pastor.

The McCrory Church honored Dr. and Mrs. Ethan Dodgen on April 6. Following potluck supper, Dr. Dodgen, Forrest City district superintendent, showed slides he took on an evangelistic trip to South America. Ralph Fore, shown at right, presented a check to the Dodgens from the church. Dr. Dodgen endorsed the check over to Alaska Methodist University.

| DAILY BIBLE READINGS | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Below is a schedule for the Daily Bible Reading, which the Board of Evangelism invites you to use as a regular guide for use in your homes. | |
| May 13—Sunday | 1 Sam. 1:8-28 |
| May 14 | Rom. 3:21-31 |
| May 15 | Rom. 4:1-9 |
| May 16 | Rom. 5:1-11 |
| May 17 | Rom. 8:1-11 |
| May 18 | Gal. 3:6-25 |
| May 19 | Heb. 10:1-17 |
| May 20—Sunday | John 14:1-3 I Thessa. 4:13-18 |



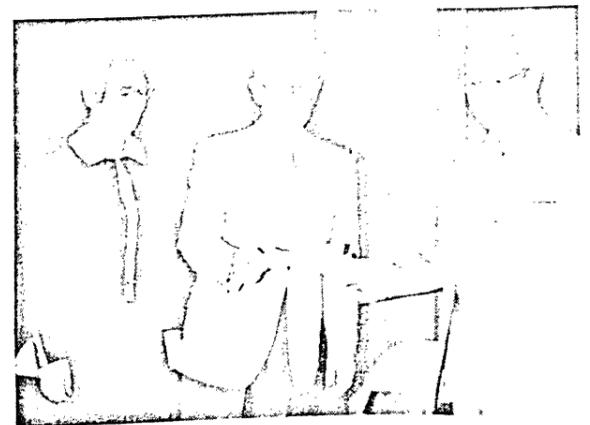
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Barbler of Pine Bluff observed their golden wedding anniversary on Palm Sunday at the St. Luke United Methodist Church. They renewed their wedding vows in a double ring rite with Dr. Virgil D. Keeley and the Rev. Larry R. Williams officiating. Their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. T. V. Blankenship of North Little Rock were the hosts for this anniversary celebration.

THE REV. ARVILL C. BRANNON, former minister at First Church, Batesville, preached at Cushman United Methodist Church at 9:30 and at Central Avenue Church, Batesville, at 10:50 and again at 6 on Sunday, May 6. Mr. Brannon is associate director of the North Arkansas Conference Council on Ministries, and is heading up the program of Christian Education for the North Arkansas Conference.

DR. EDWARD W. HARRIS, executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, was guest speaker in First Church, Jonesboro, Sunday morning April 29. His wife, the former Mabel Martin, was youth director at Jonesboro before their marriage in 1941. Leading the worship service in the absence of the Rev. Worth Gibson was Dr. Charles Kemp, chairman of the Administrative Board.

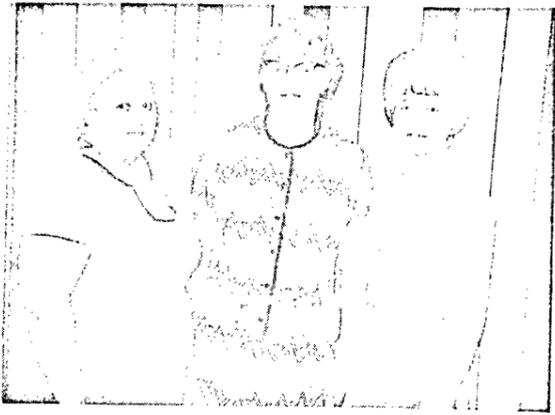


Shown at Clarendon are the Rev. D. Leon Gilliam, pastor, Dr. Ethan Dodgen, district superintendent, Flynn Chivers, Admin. Board chm., Mrs. Chivers, Mrs. Gilliam and Mrs. Dodgen. The occasion was a supper and Call Session of Charge Conference for the purpose of selling some church property. Members presented the Dodgens a Type Collection of 20th Century Coins in honor of their upcoming retirement.



AT RIGHT:

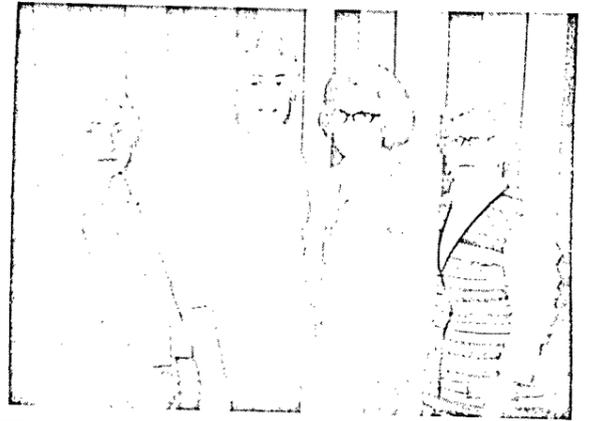
Officers of United Methodist Women in the Levy Church, North Little Rock, are shown at their installation. Front row, from left: Mrs. Martha Coulter, president; Mrs. Ann Dillingham, secretary; Mrs. Evelynne Crabtree, treasurer; and Mrs. Alma Rorie, coordinator of Involvement; back row: Mrs. Annie Bentley, Nominations; Mrs. Linda Trigubetz, Personhood; and Miss Viola Blair, Global Concerns. Not shown: Mrs. Maxine Higgins, vice president; Mrs. Glendine Attwood, Supportive Community; and Mrs. Lorene Bryant, Program Resources.



At Jacksonville, members of First Church receiving special pins at a recent service were Mrs. R. L. Faulkner (left), past-president's pin; Mrs. A. C. Sanders, Mrs. Les Williams, Jr., and Mrs. W. C. Glover (not shown) received special membership pins.

AT RIGHT:

Recently installed officers of United Methodist Women in First Church, Jacksonville, are from left: Mrs. W. N. Herrod, president; Mrs. M. L. Waymack, secretary; Mrs. Charles Bobo, motion; and Mrs. E. L. Leonard, spiritual life. Mrs. M. D. Walker and Mrs. Bobby Schultz (not shown) are vice president and treasurer.



Churchman's Study Tour

by Betty Reese

INDIA: 1973

Part III The State of Kerala

Our flight to Bangalore in the State of Mysore, was broken by a stop at Hyderabad airport. The city of Hyderabad appeared in the midst of a very green area with much water around it in the form of lakes.

We were to spend about five hours at the Union Theological College in Bangalore, which we were told had the most ideal climate in India. They called it the air-conditioned city with year-round comfortable temperature all of the time — in India this means no extreme heat or cold.

The grounds of the college were beautiful with a profusion of blooming flowers. We were told a bit about their Protestant theological school program for ministers with maybe a majority of Lutherans, who were teaching there. After lunch, we flew on to Cochin in Kerala. Cochin has a wonderful natural harbor and, with the adjoining towns of Ernakulam and Alwaye, is the state's most important centre of large scale industries for Kerala.

We had a room at the recently opened Sealord Hotel, facing the harbor on the Arabian Sea. It was a beautiful sight to see the Chinese junks and other manner of boats in the harbor besides Indian naval vessels. Cochin is known as the "Queen of the Arabian Sea" and is a rich mosaic of many centuries and many peoples coloring.

History records that on Christmas Day, 1500 A. D., the Portuguese Admiral Pedro Alvares Cabral brought his fleet into Cochin Harbor and Vasco de Gama came to Cochin and then died here in 1504. The burial place of Vasco de Gama, the St. Francis Church, is an interesting old church.

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A "fan" device of wood, with drapes attached which is swung back and forth over parishioners is an interesting innovation. The Vasco de Gama burial place is now removed to Portugal by his son.

Along the beach near the Church are seen the ingenious Chinese fishing nets in operation and we were told this style was not currently used in China. They operate on an up and down sequence into the harbor bringing fish up which are removed by tilting nets into baskets on the piers.

South Vietnam is referred to as, "Cochin China" in the World Book which gives one the impression that Cochin got its name from some of the early Chinese settlers there. History of the area does not go back completely to the beginning of the area so one can only speculate about it.

The Dutch Palace at Mattancherry was built by Portuguese in the 1850s. It was a gift to Maharaja of Cochin as a token of their affection for him. The building has great archaeological and historical importance with its three stories built in a quadrangular shape. Paintings representing scenes from the epics of about two centuries are in it. Between the Jewish Synagogue and the Palace lies the ancient Temple of Lord Vishnu, a round building covered with copper.

The Jewish Synagogue is one of the oldest Jewish ones in India, which dates from 1664 with its well preserved Great Rolls of the Old Testament and the famous copper plate inscription of the Bhaskara Ravi Varma. The two storied building has a Bell Tower and Chinese tiles on the floor. Each one is a separate design, imported from China about two centuries ago.

We visited an FAO Fishing Project headed by a Norwegian. They were

concerning themselves currently with charting the water depths along the coast there. Next door to the FAO project, the Indian government had a fishing industry going which exported all of their shrimp catch purchased by the U. S., Japan, and Australia.

We proceeded to Kottayam by bus with the accompanying swirls of dust since the usual fashioned Indian highway was paved one to one-and-a-half lanes and one was constantly getting off to the side of the road to pass other vehicles on the road. We were to have 1½ days at the ashram, The Christavashram, which is located on a hill-top outside of the town. Our speakers were K. K. Chandy, head of the Ashram and several leaders from the Marxist Communist Party of Kerala and one faculty member of St. Peter's College in Cochin. The three branches of the Communist Party in Kerala have different ideas about use of violence. One does not favor the use of it, another will tolerate it, and the Communist Party Naxalite is in favor of it and openly admits allegiances to Red China. College and university students have been active in Naxalism, preaching, "mass line" of Mao-Tse-tung. With the lack of housing and jobs in India, one is not surprised to hear of the popularity of the Communist Party. It is the last ditch or in

desperation-hope, particularly for the college age. However, one must keep in mind that India has been a republic for only 25 years and has really accomplished much in that period. Kerala and West Bengal are the most active states for the Communist Party.

In a recent "Today" broadcast, John Kenneth Galbraith, former Ambassador to India, said, in talking about a new book he has recently published about the Chinese, that they are masters of organization to which he attributed the success of their country, but organization had escaped the Indians. India is beginning a fourth Five Year Plan this year and you hear of aspects of previous Five Year Plans which were not carried out.

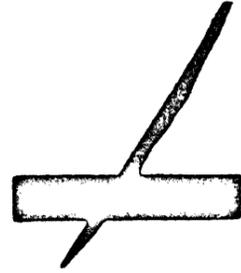
The Kerala Balagram, Boys' Town of Kerala, was on the same hill-top with the Ashram. There were 65 boys there, all from the streets of Kottayam, who were between ages of 5-19. They attend schools in the area and lived in three buildings according to ages with a cook and a couple in each house. They are taught a trade and agriculture. They plant tapioca which is sold commercially to help support the project. The Indian government gives them 2 Rupees for each one per month—about 30 cents. A variety of spices, for which the area is famous, grow on the property also.

Dr. Carl Soule, guide for the Churchman's Study Tour to India, briefs the tourists before entering Fatehpur-Sikri.



The Sunday School Lesson

(We are indebted to Bishop William C. Martin for the weekly Sunday School Lessons for the third quarter - March, April and May - under the general topic: "Affirmations of Our Faith.")



LESSON FOR MAY 20: God's Grace Sustains Us

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:25-31; 2 Corinthians 4:15; 12:9-10; Philippians 4:10-13

MEMORY SELECTION: My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

AIM OF THE LESSON: To remind us that for every trial that can befall us, God's grace will be sufficient.

* * *

All of the Scripture references that have been chosen for today's lesson carry the message of God's unflinching mercy, especially in the hour of urgent need. And the number of such passages could, of course, have been greatly enlarged. It is one of the continuing themes through both the Old and New Testaments. The central word here is "Grace" — a word that is too big and meaningful to be fully expressed through the limitation of words. One attempt at a definition is: "God's unmerited, full, spontaneous, love for sinful man, revealed and made effective in Jesus Christ. As such it lies at the very heart of the Christian gospel."

* * *

THE MEANING OF GRACE

Dr. Albert C. Outler is writing about what grace meant to the great Christian interpreter, Augustine: "God's grace gave him a new grounding. He now felt himself established in being and truth, upborne by God's providence, sustained by his unwithdrawn love that is the very essence of being. Grace means forgiveness of sins, the restoration of communion with God — with its demands and promises of 'gracious living.' It trans-valued his self-understanding and sustained his courage in the midst of life's transients, in the face of death." Dr. William Barclay writes: "Grace is that power of God which clothes a man with day-to-day fortitude and strength. Grace is that power of God which adorns a man's life with lovely things. Grace is a man's day-to-day defense and inspiration. Grace is not only the glory of the mountain top; it is the source of strength for the ordinary road of the every day."

* * *

HOW PAUL'S PRAYER WAS ANSWERED

The memory verse comes out of a pivotal experience in the life of the Apostle Paul. He had been suffering from a physical malady which was both painful and debilitating. He called it "a thorn in the flesh." There has been much speculation as to what the ailment was. Some have held that it was a form of epilepsy; others, an offensive eye trouble; still others have thought it was a malarial fever. Whatever it was, Paul was eager to be cured of it. He writes, "Three times I have sought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but He said to me, 'My Grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" This experience of the great missionary should give consolation to any modern Christian whose prayer is not answered in the exact terms of the petition. Certainly Paul knew how to pray. In this instance, he prayed, in a fervent manner, not once but three times. And yet his prayer was not answered. It is more accurate to say that it was not answered in the way he had hoped, but it was answered with a more abundant and inclusive reply that covered not only his infirmity but any other misfortune that might befall him. From

that time to the end of his ministry he seems never to question the sufficiency of God's grace.

On the basis of this deep assurance, he was able to write to the Christians in Rome, "More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us." (Romans 5:3-5) To the church in Corinth he wrote: "So far you have faced no trial beyond what man can bear. God keeps faith, and he will not allow you to be tested above your powers, but when the test comes He will at the same time provide a way out, by enabling you to sustain it." (I Corinthians 10:13 NEB)

* * *

HOW TO HANDLE ADVERSITIES

One of the continuing problems that Christians must struggle with is how to handle adversities. One thing is certain; either we handle them, by God's grace, or they handle us. The early Christians, so far as we have any record, spent no time in discussing the origin of evil; they simply lived victorious lives in spite of unceasing hardships.

Three simple suggestions are offered as to facts about life's afflictions that we need to keep in mind when adversity strikes. The first is that **EVERYBODY HAS THEM.** They come in different ways and with varying degrees of intensity but no one escapes. When our misfortune comes we are all tempted to cry out in the manner of the writer of "Lamentations," "Behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow!" But one never needs to look very far before finding someone who is carrying a heavier load than his own. "But how can this awareness possibly help me?" someone will ask. "Does it not, instead of helping, add to my own load?" Strangely enough, it doesn't. First, it keeps us from feeling that we stand alone as the victims of misfortune. There are others in the same or similar circumstances. No one is exempt. We have just passed through the season of the Church year in which we followed the Savior through his period of being deserted, falsely tried, enduring physical and mental agony even to the point of crying out from the cross. "My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" Even the world's purest and best have endured unspeakable suffering. Poet Longfellow reminds us:

"Thy fate is the common fate of all,
Into each life some rain must fall,
Some days must be dark and dreary."

* * *

BEARING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

One encouraging fact to be remembered is that in ordinary circumstances these distressing experiences do not come to all the people of a community at the same time. Herein lies one of the cherished rewards of being a member of a group that is small enough and compact enough to "bear one another's burdens." This is the ideal relationship between the members of every Christian congregation — small or large. Here is a kinship which exists like that between experienced mountain climbers who are bound together by a connecting rope. By this means, when one climber loses his footing, instead of falling from the cliff, he is borne up by others who have climbed higher and laid upon a ledge of rock that enables them to support the climber who needs help beyond his own ability. Every adult church-member has experienced the encouragement and sustaining comfort that comes from this kind of fellowship. It

is an effective channel through which God releases his upholding grace.

* * *

"TROUBLE DON'T LAST ALWAYS"

The second fact to be remembered about tribulations is that **THEY DON'T LAST ALWAYS.** In some instances they last a long time but they are never permanent. Those of us who have been pastors can recall many instances in which we have gone into a home and have found the results of a calamity that seemed almost hopeless and beyond remedy. But if there was a foundation of faith and commitment in such a home, we have found the clouds lifting and there was a new and more secure outlook. We can all join in the words of the Negro Spiritual, "I'm so glad that trouble don't last always."

There is a meaningful legend of an Oriental ruler who was troubled with more than a normal load of trials and misfortunes. But he bore up under them with remarkable patience and courage. He was often observed to take a ring from his finger and look at the inside. After his death, someone removed the ring and found inscribed on the inside these words, "This, too, will pass!" Legend or truth, they are good words to remember when life's adversities befall us.

Some of our fellow Christians have contended that these afflictions are not real — that they are errors of the mortal mind. We do not argue but we are convinced of the reality of misfortune, pain, and physical death. But we also hold that, although these experiences are real, they are not eternal. The ultimate reality is not darkness but light, not pain but joy, not hatred but love, not war but peace, not death but life. One of the secrets of victorious living is to make as complete adjustment as possible, not to the passing elements of life, but to the everlasting reality.

* * *

THE STEWARDSHIP OF SUFFERING

The third fact to be remembered is that **WHILE THESE DEPRESSING EXPERIENCES ARE WITH US THEY OFFER A DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITY TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE SUSTAINING GRACE OF A COMPASSIONATE GOD.** I recall seeing somewhere a little book with the surprising title, "The Stewardship of Suffering." I wish I had read it. The author's thesis was probably that with all the attention we have given to the stewardship of time and possessions and influence and all the rest, we need to consider the fact that there is an element in the experience of suffering that should not be regarded by a Christian entirely as something to be simply endured but as an opportunity to bear witness to the fact that God's unflinching grace is a present reality.

In reviewing your own experience, when you ask the question, "What persons, by their example of faithfulness and courage, have meant most to me?" I am confident that the answer will not put at the head of the list those who have been most fortunate and have had a minimum of hardship to contend with. Instead, they will be those who have carried heavy loads and have wrestled with difficult adversities in a manner that revealed that they had found a source of comfort and strength from beyond their own resources. They, too, had heard a voice, "My grace is sufficient for you."

Such examples of courageous living have made it easier for us to say, with complete confidence, "His grace is sufficient for me."

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Council of Bishops confronted with issues of today

WASHINGTON, D. C. (UMI) — American overconsumption, military budgets, foreign policy, city problems and press freedom were the fare here April 27-28 for United Methodist bishops.

The Council of Bishops was exposed to an array of problems in a seminar on the Bishops' Call for Peace and the Self-Development of Peoples. Bishop James Armstrong of the Dakotas, chairman of the committee coordinating the call established by the 1972 General Conference, called it "our responsibility . . . to help cleanse the blood stream and get rid of the infection and somehow the hurt and the pain and the grief of our time, in the name of Jesus Christ."

The speakers included the highly dramatic and confidential Jack Anderson, Washington columnist, who called the Watergate case an illustration of "the function the press is supposed to play in a democratic society." Another was the soft-spoken Dr. Lester Brown, senior fellow with the Overseas Development Council, who called on the bishops to "examine your own consumption patterns" in a world which "is not going to permit us to continue our pursuit of super-affluence."

Also there was a man who within five days was to become the acting head of the Pentagon, William Clements, deputy secretary of Defense, lauded President Nixon's peace efforts as "working in a manner this country hasn't seen in many years," in detente with Communist nations and in disarmament.

Nearly all of the bishops, active and retired, stayed on after their semi-annual council meeting for the seminar to discuss the issues and, by jurisdiction, to consider strategy for implementing the call. They were encouraged by Bishop John Wesley Lord of Washington, its coordinator, that hope can be kept alive "in the souls of men even in the most desperate and hopeless situations," but only "if our

Christian peace work transcends the abstract and theoretical."

The Rev. Michael McIntyre, an aide to the coordinator, noted three negative reactions to the project — that peace is the province of radicals, that the call is un-needed now that the Vietnam War is over, that the call is a partisan political document. In response he pointed to the wide and varied concern for peace; to the fact that the Call to Peace document does not mention the Vietnam War; that its intent is to focus on "the vision of an inclusive community" though Christians must sometimes "remind the principalities and the powers of their finiteness." The call, he urged, must "be tested in the crucible of our own people . . . to continue a long Methodist heritage."

With the idea that peace and self-development is not just something for others but domestic as well, the opening speaker was Sen. Edward Kennedy (Mass.), stressing health care. Citing and debating a number of arguments against a government-sponsored program, he declared that the income of parents and where they live should not determine whether a sick or crippled child gets care.

In the answer to a question about the role of private insurance, Kennedy declared, "We don't permit profit-making in education; why should we in health?"

Stressing inter-dependence, Dr. Brown warned that "a rude awakening is in store" for the United States in energy sources and in materials. While the nation will depend more upon imports, others may not agree to sell, putting the U. S. in the ironic position that "we'll soon celebrate the 200th anniversary of our independence, only to discover we're not very independent."

Pointing out that the U.S. has 6 per cent of the world's people but uses 32 per cent of its resources, he reminded that "things we have long taken for granted are suddenly becoming

scarce" and that the change from an expansive economy to "division of a finite pie" involves a theological question. The world, he added, is beginning to resent the fact that we (the U. S.) not only have a loaf of bread, while they have only a crust, but that we want still more."

Secretary Clements argued that Russia remains a threat to this country, in its submarine fleet, its "much bigger and more capable" army, its new missiles and its military research and development budget and in "stirring up trouble for us around the world," although technology gives the U.S. an edge.

The defense executive, who was a Southern Methodist University classmate of Bishop Finis Crutchfield, claimed that the defense budget over the past 20 years has changed from being double that of all other federal agencies to being half their total, and is now the lowest since 1950, only 30 per cent of the total federal budget. He said the expenditures for human resources had increased from 30 to 45 per cent during the Nixon administration.

Clements urged the bishops to support not only that budget but also the concept of continued assistance to Southeast Asia—"We need to help these people, as we have helped others before."

As to the "Crisis of Today's Cities," Thomas W. Fletcher, president of the National Training and Development Service in Washington and a former Washington vice-mayor, pointed out that people do not generally differentiate between the various levels of government when they express their growing cynicism and distrust of government. He said that many of the cities' priority problems exist "tragically" because they were ignored a decade and more ago.

To break the frustrating chains, Fletcher urged the treatment of people

Please turn to page 10

Helps in Marriage

By Wilson O. Weldon

"We are having trouble" is the oft-spoken comment about marriage. Many are finding muchly-desired marital happiness is blocked.

Marriages do not fail largely because of misunderstandings. Some are caused by the failure to be sensible, to be frank, to be sincere. There is need for patience, for willingness to think of the partner's well-being.

A quintet of suggestions:

One, do not try to make each other over! Marriage should be a matter of adjustment, not of coercion.

Two, remember that marriage belongs to two persons only. It does not belong to friends, to parents, or to anybody else.

Three, try never to end the day with a bitter thought or an angry word.

Four, finances cause many discords in the music of matrimony. Every couple should earnestly try to live within their income.

Five, don't leave God outside your home. Let each member of the family express his or her devotion to Him.

The only magic in marriage is the magic of love.

†

TONGA ISLAND METHODISTS SUFFER CYCLONE DAMAGE

NEW YORK (UMI)—Methodists and others are recovering from a Pacific cyclone that ripped across a chain of low-lying islets in the Tonga Islands in early April, leaving three dead and hundreds homeless.

A report to United Methodist Information said six Methodist churches were either destroyed or damaged, as well as five Methodist primary or middle schools and a college for 500 students.

That several Methodist institutions should have been hit is not considered unusual, as it is estimated that half of Tonga's people are members of the Free Wesleyan Church (Methodist Church). That is believed to be one of the highest, if not the highest, proportions of Methodist membership to total population anywhere in the world. One of the World Methodist Council's presidents is from Tonga, the Rev. John Havea.

†

CORRECTION

In the May 3rd issue of this publication we inadvertently indicated that Garrett Theological Seminary is located at Naperville, Ill. We should have stated that Dr. James Edward Will, currently professor of philosophical theology at Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, Ill., will join the faculty of Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., as Harris Franklin Rall professor of systematic theology.

PAGE NINE

United Methodist Pauline Frederick addresses bishops

WASHINGTON, D. C. (UMI) — Those who speak for humanity will be "those who rule out the use of military force in dealing with human problems," United Nations news commentator Pauline Frederick told a United Methodist gathering here April 25.

Miss Frederick, NBC correspondent at the UN, characterized the U.S. in its foreign relations as similar to a dinosaur, with 70 tons of armor and three ounces of brain, in its approach to humanity.

She addressed nearly 800 persons from Washington and vicinity, including members of the church's Council of Bishops, at a banquet hosted by the Washington Area.

The nation's foreign policy follows a 19th century approach, with requests for more Pentagon funds after the Vietnam fighting ended, with domestic programs being curtailed to provide defense funds, with "talk of disarmament being drowned out by the sound

of re-arming," said the speaker.

A long-time United Methodist, Miss Frederick detailed the history of American involvement in Southeast Asia, and asked "how is peace with honor achieved by using military power instead of the United Nations?" Once more, she stressed, it is being "tragically proved that human beings are not ready to set aside brute force" in attempts to solve their problems. She reminded that "the world does not belong just to Americans."

She commended "loyalty to our beloved country" in the attempt to bring its foreign policy "out of the 19th century" by working to "help save freedom for future generations."

Presiding at the banquet was Bradshaw Mintener, Washington attorney and long-time member and chairman of several church agencies. Arrangements were in charge of a committee headed by Mintener, Bishop and Mrs. James K. Mathews of Washington Area were hosts. Entertainment was

by the William Bishop Chorale from Washington.

Bishop Mathews challenged the audience with the idea that "nothing God expects of us is more than we can do."

In response, Bishop O. Eugene Slater of San Antonio, president of the council asserted, "We believe that the winds are blowing across our church."

The area gave the distinguished visitors a red carpet welcome in other ways as well. United Methodist women of Baltimore and Peninsula Conferences escorted the bishops' wives through the capital city, including a VIP tour of the White House and of the State Department. Three hundred women attended a luncheon at Mt. Vernon Place Church, Washington, to honor the bishops' wives.

Both bishops and their wives were guests one evening for a National Symphony Orchestra concert at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Religion and Race Commission announces new grants

WASHINGTON, D. C. (UMI) — With a warning that federal cutbacks on social programs will lead to increased calls for church funds for minorities, a United Methodist agency has announced more than one-third million dollars in new grants.

The Commission on Religion and Race approved \$376,000 from the Minority Group Self-Determination Fund, for 36 projects representing a variety of community development, training, employment, counseling and other efforts. However, the commission's funding committee had more than 200 requests totaling nearly \$6 million, according to Bishop James S. Thomas, Des Moines, Iowa, chairman.

One specific difficulty pointed out was with day-care centers, which have normally used matching federal and private funds. Because the government source is uncertain, only one such grant was given this time by the commission.

These are the first such grants made during the new quadrennium, from an annual fund of \$1,000,000. In 1971-72, a total of \$3,247,850 was provided for 187 projects, as the result of special funds established in 1970.

Under a system that requires three

to four months to process a request, each proposal is read by members of both staff and commission; the bishop and officials of the conference involved are notified, along with the appropriate ethnic caucus; the project is visited, and the Funding Committee makes the decisions.

The process considers the project's total budget, its various components and the probable effect of a fund grant, according to Dr. White. He said grants are made for projects rather than for organizations, with the emphasis on self-determination and economic empowerment.

The commission has established priorities for grants, starting with ethnic minority local church ministries, economic proposals demonstrating community participation and benefit-sharing, community organization.

The latest grants will go to a variety of ethnic groups — Puerto Rican, Black, Hispanic, Indian, Formosan, Asian-American, Filipino — several for two or more such units.

The next deadline for proposals for grants will be 45 days ahead of the Funding Committee's meeting Sept. 24.

†

Workshop for church librarians offered

The Thirteenth Annual Workshop of church and synagogue librarians will be held July 22-24, at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore.

Sponsored jointly by the Church and Synagogue Library Association and the Pacific Northwest Association of Church Librarians, the conference is designed to offer guidance in organizing and operating such libraries and is open to all interested persons.

The program will include workshop sessions, book exhibits, tours of religious libraries, and lectures. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Robert Sylvester, professor of Education at the

University of Oregon.

The "Conference Package" rate of \$38.50 includes full-time registration, double occupancy rooms for two nights, linens, towels, all meals, one of two special tours, and one-year membership in CSLA or PNAFL. The fee should be sent to Mrs. Beverly Milliron, Registrar, 1185 S.W. Chestnut Dr., Portland, Ore. 97219 before July 7.

A brochure with complete program and registration information is available from Church and Synagogue Library Association, P.O. Box 530, Bryn Mawr, Pa. 19010.



Joaquin Garcia, head of the United Publishing House, Mexico City, consults with Claude Byrd, customer service supervisor of Abingdon Press, during a recent visit to the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville. Mr. Garcia, 30, a graduate of Scarritt College, was named publisher of the cooperative Protestant enterprise in November after serving for several years as executive secretary of the Board of Christian Education of the Methodist Church in Mexico. The Publishing House, founded in 1917, operates under a governing board representing Methodist, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, and Disciples of Christ churches. (UMI Photo)

PAGE TEN

S. Carolina Conference to vote on restructure alternatives in June

WASHINGTON, D. C. (UMI) — A challenge to the continuance beyond this year of all-black districts in a United Methodist conference has been withdrawn. It had been expected to be the major item on the agenda of the Judicial Council meeting May 24-26 at French Lick, Ind.

The Commission on Religion and Race had asked the "supreme court" for a ruling on the constitutionality of such districts after this July, when General Conference had mandated all racial structures to be ended.

The challenge was related specifically to South Carolina, whose black and white annual conferences merged a year ago. Under that merger plan, a mutual agreement, the present four black district superintendents were to complete their traditional six-year terms, but the separate black districts would be phased out in 1974. After that, the plan recommended three black superintendents within a total of 12 non-segregated districts, for at least eight years.

However, the conference is to vote this June on a complete restructure of its districts, with alternate possibilities of 12 districts including three black superintendents or 14 districts with four black superintendents. There are now 11 white and four black districts.

A General Conference legislative committee approved an exception to the 1973 rule, allowing an extra year in cases such as South Carolina's where a later deadline had been mut-

ually accepted. However, this never reached the plenary session.

After the Commission on Religion and Race voted, in February, to question the constitutionality of the continuance, its committee on merger review and evaluation met with Bishop Edward L. Tullis and other officials of the conference. Finding that it had "one of the best plans for equity" of any merging conference and that it was in the midst of the restructure involving all districts, the committee recommended withdrawing the plea. The commission approved by mail vote.

The review committee is headed by the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery of Atlanta and includes the Rev. J. Duncan Hunter of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Mrs. Thelma Barnes of Greenville, Miss.; and Rhett Jackson of Columbia, S. C. It is working also with other recently merged conferences.

The Judicial Council also, as of late April, had been asked to rule on two other cases:

- By North Georgia Annual Conference as to the legality of a standing rule adopted in 1972, as requested by a lay group, to have legislative committees consider reports before presentation on the conference floor.

- By Northwest Philippines Annual Conference as to the legality of appointments of district superintendents for eight consecutive years.

†

from page nine

BISHOPS

"like whole human beings, not welfare, education, police, rehabilitation or job training problems"; "break the delivery of service and decision-making down to the lowest possible level"; listen to people and "stop making promises that you can't or won't keep"; aim for "effectiveness not just efficiency."

Every administration seeks to manipulate the news, Anderson reminded, and his greatest complaint is that too often "the press gets taken in." He stressed, however, that press shield laws and other freedom of information legislation are intended "to protect you, not newsmen," because the purpose of the press is "to represent the governed, not the government."

"One of the few benefits of the disaster of Vietnam is that we have been forced to measure our past policies against our basic values," Sen. Charles Mathias (Md.) told the Council. Mathias said this gives him confidence that the belief system and values of the U. S. are strong enough "that it will again become possible for the United States to match rhetoric with deeds."

†

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Rev. Chester A. Pennington, professor of preaching and worship at United Methodism's Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colo., was the 1973 Luccock Visitor at Yale Divinity School.

Global Ministries Board elects two new executives

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (UMI) — The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries acted on several staff changes at its meeting here March 23-31. Included were election of executives, promotion of others and authorization of retirements. The changes include staff members in most of the Board's units. Several involve high level assignments, including two assistant general secretaries.

The Rev. Earl Rodman Barr, Levittown, N. Y., elected assistant general secretary of the Section of Specialized Services in the National Division, which includes church extension and other functions, succeeding the Rev. Jesse DeWitt who was elected a bishop in 1972. Mr. Barr has been executive director of the Strategy, Technical and Area Program Department of the Division of Overseas Ministries of the National Council of Churches.

The Rev. Charles H. Germany, New York and Montclair, N.J., was promoted to assistant general secretary for program administration in the World Division, succeeding the Rev. Eugene L. Stockwell, who resigned last year to head the Division of Overseas Ministries of the National Council of Churches. Dr. Germany, formerly of Oklahoma City, had been Division assistant general secretary for Asia.

MAY 10, 1973

Aldersgate Camperships and Memorials

IN MEMORY OF:

W. P. BALL
by Mrs. Gene Jernigan

JOHN E. COATS
by Mr. & Mrs. Graham R. Hall

MISS GLENDA COLE
by Dot and Garrett Brown

MRS. MINNIE SUE COTTON
by Mrs. Margaret Harrison

EDWARD LEE DUNLAP
by Aldersgate Board of Directors and Staff

MRS. STANLEY GUNTHUNZ
by Mr. & Mrs. Winston Faulkner

MRS. HOWARD C. JOHNSTON
by Mrs. Margaret Harrison

MRS. JOHN KENWARD
by Mr. & Mrs. Winston Faulkner

by Mr. & Mrs. Tom J. Jones

E. L. LOVE
by Mr. & Mrs. Winston Faulkner

by Mr. & Mrs. Tom J. Jones

EDWARD O. MANEES
by Mr. & Mrs. Roger M. Bottoms

HOWARD THOM
by Mrs. Margaret Harrison

MRS. JULIA THOMAS
by Rev. & Mrs. E. D. Galloway

by Little Rock District Ministers Wives

HERBERT H. DENTON
by Aldersgate Board of Directors and Staff

by Mr. & Mrs. Garrett Brown

CHARLES DEVINE
by Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Sherlin

EDWARD LEE DUNLAP
by Miss Rachel Fullwood

SAM POPE
by UAMC Pharmacy Service

by Mrs. Tommie Lee Phillips, Jo Herring, Miss Marie Bober

MARY B. SHERLIN
by Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Sherlin

by Mrs. Augusta Lynn

GERALD BAGE
by Mr. & Mrs. Curtis V. Packard

MISS GLENDA COLE
by Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wimberly

RAYDA WALLACE DILLPORT
by Mr. & Mrs. Dave Block, Jr. and Family

EDWARD LEE DUNLAP
by Mrs. Robert E. Shrider

BLAKELY GALLAGHER
by Fellowship Class, Lakeside Church, Pine Bluff

JACK GREENE
by Mr. & Mrs. G. C. Skidmore

by Mr. & Mrs. A. B. Garner

ARCHIE JENKINS
by Mr. & Mrs. Curtis V. Packard

ALFRED KAHLER
by Mrs. E. D. Jernigan

BEULAH LOWERY
by Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Sherlin

MRS. IDA B. NYEGAARD
by P. A. Smith, Lois Marie Smith, Mary Sue Smith Tanner, Samuel Russell Smith

JIM, JR. AND DAVID THOMAS
by Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Thomas

LIDDIA ANN WALKER
by Mr. & Mrs. Grover C. Skidmore

by Mr. & Mrs. A. B. Garner

THE MOTHER OF A. Francis Wilson, Jr.
by Crusade Class, St. Paul Church, Little Rock

IN HONOR OF:

Past Conference Living Chairmen:
Mrs. James T. Burkett, Miss Gertie Stiles, Mrs. Clarence Oakes, Mrs. Julian Vogel, Mrs. John R. Parks, Miss Mildred Scott and Mrs. Truman Stephens

by Executive Committee, Wesleyan Service Guild, North Arkansas Conf.

The 50th Wedding Anniversary of Rev. and Mrs. E. D. (Sarah) Galloway
by Mrs. W. R. Harrison

Rev. & Mrs. Alfred Knox
by Mrs. John B. Hefley

Mrs. J. Clib Barton

Mrs. H. M. Scott
by Wesleyan Service Guild #3, First Church, Fort Smith

Mrs. Gladys Womack
by King's Daughters Class, First Church, North Little Rock

Mrs. D. Beach Carrs
by WSCS Circle #4, First Church, Little Rock

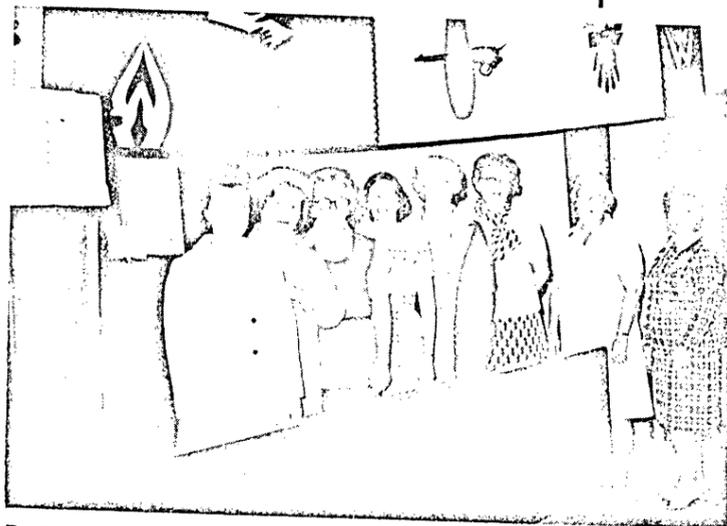
Mrs. John Rule
by Circle #3, First Church, L. R.

MRS. MARY PIERCE HOWARD

Mrs. Mary Pierce Howard, died April 27 at Wynne Nursing Home following several weeks of serious illness. Her late husband, the Rev. James W. Howard, a member of the North Arkansas Conference, died in 1965 following 34 years in the ministry. Her first husband, Henry Pierce, also an active Methodist, died in 1930.

Mrs. Howard was for many years a Sunday School teacher in the Cherry Valley Methodist Church. In addition, she was a skilled nurse who gave freely and with dedication of her time and energy in the alleviation of suffering and illness in her community.

The ground on which the first Methodist Church at Cherry Valley was built was donated by her grandfather.



Retiring WSCS officers of the Pine Bluff District are shown above. They are, from left: Mrs. Albert Shepherd, Mrs. W. C. Patton, Mrs. C. A. Chalfant, Mrs. Ed Matthews, Mrs. Guy Kirkley, Mrs. Henry Dietrich, Mrs. Herman Little and Mrs. H. L. Kennedy, president.

FINAL DISTRICT MEETING AT PINE BLUFF

The Pine Bluff District Women's Society of Christian Service held its final meeting, March 31, at Carr Memorial Church, Pine Bluff.

The theme "Move Together" included a worship service litany based on the Social Principles adopted at General Conference. Litany leader was Mrs. Virgil Keeley. The poem "Hands" was read by Mrs. Ed Matthews, followed by the theme song "One Woman's Hands" sung by Miss Nell Bly.

Mrs. H. L. Kennedy, district president, presided during the business session. Mrs. Guy Kirkley presented the "Memory Moments" and lighted the candle honoring deceased members.

Each local society president was presented a copy of the By-Laws and Handbook of the new organization for

United Methodist Women, and the handbook "Enthusiasm" by Norman Vincent Peale as they were challenged to make the new organization a vital force for God.

In a symbolic gesture of tying a blue ribbon around the WSCS Handbook and the Wesleyan Service Guild Handbook and placing them among her souvenirs, Mrs. Kennedy dissolved the district organizations of Women's Society and Guild.

The sacrament of Holy Communion was administered by District Superintendent, Dr. Virgil Keeley, and Host Pastor, the Rev. Carl Matthew.

Special Membership pins were presented to retiring officers who had served four years; a gift to missions was made in honor of officers who had served two years; and a Campership to Aldersgate Camp was presented in honor of Mrs. Hazel Dabney.

Arkeology

by Gene Herrington

Typical committee meeting: chairman and three "working" members.



News in Brief

Several Methodists were among a group of 13 churchmen from Latin America, Asia and Africa touring the United States recently in an attempt to share their thoughts with concerned people here. The tour was sponsored by the World and National Councils of Churches.

Seven United Methodist-related schools have been granted funds by the National Science Foundation for research projects. Included are Boston University, University of Denver, Adrian (Mich.) College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Duke University, Durham, N. C., Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., and MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Ill.

Hendrix News

Three juniors to study at Columbia

Three Hendrix College juniors have been selected as recipients of scholarships to Columbia University in New York City.

Don Cottey of Stuttgart, and Ronnie Price and Ed Zakrzewski Jr. of North Little Rock will enroll at Columbia in September.

All three students will be participating in the 3-2 combined plan which Hendrix has with Columbia. In this program a student matriculates two years at Columbia after three years of study at Hendrix. When the student completes the five years of schooling, he will receive a bachelor of arts degree from Hendrix and a bachelor of science from Columbia.

Cottey will receive an \$1800 scholarship to study chemical metallurgy.

Price, a member of the Hendrix basketball team, will receive a \$2,000 scholarship to study industrial engineering.

Zakrzewski, a member of the Hendrix track team, will receive a \$3,800 scholarship to study electrical engineering.

DR. BOB MERIWETHER of Hendrix College was the speaker for the Senior Dinner, honoring graduates, held in First Church, Benton, May 9. Dr. Ed Hollenbeck is their pastor.

JOHN COPHER, religious education director at First Church, Searcy, was the leader for Youth Week held at Bryant United Methodist Church, April 29 through May 2. The Rev. Albert M. Elder is the Bryant pastor.

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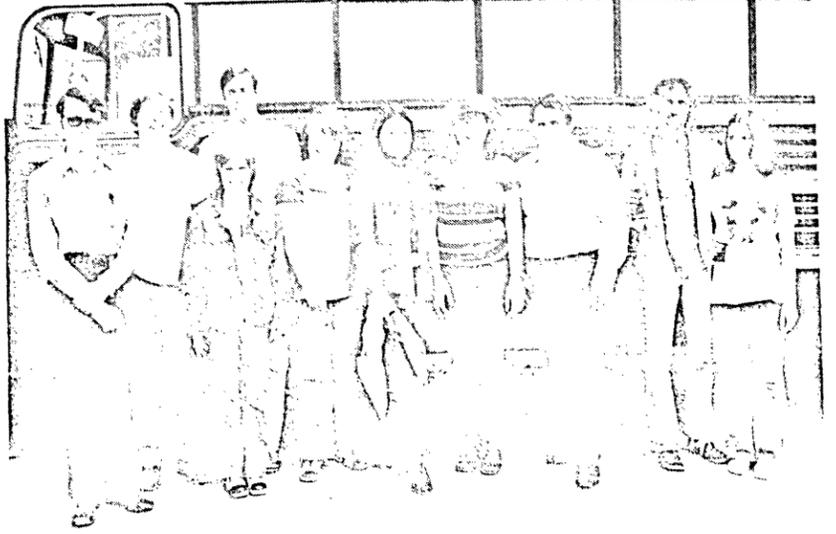
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Over 50 students from Wesley Foundations at Henderson State Teacher's College, Arkadelphia; Southern State College, Magnolia; University of Arkansas at Monticello, and University of Arkansas at Little Rock attended a recent Little Rock Conference weekend retreat at Petit Jean State Park, accompanied by Foundation directors and their wives. Directors are, the Rev. Robert W. Trieschmann, Henderson; the Rev. Allen B. Bonsall, Southern State; the Rev. Sam Jones, UALR; and the Rev. Thomas A. Abney, UAM.

†



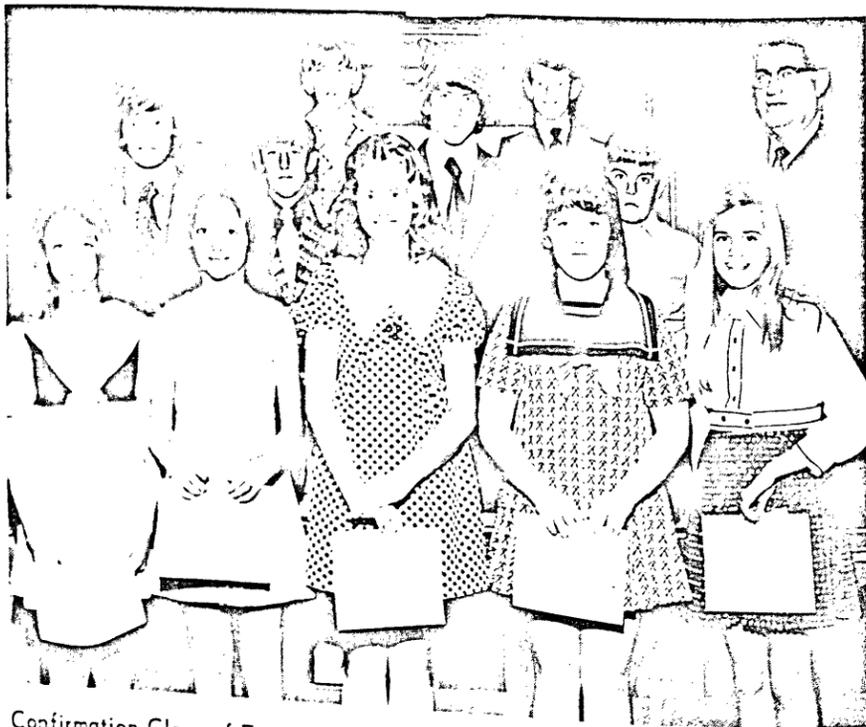
Wesley Foundation members from the University of Arkansas at Monticello were among those attending the recent retreat at Petit Jean State Park. The weekend activities included sunset services and "bonfire experiences." A communion service concluded the retreat.

†



The Youth Choir of De-Valls Bluff First Church presented an Easter Cantata Palm Sunday. The choir wore new robes, a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Conway George. Mrs. Caroline Gershner is director and Mrs. June Whiteside is organist.

†



Confirmation Class of First Church, Marianna, was received into membership Palm Sunday by the Rev. W. Leonard Byers, pastor. The church lay leader and parents of the class members participated in the service.

Poetry Panorama

by barbara mulkey

*"The soul deep in prayer as a hyacinth,
stretches forth its pillar of bloom; Feelers
of fragrance unseen to the edge of the room."
(Evelyn Underhill)*

A Prayer For Those Who Mourn

God, grant that those in this fair land
Whose lives are filled with sadness,
May know the touch of Christ's warm hand
Which fills the heart with gladness.

-by Herman Glenn Bonds

A Prayer

Lord, help me to bear my pain
With patience, without fear;
Help me to feel Your strength,
To me, be very near.

I need You every hour,
Oh, Gracious Lord, I pray
To take away my unworthiness
And give me a brighter day!

Remold me, Lord, renew me,
My heart again I give.
Grant me Your compassion,
For others let me live.

Let me feel another's pain,
To sympathize and care,
To do some kindly deed for Thee,
Their burdens help to bear!

And I will ever be grateful
For strength beyond my need.
And I will ever say, "Thank You, Lord!
You have been gracious, indeed."

-by Nina Byram Gilbert