

Ministers pledge \$151, 141 to Pension Fund



Bishop Eugene M. Frank announces that the ministers of the Little Rock Conference have pledged to date a total of \$151,141 to the Minister's Reserve Pension Fund. Shown with the bishop are Council on Ministries Director the Rev. Alf A. Eason (left) and Ernest B. Matkin, Jr., (right) chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the Conference Board of Pensions.

The amount of \$151,141 has been pledged by the ministerial members of the Little Rock Conference to the Ministers' Reserve Pension Fund. The announcement was made by Bishop Eugene M. Frank. With Bishop Frank as the report was given were Ernest B. Matkin, vice president of Commonwealth Federal Savings and Loan Association, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the Conference Board of Pensions, and the Rev. Alf A. Eason, director of the Council on Ministries. Co-general Chairman for the MRPF campaign are Richard C. Butler, Sr., chairman of the board of Commercial National Bank in Little Rock and Dr. Imōn Bruce, president of Southern State College in Magnolia.

Bishop Frank stated that the pledged figure of \$151,141 was as yet incomplete, as other pledges were to come in. He said that the group was "most pleased and encouraged by the response" of the ministers.

The amount reported represents pledges from the ministers of the six districts of the Little Rock Conference plus those of ministers in special ap-

pointments within the conference.

The pledges represent the first phase of a four-phase program. The second phase will be the apportionment of the amount of \$285,000 per year to the churches of the conference for an eight-year period. These apportionments are presently being submitted to the churches.

Phase three will be the special gifts campaign with the goal of securing an additional \$1 million during the eight years of the pledge period. The \$151,141 pledged by the ministerial members will apply to this figure. Phase four will be the initial deposit of \$1 million dollars to be transferred from the present pension assets of the Conference to the MRPF. These funds will be applied to pensions for services rendered prior to that date.

The MRPF program was approved by Little Rock Annual Conference at its meeting in May in Hot Springs. Sidney L. Good of Pine Bluff is the chairman of the conference Board of Pensions.

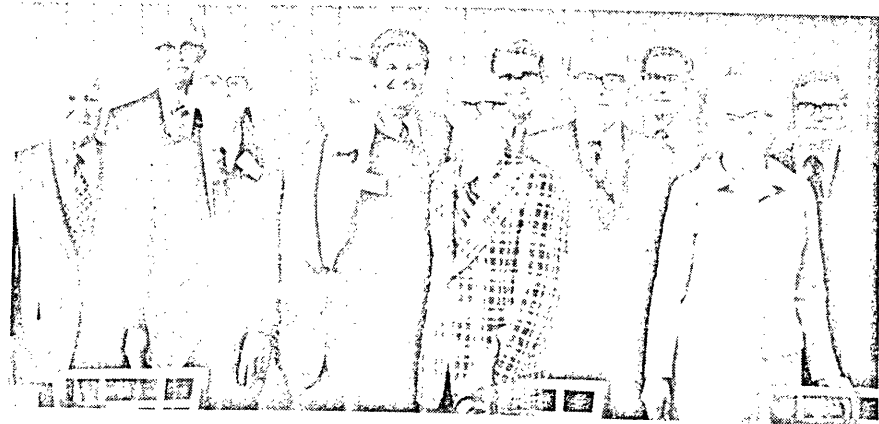
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Arkansas Methodist

92nd YEAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1973

NO. 38



Members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of The Methodist Children's Home met following the sale of surplus property to the University of Arkansas. The members shown above, are from left, FRONT ROW: L. E. Tennyson, Smackover; Joe T. Thompson, Little Rock, chairman of the Board; the Rev. Harold Sadler, Rison, chairman of the Executive Committee; the Rev. J. Edwin Keith, superintendent of the Home; R. B. Newcome, Portland, secretary of the Board; and Mrs. Vance Thompson, McCrory. BACK ROW: Dr. Arthur Terry, Camden; Charles C. Meyer, Jr., Little Rock; H. H. Fulbright, Searcy; Dr. Ray Hozendorf, Little Rock; and Ralph McDonald, Newport.

Children's Home surplus acreage sold for UALR campus expansion

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Children's Home of Arkansas signed an agreement on Sept. 20 with the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas to sell approximately 56 acres of surplus property to the U. of A.

At a meeting held in Little Rock, the land bounded by University Avenue on the west, and West Twenty-eighth St. on the south, was sold for

\$1,500,000. The land will be used by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock for campus expansion.

"We are extremely pleased that the University has purchased this land because the Methodists of Arkansas have always supported the aims of developing higher education within the state," said the Rev. Edwin Keith, superintendent of the Methodist Children's Home. "The money derived from this sale will be placed in a permanent en-

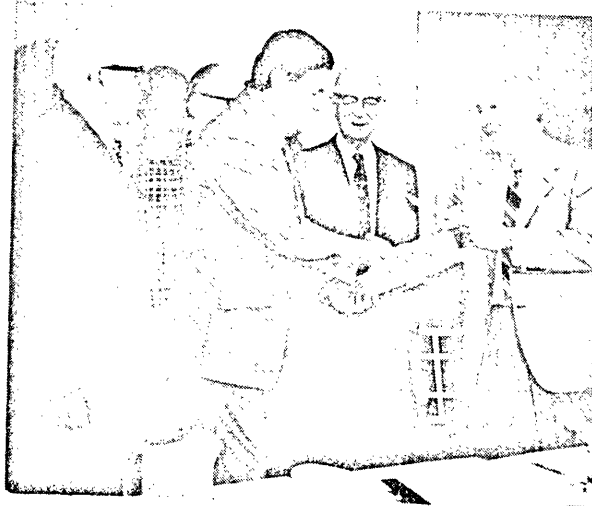
dowment fund with only the income to be used for Home operation and expansion."

Dr. David W. Mullins, president of the University of Arkansas, stated that

"the University is gratified that negotiations carried out in good faith and with mutual good will have resulted in this agreement. It constitutes a major

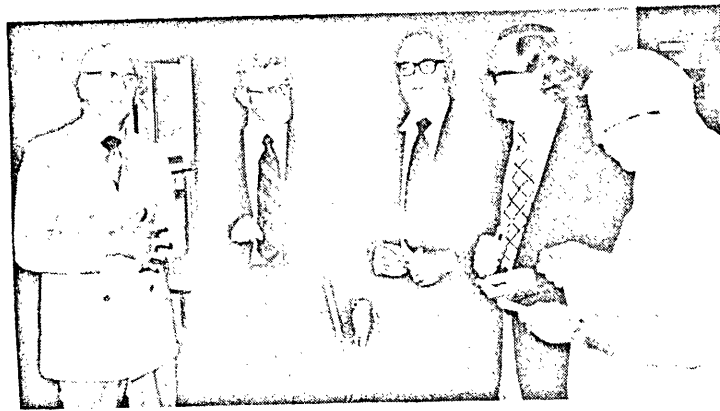
Please turn to page 2

Charles C. Meyer, Jr., Little Rock, chairman of the Property Committee of Methodist Children's Home (foreground) receiving the check in payment for the surplus property sold to the U. of A. Presenting check is Fred Pickens, Newport, chairman of University's Board of Trustees. Other Home personnel, from left, R. B. Newcome, Portland, board secretary; the Rev. Edwin Keith, superintendent; and Joe T. Thompson, Little Rock, chairman of board.





The Executive Committee of the North Arkansas Conference Council on Ministries met recently in Conway. Shown above are: the Rev. Muriel H. Peters, Amboy, secretary; Dr. Myers B. Curtis, Council on Ministries director; the Rev. Larry Powell, Cavanaugh; Bishop Eugene M. Frank, who presided at the meeting; the Rev. Arvill C. Brannon, Council on Ministries associate director; Henry M. Rainwater, Conference lay leader; the Rev. Jim Beal, Helena; Dr. Joel A. Cooper, Fayetteville, Central; the Rev. William M. Wilder, Wynne; the Rev. David Conyers, Newport; the Rev. John B. Hays, Lakewood; the Rev. Floyd G. Villines, Jr., Batesville District superintendent; and Grafton Thomas, area treasurer. The meeting was held at the Ramada Inn.



The Planning and Research Committee of the North Arkansas Conference Council on Ministries met recently in Conway. Shown above (from left) are Dr. Joel A. Cooper, Central Church, Fayetteville; the Rev. John B. Hays, Lakewood, North Little Rock; Dr. Myers B. Curtis, Council on Ministries director; Dr. Virgil Sexton, assistant general secretary of the General Council on Ministries; and Dr. J. Ralph Hillis, Jonesboro District superintendent. Secretary of the committee, not shown, is Mrs. Nadine Hardin of Fort Smith.

from page one

CHILDREN'S HOME

contribution to the development of the UALR campus in the years ahead, thus providing opportunities for a significant extension of higher educational programs in Little Rock and Central Arkansas."

Mr. Keith pointed out that the Home still retains 28 acres at its present location and that the 56 acres sold to the University represents surplus land. A total of 84 acres was originally purchased by leaders of the Methodist Church in 1945 with the expressed purpose of caring for homeless children.

"When the decision was reached to sell a portion of the Home's property, the Home's Board of Trustees agreed that two primary objectives had to be met for the sale. Those objectives (1) that the monies received from the sale of property be placed in a permanent endowment fund to meet the needs of children committed to its care, and (2) that the land for sale be used preferably for purposes other than commercial development," Mr. Keith said. "We believe that both of those objectives have now been met."

LOCAL CHURCH SUPPORT NEEDED

Mr. Keith said that the endowment

fund created by the sale of the property to the U. of A. would help meet the financial needs of the Home, but would not provide total funding for operation and expansion of the Home. He reported that in 1972 the Home's operating budget was \$271,049 and said that the Methodist Church was able to provide \$180,699 to help meet the budget. He said that additional monies from special sources were received to make up the difference, but that those sources could not be considered regular annual contributors.

"Since the Home has not had any endowment funds, the decision to sell the 56 acres was an attempt to provide such a resource to help supplement our other financing sources," Mr. Keith said. "We have a definite need for upgrading and expanding our operations and services and we will still need as much assistance as the Church and interested persons can provide."

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Mr. Keith pointed out that the two basic areas — residential and non-residential — were to receive priority in this development program. He said that the majority of children coming into care came from homes that have been

broken down because of mental illness, drugs, desertion, alcoholism, neglect and abuse.

"Emphasis must be placed on rehabilitating the child and its family, when possible. In order to achieve this goal, we must increase the professional staff in size and scope with the present staff being upgraded through workshops, in-service training and summer seminars," Mr. Keith said. "Expansion of facilities will involve establishing additional group homes, such as the ones in Magnolia, Fort Smith and Searcy, as well as increasing the number of our foster homes."

Non-residential services of the Home include day care programs, neighborhood playground activities, after-school programs, out-patient diagnostic and counseling services, family planning and services to single-parent families.

"The cost of merely providing the basic necessities has increased and this along with providing the additional services, expanding our facilities and upgrading the total program will increase the need for money," Mr. Keith said. "Fortunately with the sale of this property and the continued support of

the Church, resources will be available to more vigorously serve the needy child more efficiently and the United Methodist Church's home for children will become our greatest witness to what the Good News is really about."

THE REV. H. DOYLE MILLARD

The Rev. H. Doyle Millard, aged 61, of Fort Smith died Sept. 20, 1973. He was pastor of Massard United Methodist Church in Fort Smith and New Hope United Methodist Church at Van Buren.

He had served the Altus Charge, City Heights, Van Buren, Hartford Charge, and Mulberry during his ministry.

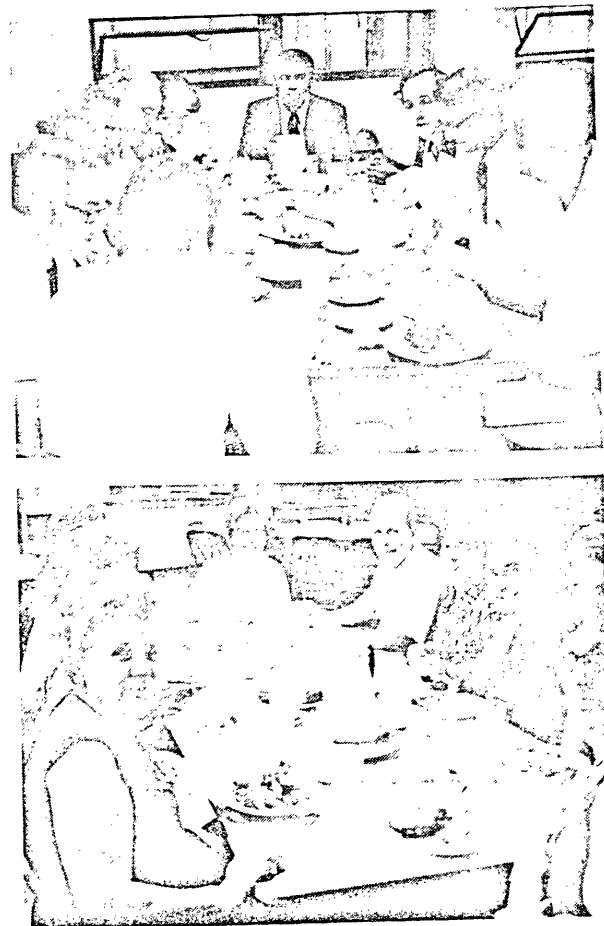
He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lexie Woodard Millard; a daughter, Miss Betty Ann Millard of the home, and a sister, Mrs. Bernice Biggs of Waldron.

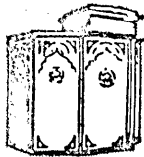
Funeral services were held Saturday, Sept. 22 at Massard United Methodist Church, with Dr. Charles McDonald, Fort Smith District superintendent officiating. Burial was at Union Hall Cemetery at Waldron.

Fire damaged part of an office complex in the Administration Building at Philander Smith College in Little Rock on Sept. 20. President Walter Hazzard reported that losses included furniture, equipment and supplies, but that vital records were secure. He stated that the fire had made the college aware of the need to microfilm their records and stated that he was seeking private funds to finance this process as the college had no resources available for that purpose. A partial view of the damage is seen to the right.



The Board of Directors of Aldersgate Camp held its Sept. meeting recently at the Camp. Board President Ed Wimberly is shown in upper picture second from the right. Seated on his right is C. Ray Tribble, executive director of the camp. The chief agenda item was a review of the Aldersgate Senior Citizens Project, a new resident program with 210 persons presently registered and 150 on the waiting list. A report from the Committee on Facilities for the Aging was given by Jim Vines, seated on Mr. Wimberly's left.





From the Bottom of the Heart.....

In keeping with our historic Methodist tradition of freedom of speech and responsibility in speaking, what appears here is the editor's point of view and not necessarily the official position of The United Methodist Church. Responses from our readers are invited. (See "From Our Readers" column, Page 9)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AS "IDENTIFICATION"

This coming Sunday is Christian Education Sunday, beginning Christian Education Week. A lot of words could be spoken and written to underscore the significance of this vital enterprise of the church. The little boy's one sentence, in the events reported below, seems to say it all.

* * *

He was probably a little fellow who talked too much when he should have been listening to his Sunday school teacher. He probably rough-housed with the other elementary graders before, and even during, the class session on Sunday morning. He probably sounded and looked as if he wasn't getting a thing out of the class. And his teachers probably got exasperated time and again and almost gave up of him. His parents may have asked themselves, over and over, "What on earth are we going to do with him?"

If so, he was like a multitude of other elementary children, who nevertheless are in Sunday school each week and whose brothers and sisters and parents are in other classes at the same hour.

The little boy I have reference to was an actual, specific person. His name is a matter of record, though I do not have it.

Some few years ago this child was on an air journey when the plane in which he was flying crashed. One person survived the immediate impact. This little boy, age seven years, was that person. Our state papers carried the account of the accident, giving the severity of the little boy's injuries. A few days later they had to report his subsequent death. They noted that he had regained consciousness long enough to speak.

His words formed one brief seven-word sentence: "I'm a Methodist Sunday school boy."

* * *

"SOMETHING"

Something — gained in "that hectic Sunday school class" — had so caught hold of this little man that in the moment of his greatest need he drew his identification and his last comfort from his faith.

Something that can do this most certainly has a significance beyond the power of words to express.

We refer to this "something" by the all-too-familiar and somewhat mechanical term of "Christian education." In reality it is the power of God at work in the lives of persons. And nothing of any greater importance can happen in our local churches.

BACKBONE TROUBLE

For years we have said that "the Sunday school is the backbone of the local church." Sometimes this deserved compliment was paid because we had "backbone trouble" and knew we ought to take up some kind of exercises to correct our ailment. But most of us already know a few things we could do to improve our Church School. And we have excellent guidance and assistance at hand through the Councils on Ministries in our conferences. New and innovative ideas are at hand; excellent resources abound.

The problem seems to be more with our motivation. If this is so, we can go a long way toward solving such a problem with a simple exercise: opening our eyes. Little children, young and older adults are all around us. For it is for each and all of us that Christian education provides the most basic, most significant "identification" that a person can realize.

We have, then, the motivation which comes by seeing persons in need. Lives are lived every moment. Planes fly every day. Let's be on with it.

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JSW

Off the Top of the Head.....

For want of a shave....

Mankind faces yet one more grave crisis. This revelation came to me just last Sunday morning as I faced the mirror preparing to shave. Sunday morning is a good time for revelations and, as wide experience reveals, in front of the shaving mirror is probably the most favored spot for such events to occur.

It is this that concerns and troubles me.

Look around and you will see that the shaving mirror is getting less and less attention these days. Beards, sideburns, mustaches, goatees and on and on are so much the fashion of the day that man is spending less and less time at the one place where the lightning bolt of revelation is most apt to strike.

HUMANITY ON THE BANK OF DISASTER!

Can we, my dear friends, even begin to contemplate the catastrophic consequences of such a completely calamitous condition?

Our Research Department, Section on Shaving, reports that out of 8,784 persons interviewed, 8,366 of them solemnly swore that they never make a decision of any significance without first shaving over it. Ah ha! Think about that, will you, and then try to sleep well tonight!

It leaves one weak, it does, to walk the city streets and see the preponderance of hair on men's faces — yea, even on their heads. And then one is overwhelmed almost to the point of despair to realize that probably not a single one of these otherwise intelligent looking men has had a genuine revelation or maybe even a serious thought since discontinuing the daily routine before the shaving mirror. Reflect a moment on what this could mean to the religious and intellectual life of our times. Horrors! Consideration for our sensitive spirits restrains me from further reflection on the outcome of such a sad state of affairs.

It is perfectly clear that we must find a substitute for those magic moments before the mirror. But where, oh where, can such a one be found who could now step forward with a saving word for such a time as this?

ONE STEPS FORWARD FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

"C'est moi!" I will now step forward with a saving word for such a time as this.

The proposal — admitted a revolutionary one — could well be the answer for our quandry. It is (are you ready for this?): that daily prayer; regular Bible reading and study; time for reflection thereupon; and action following such reflection — that these become as regular and as devoted a discipline as daily shaving used to be.

A radical measure, to be sure. But history reveals that even bearded and hairy nations have survived when a remnant could be found that was given to such practices. It just could be that these disciplines could produce more encounters with heavenly thoughts and more sound thinking than do even those magic moments before the looking glass.

Anyway, think about it. Shave over it.

†

Last trip for #4....or....Better, not older

Recently I took our young son, now a fourth grader, to a Sunday morning preaching appointment at DeWitt, Arkansas. We thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Knowing fourth graders the way I do — I've been through three others of them — I thought it best to prepare him for the fact that he would hear a sermon he had already heard before, thinking that if I "cleared the air" it might prevent any embarrassing moments later. I should have known better.

After the sermon we were visiting with a few folk who were telling me what a grand and wonderful message I had just delivered. At the peak of my enjoyment my wife's child volunteered: "It was a used one."

Editor and Business Manager: JOHN S. WORKMAN

Associate Editor: DORIS WOOLARD

Woman's Editor: IMOGENE KNOX

Poetry Editor: BARBARA L. MULKEY

Editorial Assistant: KAREN COMPTON

Office Secretary: KATHLEEN STOREY

Contributing Editors: CECIL BLAND, J. WOODROW HEARN,

L. RAY BRANTON, HOWARD MILO, DON COTTRILL, ALF A. EASON,

R. O. BECK, MYERS B. CURTIS, ARVILL C. BRANNON.

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news and views

OF THE WORLD OF RELIGION

by doris woolard

Contending that its two camps are non-profit church property exempt from taxation under the Constitution, a special session of the Central Texas Conference meeting in Ft. Worth voted unanimously to contest a county and school tax levied against the properties at Glen Rose. In the summer of 1969 Somerville County decided to levy a property tax on the two United Methodist camps, plus campsites owned by the Baptist and Nazarene churches, the Girl Scouts, and the Y.W.C.A. The groups have refused to pay the taxes. The county recently filed suit against the United Methodist Church to collect the taxes.

Latest developments as the strike of Methodist Hospital workers at Pikeville, Ky. enters its 16th month include: a request for Kentucky Gov. Wendell Ford to intervene, the formation of a "personnel advisory council" by the hospital board, and charges against a woman employee who allegedly shot at a picketing striker. About 200 non-professional workers at the hospital went on strike in June of last year and asked the Communications union to represent them. Hospital officials say they will never recognize the union.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. George, whose U. S. home is Iowa Park, Tex., on their way home from Rhodesia, said in New York that they were notified July 14 their residence permit would not be extended and were given a month to leave the country. The Georges, both teachers at the Mrewa Secondary School, said no reason was given by Rhodesian authorities for failure to extend their permits which previously had been renewable every six months. Mr. George said he and his wife had "deliberately avoided involvement in Rhodesian politics and strictly concentrated on our teaching jobs." In March the Rev. Dr. Norman E. Thomas and his family, also United Methodist missionaries, were denied permission to return to Rhodesia where they had served 11 years. Mr. George said he believes "the real reason for our expulsion was harassment of Bishop (Abel T.) Muzorewa."

Boston University is considering reinstatement of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) which was phased out on many Eastern campuses during the anti-war movement. Dr. John R. Silber, president, has notified the U. S. Defense Department that a poll among faculty members favors the reintroduction of the program. Boston U. has historic ties with the United Methodist Church, but with the exception of the theological school, is now considered independent.

The National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., parent convention of the Negro Baptists with 6.5-million members, re-elected Dr. Joseph H. Jackson at its 93rd annual meeting, held in Los Angeles. The Church is said to be the largest black organization in the nation.

A coast-to-coast radio program of Christian evangelism for truckers, featuring gospel music, truck driver "lingo," and testimony from converted truckers will be presented on radio stations across the country beginning in October "to interest drivers in the faith of Jesus Christ." Bill Payne, a truck driver and Baptist minister from Omaha, is teaming up with "Transport for Christ," a Watertown, Ontario, organization that seeks to bring the Christian message to drivers.

Professor Agehananda Bharati, chairman of Syracuse University's anthropology department, addressing a professional meeting in Chicago, asserted that almost all of the 2,000 Asian gurus now practicing in the U.S. are "phonies." He charged that "the greatest phony of them all" is Maharaj Ji, the youthful "perfect master" who recently toured the U.S. Maharaj Ji and others, the anthropologist said, have provided an outlet for American youths to "react in packs" rather than critically against their religious and parental backgrounds.

The law and standards committee of Conservative Judaism in the U. S. has voted to allow women to be counted in the minyan, the quorum of 10 or more adult Jews required for communal worship. A leader of Orthodox Judaism sharply scoring the action said "the latest conservative act is a move of desperation to attract new worshippers."

Ground will be broken next Spring for the \$8.5 million Boys Town Institute for Hearing and Speech Disorders, according to an announcement by the institution's board. It will consist of a medical component at the Jesuit-operated Creighton University campus, Omaha, and an educational unit within the Boys Town complex. A total of \$30 million has been set aside by the board to build and endow the new facilities.

Almost 34 million copies of American Bible Society Scriptures were distributed by July 30, spurred by the Key 73 cooperative evangelistic endeavor, according to Dr. James Z. Nettinga, director of advance programs for the ABS. Reports of Key 73 Scripture distribution in ABS files confirm the contention of members of the program's executive committee that although Key 73 has not made a major "splash" as far as national publicity is concerned, it has had a considerable impact in local communities.

Indonesia's military government has introduced a new marriage law which has been attacked by Moslem leaders for its alleged aim to "Christianize" the country under the guise of "nationalism or modernization." Chief aim of General Suharto's Government is said to be the prevention of easy divorce and polygamy. In a country where 100 million of the 120 million people are Moslems, observers say, this is bound to be an unpopular measure, especially among men.

Five faculty members at Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis have repudiated a "Declaration of Protest and Confession" issued by the faculty majority in late July and have charged that the declaration is "an act of rebellion and defiance" against the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. In mid-July, the Synod's General Convention declared that the faculty majority was teaching "false doctrine." Responding to that action, 50 professors issued a statement charging that the Church's leaders—not the faculty—are abridging Lutheran standards.

By a unanimous vote, the DeKalb County Commission (in Georgia) changed the wording of its 1973 tax resolution so that its fire protection fee is now called a "tax," rather than a "special assessment," thus ending a controversy over the levying of fire protection fees on churches and religious institutions. Churches are now exempted from paying fire protection bills.

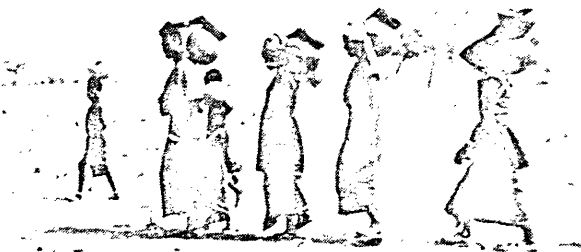
United Methodism's Panel on International Affairs, meeting in New York during and after the military coup which overthrew the government of Chile's President Salvador Allende and which claimed his life, sent a telegram to Secretary of State-Designate Henry A. Kissinger asking a course by the U. S. which may encourage "the re-establishment of constitutional processes and the restoration of civil liberties in Chile." The Latin American staff of the Board of Global Concerns said several efforts had been made to reach Chile, where there are some 25 U. S. United Methodist missionaries and 8,000 Methodist church members, but there had been no contact as of Sept. 14.

Officials of the Nat'l. Council of Churches and the U. S. Catholic Conference have expressed concern, by means of letters including messages from several hundred prominent Church people, to the Brazilian government "about the persecution the Brazilian church has been suffering." The letters appealed to Brazilian officials to "guarantee respect for life, decent and humane treatment during imprisonment, the right to present a defense and freedom for . . . political prisoners."

World Catholic University leaders affirmed at a recent meeting in Spain that Roman Catholic institutions of higher learning be "clearly and identifiably Catholic," strive to cooperate fully with the hierarchy, but retain their function as "critic" of the Church community, according to Father Edmund G. Ryan, S.J., executive vice-president for educational affairs at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

Addressing the 93rd annual meeting of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles credited the church with having helped him win election earlier this year as the first black mayor of the nation's third largest city. The African Methodist Episcopal layman referring to the Watergate affair as he addressed the black organization, said: "If we are to root out the unscrupulous, the unethical, not only in politics but in private life, the church must inspire us all. Until more men and women like you acknowledge that fact, we shall have more Watergates."

Jeff Siemon, middle linebacker for the Minnesota Vikings and devout Christian, says "God wants me located where I am in pro football so that I can best use the body He gave me." "God has a hand in everything," he continues, "And everything is working together for His glory although it doesn't always mean victory."



UPPER VOLTA — Women set off across a parched Upper Volta landscape in search of water. The West African nation is one of six drought-stricken countries bordering the Sahara where millions of Africans are threatened with famine. With the drought now in its fifth year, the conditions in Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Niger, Chad and Upper Volta have been described as catastrophic. Thousands of nomads are streaming southward in search of food; grain supplies have reportedly been exhausted and 40 to 80 per cent of the livestock has died. (RNS Photo)

SEPTEMBER 27, 1973



First in a series of three
interviews by the Editor

Visiting with our retired ministers

(INTERVIEW: FRED R. HARRISON)

"Mainly, it's doing what you want to do when you want to do it." That's the answer that Fred R. Harrison gives. The question that the interviewer gave was "What does a retired Methodist preacher do?" And after he got over his first natural shyness, it was hard to keep this veteran of 43 years of service in the United Methodist ministry from answering questions that weren't even asked!

You would expect that of the Rev. Dr. Fred Harrison, for he is a superb example of the fact that while Methodist ministers may retire, they don't quit. And from listening to him tell of his activities, one would believe that you have to be in pretty good physical shape to be up to retirement.

"The first thing we wanted to do was to get our little house shaped up; get our garden and yard fixed." He is speaking of the home where he and Mrs. Harrison (Mary) live in Malvern. "But right away George Martin said he wanted me to take the Shorewood Hills Circuit for three months." This Dr. Fred did, and it established a pattern of continuing service which has marked the more than three years that he has been retired.

He has preached an average of twice a month ("filling in for preachers who want to keep up the level of preaching") has held at least two revivals, speaks on a radio devotional program at Malvern, helps a bit at First Church, Malvern, where the pastor, the Rev. Charles Ashcraft, has invited him to teach two courses, and has served as chaplain of the House of Representatives for two terms. Of this last experience Dr. Harrison says, "I don't think I've had any ministry to which I've had more responses."

REFLECTIONS ON THE MINISTRY

Looking back on more than four decades of active ministry, Dr. Harrison says, "If I had to go back and do it all over, I'd choose the ministry again. Reflecting on the ministry, Dr. Harrison states that he views the pastor's work in a three-fold way: "the romance of places, of the pulpit and of persons."

"The itinerant ministry is great. We may not always like the place to which we go, but we can always find some enjoyment in the places, small or large. For instance, I never did want to go to Hot Springs. In fact, I 'dispensed' it. But I stayed there nine years and didn't want to leave."

Speaking of the romance of the pulpit, Dr. Harrison reflected on his own joy in preaching and stated his belief that "the spoken word has a great future. People are listening to sermons more than ever before. I don't think we're through with that . . ."

In regard to the "romance of people," the veteran pastor says that "to me, that's the great love of the ministry — the pastoral side. They'll forget your sermons, they'll forget your organization; but they won't forget those personal contacts."

ONE SERMON THEY WILL REMEMBER

There is at least one sermon, though, that the people at Malvern won't forget, although it was preached several decades ago. It was the first Sunday for the young minister in his second appointment. He was, as he states it, "trying to make a big impression with my great sermon on the prodigal son."

The story, interrupted by several "Fred Harrison laughs," went like this: "I was preaching my big sermon on the prodigal son. I got him down there, you know — away from home and all. I had spoken of the humiliation of the little Jew boy in that the only job he could get was to feed the pigs. While he was thinking about home he could just see his mother bringing in supper. And then I said 'And there on the table she set down a big plate of fried ham!'"

"Well," continues Dr. Fred, "Brother Elmo Young and Judge Rowland and all of them just began laughing. I didn't think I'd said anything funny," and then it dawned on him: "Well, that would be something, wouldn't it?" "And I knew I had to pull out of it some way, so I said 'Well, I've heard that congregations often went to sleep on the preacher. But it looks like the preacher went to sleep on the congregation!' We laughed that night and lived together four years happily."

THE NEW RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Asked about his views on the Ministers' Reserve Pension Fund program approved by the Little Rock Conference at its last session, Dr. Harrison said that "The fact that the laymen are spearheading it is the most encouraging thing." He adds "I don't think that we preachers, particularly we retired preachers, ought to be reticent about speaking up for it. It won't mean much for most of us now; but it will benefit the fellow who will be retiring within the next decade or so. We ought to go into it with everything we have. It's later than we think. I wish we had been able to do this a long time before now. (The program) has come for such a time as this."

COUNSEL TO YOUNG MINISTERS AND COMMENTS ON CURRENT ISSUES

Asked what counsel he would give to young ministers just beginning their ministry Dr. Harrison stated that he would encourage them to put the emphasis on "the pastoral side of the ministry." "This is out of date and would dub me an old-timer; but we need a new emphasis on the pastoral ministry. I have always thought so, and I hear people talking more than I used to. I know what they want, what they need and what they ought to have." Such pastoral emphasis, he states, should be "backed up with good preaching; the best that he can do. And (the young minister) should give attention to his prayers." He adds that "he should forget about the appointments, where he is going next."



Dr. Harrison

Reflecting on current happenings today, Dr. Harrison states that "the church is faced with the greatest challenge ever." Such phenomena as the Jesus movement, the "Holy Spirit movement" and others, Dr. Harrison states, "indicate to me part of the yearning that people have for a deep religious experience. We ought to recognize that these different winds are blowing . . . and have an effect upon people. We should analyze ourselves again and see how we can more effectively minister to people who are hungering and thirsting after something . . . I don't think we ought to brush it under the rug and say 'Well, that's something that's foreign to us.' It's touching too many people in too many ways . . . We need to face it in love and with love and let people express themselves."

THOUGHTS ON SUNDAY MORNING

What does a retired preacher think about when he sits in the congregation on Sunday morning? "I think about the opportunity that the preacher has! It makes me wish I was back in there. I think that I could do it, now!"

And what kind of counsel would Dr. Fred R. Harrison give to ministers who face retirement? "To realize that he is going to be the little frog in the big pond now. That he's not in the main arena; to realize that he has had his day and the younger men are now having their day. And then go ahead with any opportunities that come to serve and to serve as best he can."

People who have known Fred R. Harrison down the years know that that is what he has done, and done well: to serve as best he could. He is a happy reminder to us that the group he represents — the retired United Methodist ministers — have not "had their day;" they are still having them. And they are days filled with service to people; days that are a credit to their own lives and days that are a blessing to the church.

Council Directors to Local Churches

NEW AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCE

"A CHILD OF GOD IN SEARCH OF FREEDOM" is a Super 8 mm color, sound motion picture, 12 minutes in length. Produced by TRAFCO and the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, it can be used as a resource for the interdenominational study theme: "Faith and Justice."

The film centers on United Methodist Bishop Abel Muzorewa, president of the recently formed African National Council (ANC), an organization that grew out of African opposition to proposals for constitutional changes negotiated by the governments of Rhodesia and Great Britain. British

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recognition, and therefore legalization, of the independence of its former colony depended on African approval of the proposals as promising a just form of government.

The film shows the Bishop at home in Zimbabwe (the African name for Rhodesia); before the Pearce Commission, the British investigatory body soliciting African opinion on the proposals; before the United Nations Security Council; and The United Methodist General Conference and at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Atlanta.

The purpose of the film is to inform Christian understanding of the Rhodesian situation, and to stimulate concern and action in support of its oppressed African population. As a resource for the interdenominational study, "Faith and Justice," it can deal with the problems of translating their Christian faith into action for those in need of faith and justice.

BEFORE USING THE FILM

The best use of the film depends upon thorough preparation by those who will show it and lead the discussion following the showing. The leader's guide should be studied by the discussion leader. If you are fortunate enough to have a church leader, missionary or someone else with expert knowledge on Rhodesia in your area, you might want to invite them to speak to your group after the showing. Here are additional guidelines that may be helpful to you:

- (1) Before the showing, preview the film, preferably with a small planning committee;
- (2) Discuss with your committee the kind of response you hope your group will have to the film and the actions they might be moved to take;
- (3) Decide how the film will be introduced;
- (4) Plan for discussion following the film; and
- (5) Secure someone to see that the equipment is working properly and to project the film.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Super 8mm films can be projected only with a Super 8mm projector. If there is no such projector available in your area, you may borrow the Super 8mm projector from the Council Office, Methodist Headquarters Building, 715 Center St., Little Rock, Ark.

NEWS and NOTES

ASBURY CHURCH in Batesville observed its 25th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 9. The Rev. Floyd Villines, Jr., district superintendent, was guest preacher. A potluck dinner and afternoon singing followed. The Rev. S. Woodrow Woods is pastor.

NORTHSIDE METHODIST MEN met Thursday evening, Sept. 20 at the Washington Avenue United Methodist Church. Former U.S. Congressman David Pryor was the guest speaker. The Rev. Kenneth Renfro was the host pastor.

THE NEW SENIOR HIGH UMY officers at Huntington Avenue United Methodist Church, Jonesboro, are: Lynita Cooksey, president; Becky Miller, vice president; Alicia Powell, secretary; and Paul Strawbridge, treasurer. The Junior High officers are: Tony Futrell, president; David McKinney, vice president; Melody Rogers, secretary; and Ricky McKinney, treasurer. The Rev. James Chandler is their pastor.

MEN OF CENTRAL United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, heard Charles Scharlau, president of Arkansas Western Gas Company, speak about the utilization of natural gas, when they held their dinner meeting Sept. 19.

THE REV. DAVID L. DRIVER, recently assigned to the Swifton-Alicia Charge, was honored with a shower of food, household items and linens by the Swifton congregation recently. Mr. Driver was associate at Paragould before coming to this pastorate.

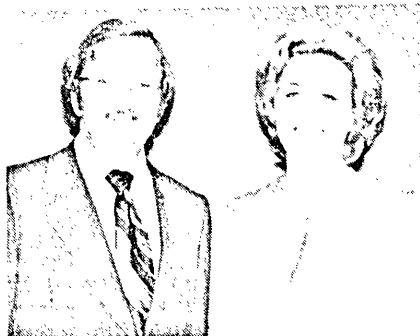
CLAUD P. TRICE was given a red letter edition of the Bible in the name of the Elementary Department of Swifton United Methodist Church recently for his 36 years of devoted service to the church school.

CORRECTION: We regret that the name of Mr. Walter L. Hudson, chairman of the Building Committee at Stamps United Methodist Church, was inadvertently omitted from a picture caption on page five in the Sept. 20 issue of Arkansas Methodist which described how that church solved the problem of steps that were too high. Serving on the committee with Mr. Hudson were Harold Baker and Tom Heintz.

P.K. (Preachers' Kids) KORNER

MR. AND MRS. DEAN F. RIGGIN of Little Rock are the parents of another son, Jason Todd, born August 23. The paternal grandparents are the Rev. and Mrs. Robert L. Riffin of Portland.

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Ann Williams of First United Methodist Church, El Dorado, is shown above with C. Wayne Banks of the Perkins School of Theology. Ms. Williams attended the annual Seminar for Educational Assistants at Perkins this summer. The seminar is designed for non-certified full-time educational workers. It is a graduate-level course and those completing the course successfully receive one unit of credit toward the four units required by The United Methodist Church to become Associates in Christian Education.

CENTRAL CHURCH, FAYETTEVILLE, has added to its staff two young persons to lead the youth program. Jim Woolley, a recent graduate of Arkansas Tech, Russellville, will direct the youth choir. Janet Turner, a senior U. of A. student from Fort Smith, will be director of youth activities. Dr. Joel A. Cooper is senior minister at Central.

MARTHA CHEYNE, who has lived most of her life in Africa, was guest speaker for the youth groups in the Ashdown United Methodist Church, Sept. 16. Martha, a student at Ouachita Baptist University, is the niece of the Ashdown pastor, the Rev. Bill Cheyne, and the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. John R. Cheyne, Baptist missionaries to Rhodesia and Ethiopia.

DR. SCHUBERT M. OGDEN, noted theologian and professor at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, was guest speaker in Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Sunday evening, Sept. 16. His topic was "What Methodists Are Thinking Now." Dr. James A. Argue was host pastor.

MONTICELLO DISTRICT Parsonettes met at the lakehouse of the Rev. and Mrs. Robert L. Riffin in Hot Springs on Sept. 13 and 14 for their annual retreat where plans were discussed for the coming year.

WIVES WERE GUESTS when United Methodist Men of Oaklawn Church, Hot Springs, held the first dinner meeting of the year, Sept. 10. The program was given by the Tri-Lakes Quartet. Joe Grose-close is president of the men's group. The Rev. Carlos Martin is their pastor.

LAKESIDE METHODIST MEN in Pine Bluff had a program on "Science and our Environment" presented by Verna Tearrow, who is associated with the telephone company, at the Sept. 20 dinner meeting. The Rev. Ed Matthews is the Lakeside minister.



Las Savell (above) recently assumed duties as the new choir director of Grace United Methodist Church in Memphis. Mr. Savell, Director of Public Relations at Methodist Hospitals, has directed choirs in various churches for the past 18 years. He has worked with the Memphis Little Theatre and the Memphis Opera Theatre. He also co-directs the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing Glee Club with his wife.

A **KEY 73 EVANGELISM** rally was held in Stuttgart on Sunday night, Sept. 23, in the new Junior High Auditorium. Featured speaker was Dr. Ralph Phelps, former president of Ouachita Baptist University. Music featuring Christian and patriotic songs was presented by the Sound Generation Singers of John Brown University. Churches of the community participating included Grand Avenue and First United Methodist Churches.

FIRST UNITED Methodist Church, Russellville, held a reception recently honoring Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Spaulding on their 60th wedding anniversary. The Rev. Charles E. Ramsay is their pastor.

INDIA WILL BE THE THEME of the food and program in First Church, Texarkana, on Sunday night, Sept. 30. The program will feature Dr. and Mrs. Jayant B. Rana, natives of India. They will be presented by Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Wren. Dr. Edwin B. Dodson is pastor.

THE REV. LLOYD M. CONYERS, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Osceola, was elected president of the Osceola Ministerial Alliance at the Sept. 4 meeting. The Alliance cooperates with the Osceola Christian Community Council in the Fall Spiritual Life Crusade, the Christmas and Easter seasons, as well as the radio ministry and a general ministry to the public.

WANTED: Director of children's, youth and adult choirs, with responsibility for youth program. Good salary. Contact Dr. Charles W. Richards, First United Methodist Church, 304 N. Main St., Searcy, Ark. 72143: Telephone 268-5897.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT MT. ZION CHURCH

The West Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, located in the Fort Smith District, two miles from Hartman, observed its centennial celebration on Sunday, Sept. 16. The present white frame structure stands on some of the log sills from the original log building.

The Rev. Danny Roark, pastor, preached during the regular morning worship service. A potluck dinner was followed by special singing groups and talks by former residents.

MACK HARBOUR, administrator at the Community Hospital in Paragould, was the speaker at the Sept. 10 meeting of United Methodist Men in Sylvan Hills Church, North Little Rock, where the Rev. James Keith is pastor.

LAW ENFORCEMENT officers of Fayetteville were honored by the Men's Club of Wiggins Memorial Church on Sept. 11. This was their fourth annual appreciation banquet. Additional guests were boys from Boy Land and some of their counselors. The speaker was Major General (Ret.) Bruce Kendall. Host pastor was the Rev. Maurice Lanier.

"COMMUNICATION AND Youth" was the subject when Dr. James Dusenberry was guest speaker at the Sept. 24 dinner meeting of United Methodist Men in St. Luke Church, Little Rock. Charles Stuck is president. The Rev. Alfred DeBlack is the St. Luke pastor.

SHERIDAN FIRST CHURCH TO HOLD SPIRITUAL RENEWAL EMPHASIS

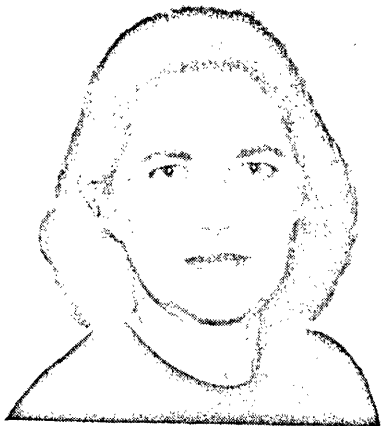
Dr. Barry Bailey, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Richardson, Tex., will be the guest minister at a Spiritual Renewal Emphasis to be held Sept. 30-Oct. 3 at First Church in Sheridan. Mr. Bill Mann, evangelistic singer and recording artist from Dallas, Tex., will direct the singing and give special vocal numbers.

Dr. Bailey is a native of Sheridan, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Bailey of that community. He is a graduate of Hendrix College and Perkins School of Theology and has served pastorates in the Little Rock and Louisiana Conferences. He will speak at 7 p.m. on Sunday and at 7:30 Monday through Wednesday. The Rev. Jack A. Wilson is the Sheridan pastor.

Women for Hendrix

Women for Hendrix, a new organization of alumnae and all women interested in Hendrix, is planning a family picnic in Burns Park Pavilion #7 in North Little Rock on Sunday, Sept. 30, at 5:30 p.m. Everyone interested in becoming a part of this group which was formed for the promotion and support of the college is encouraged to come and bring her family a pot-luck dish, hot dogs, buns, and utensils.

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Mrs. Jones

ELOISE JONES WINS EXPENSE PAID TRIP TO UMW ASSEMBLY

Mrs. Eloise Jones of Camden has been awarded an expense-paid trip to the Assembly of United Methodist Women which will be held in the Convention Center in Cincinnati, O., Oct. 4-7.

The award is made by United Methodist Women of the South Central Jurisdiction (comprised of eight states), based on essays submitted on the theme of the Assembly, "Many Gifts, One Spirit."

Mrs. Jones, wife of Ed Jones, has been active in Fairview United Methodist Church of Camden for many years. She has served in many capacities in the Wesleyan Service Guild, including the presidency. At present she is a member of the choir, president of her Sunday School class, chairperson of the Work Area on Education, member of the Council on Ministries, and secretary of United Methodist Women.

†

FAIRVIEW WOMEN STUDY ECUMENICAL PROJECTS

United Methodist Women of Fairview Church, Camden, met on Monday, Sept. 10, at the church. Mrs. Erlena Campbell, vice president, introduced the program leader, Mrs. A. C. Hale. The program, which was on ecumenical mission, opened with the hymn, "More Love To Thee, O Christ," with Miss Ada Akin at the piano, after which Mrs. Bill Seaton, president, led in prayer.

Mrs. Seaton and Mrs. Eloise Jones gave a dialogue which explained the work of Church Women United. An informative talk on ecumenical mission in Nepal was given by Mrs. George Tanner. She announced that one of the special mission projects sponsored by Fairview Church this year is an offering for a boy's school being built by the United Mission to Nepal, of which the United Methodist Church is a part. The offering will be taken on Sunday, Sept. 30.

Mrs. Hale spoke briefly about ecumenical mission in the United States. She announced the ecumenical Key '73 Worldwide Vigil of Prayer, which begins in Tonga, near the international date line and will spread around the world on December 31, 1973. She also asked for used postage stamps, which can be sold to dealers and the proceeds used to send powdered milk to starving children overseas. This is an ecumenical project sponsored by the Washington State Council of Churches.

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Assembly of UM Women to feature interest groups

NEW YORK (UMC) — A "cafeteria menu" of 65 interest groups ranging from "Missions in Political Ferment" to "The Holy Spirit in Daily Life" is being offered to United Methodist Women attending their Assembly Oct. 4-7 at the Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. About 10,000 are expected.

The interest groups will comprise the afternoon program Oct. 5 and are designed as a variation in the Assembly format of plenary sessions. The intent, planners say, is to give women a chance to individualize part of their Assembly experience through choosing from among the wide-ranging interest group options. Each registrant is asked to pick six groups she would like to attend, with the Assembly staff assigning her to one of the six, insofar as possible.

The interest groups are clustered around the four mission areas in the work and program of United Methodist Women. About 15 groups are related to each area. The mission areas and a small sample of related groups:

Christian Global Concerns — "Mission and Women Around the World," "Missions in Political Ferment," "Giving and Receiving: The Role of the Missionary Today." **Christian Personhood**: "The Holy Spirit in Daily Life," "Personal Growth and Interpersonal Relationships," "Making Bible Study Come Alive." **Christian Social Involvement** — "Eliminating Racism," "Abortion and the Supreme Court Case," "Corporate Investments and Social Responsibility." **Supportive Community** — "The Worth of a Woman," "Fellowship: A Dynamic Force," "Dealing With Conflict."

Among leaders and resource persons listed for interest groups are missionaries, women legislators and theologians, bishops, social activists and church executives.

Closing the Assembly will be what is believed perhaps a "first" in the United Methodist Church — a service

of Holy Communion led by ordained women ministers. To be held on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 7 this year, the event is to be called a "Service of Celebration and Communion."

The opening event October 4 at the Assembly will be a drama highlighting the heritage and horizon of United Methodist Women. The program is entitled "Many Gifts, One Spirit," the Assembly theme. Presenting the drama will be Sharon Bengel, executive director of Casa Manana Playhouse, Fort Worth, Texas, and the Casa Manana Players.

Mrs. C. Clifford Cummings, Dixon, Ill., president of United Methodist Women, will preside at an Oct. 5 session and will give a message of welcome and greeting to all at the Assembly.

Assembly plenary highlights include an address by the Rev. Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches; a Biblical and theological presentation on the official Purpose of United Methodist Women by Peggy Billings, Women's Division executive, and Cynthia Wedel, former president of the National Council of Churches; and a special "ecumenical day" program entitled "From Babel to Pentecost."

Responding to Dr. Potter's address will be a panel moderated by Theresa Hoover, New York, top staff executive for United Methodist Women.

Major participants in the "Ecumenical Day" program will include Olive (Mrs. Harold) Quickel, Lancaster, Pa., vice-president of United Methodist Women, and Abigail McCarthy, Roman Catholic leader and a vice-president of Church Women United.

The Assembly is sponsored by the Women's Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. The Division is the national policy-making body for about 1,500,000 members of United Methodist Women, the former organization succeeding the new Women's Society of Christian Service

and Wesleyan Service Guild. Since transition from the two organizations to the single new one must be completed by December 31, planners say they hope the Assembly will give a final push to the process.

United Methodist Women will participate in the Assembly, either in person or vicariously, through a special Assembly Offering. Those attending will make their gifts at the Communion in Cincinnati. The vast majority of members will give through their organizational channels.

The Assembly Offering has been designated by the Women's Division for "Training Women for Church Leadership." The funds are to go to a variety of projects and programs in the U.S. and overseas. Among them are support for ordained women (such as theological education scholarships), leadership experiences for United Methodist Women including those from minority groups, support for women related to national missions, ecumenical training programs in regions with specialized needs such as Indochina, support for involvement of churchwomen in societal change (such as community organizing).

Yet another way in which United Methodist Women throughout the nation will be involved with their sisters attending the Assembly is through prayer. An Intercessory Prayer Room will be open many hours at the Convention Center, with a service of intercessory prayer to be repeated each half-hour. The service was published in the July-August issue of *response*, magazine of United Methodist Women; individuals and groups have been encouraged to use it during the days of the Assembly.

Other features of the Assembly will include displays, a daily newspaper, a film room with showing of relevant motion pictures, and attendance by missionaries (home and overseas) and guests from other countries and other women's groups.



Mrs. Watkins

Regional Workshop for Church Women United in Texarkana

Texarkana will host a regional Response-Ability workshop concerning Church Women United. The event is scheduled for Oct. 2-4 and will be held at Holiday Inn, Texarkana, Texas. This region will include Arkansas, Louisiana, and eastern Texas.

Mrs. Maxine Watkins of Shreveport, La., will be the coordinator. Mrs. Watkins is a United Methodist. She received her education in Indiana and worked in the fields of music and Christian education in schools and churches of Indiana, Alabama, and in several churches in Louisiana.

The workshops are designed to help CWU officers be more effective by sharpening abilities to respond to conditions and needs. Workshops will include help in

- dealing with diversity
- planning—particularly goal setting
- how to be "advocates"
- creating effective services
- building relationships
- creating Celebrations

all within the context of what it means to be a Christian woman in chaotic times.

Sister Florence Yutterman of Little Rock is president of Church Women United in Arkansas. Mrs. William Haskell of Delhi is president of the organization in Louisiana.

Despise not yourselves, ye women: the Son of God was born of a woman. —St. Augustine

Church Women United sponsoring book review

"The Humor of Art Buchwald" as told by Mrs. Nicholas (Faye) DiMassimo will be sponsored by Church



Women United (Business Women's Group) of Central Arkansas, Friday, Sept. 28. The book review will be held in the chapel of First United Methodist Church, 22nd and Poplar, North

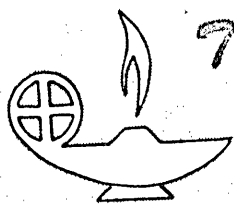
Little Rock, at 7 p.m.

Mrs. DiMassimo is a teacher in the Speech Department at U. of A. in Little Rock. Mr. Buchwald is a humorous columnist whose writings have appeared frequently in the *Arkansas Gazette*.

Tickets (\$1.00) are being sold to benefit the Lake and Leisure Ministry, and the Girls' Training School and Scholarship.

Mrs. Dessa Mae Traylor, 1st vice-president, is in charge of arrangements.

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The Sunday School Lesson

by the Editor

LESSON FOR OCTOBER 7:

"Law and Gospel"

ORIENTATION: We are in the first quarter of the 1973-74 church school year. The theme for this quarter (Sept.-Oct.-Nov.) is **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL**. We are in unit #2 (Sept. 30-Oct. 28) of this quarter. The unit subject is **THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION**. Our lesson for Oct. 7 is the second in this unit of five lessons and is entitled "Law and Gospel."

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Romans 2:17 through 3:31.

MEMORY SELECTION: We hold that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of law. —Romans 3:28

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON: To examine the concept of salvation by faith alone, as opposed to the attempt to gain acceptance with and be reconciled to God through obedience to the law; to see this concept as central to the message of reconciliation of men to God; to review our own acceptance of this great gift and to evaluate our obedience in bearing witness to this vital message of the gospel.

SUPPOSE

Suppose that you had a million dollars and that you wanted to give it away — all at one time. That's a pretty interesting "suppose!" And it takes a lot for granted: first, that you have a million dollars; and second, that you'd want to give it away! But let's just suppose, anyway, for the sake of my illustration.

We might be surprised to find that to give away a million dollars is not as easy as we might think. To this, the person to whom such an offer were to be made would probably say "Just try me; I'll show you how easy it is!" But it is interesting to hear that such experiments have reportedly been made only to learn that many persons are most reluctant to accept a generous gift with no strings attached. We suspect, and are suspicious of, that which is free.

CAN GOD GIVE AWAY "THE GREATEST GIFT?"

Something of the same kind of quandry is faced by God himself as he seeks to give us the gift of salvation. "No deal," we say; "We can't freely accept such a wonderful gift. We must work for it. We must earn it. We are not worthy to receive this marvelous gift from you without first doing something to justify receiving it."

The above is an all-too-inadequate analogy, but it can serve to introduce a concept of man's salvation and an understanding of how God relates to man which has been one of the most truly revolutionary thoughts of all time: salvation by faith and the concept of free grace.

AN ETERNAL QUESTION

One of the eternal questions of man has been "How can I win approval in the sight of God?" The question has been expressed in a multitude of ways, but essentially it is the question of the Philippian jailer who asked "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30).

The issue facing Paul was that his readers, most-

ly Jews, had sought to answer this question by a stringent allegiance to the law. Paul's response was that it was not only impossible to be reconciled to God by keeping the law, but that such human efforts were missing the whole point of God's grace. Salvation comes by faith, he says; not by keeping the law as a set of regulations.

THE HEART OF THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION

We must approach today's lesson, "Law and Gospel," with a reminder that our unit of study concerns "The Message of Reconciliation." The matters before us today lead us straight to the heart of God's word to us through the gospel: that we are reconciled to God not by obedience to the law but by the gift of God's grace acknowledged by faith. This is the gospel, the good news: that what man cannot do for himself by the impossible way of obedience to the law, God has in Christ done for him in the totally benevolent way of the gift of reconciling grace.

To get into this whole concept we must look at (1) the purpose and function of the law; (2) the scope of the gospel; and (3) the role of faith.

THE PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF THE LAW

No man can justify himself before God by a perfect performance of the law's demands — indeed it is the straightedge of the law that shows us how crooked we are. —Romans 3:20 (J. B. Phillips trans.)

The problem of the law was one that the Jews should never have had to contend with in the first place. For it stemmed from a misunderstanding of the original intent of their law. The Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament, formed "The Law." For most Jews the law was God's revealed will; it provided a way of life and reflected the righteousness of God. The psalmist describes the devoted Jew in his regard for the law: "His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1).

The purpose of the law was to point the way to the lawgiver. But as centuries passed it became difficult to apply the law to new circumstances. Consequently the law was rewritten into hundreds upon hundreds of tiny regulations to be followed. With popular usage, these regulations gradually replaced the original law as the object of the nation's obedience. The once noble law of the eternal God had been decimated into the tedious regulations of man.

The law was never intended to be a way of salvation. It was designed, rather, to serve three purposes: (1) to show men how righteous God is; (2) show man his own weakness and sinfulness ("... it is the straightedge of the law that shows us how crooked we are"); and (3) to show men the futility of trying to be good enough to merit God's favor and thus to encourage them to turn to him for help.

The burden of Paul's case that salvation is by faith is that God is concerned with persons, not laws.

THE SCOPE OF THE GOSPEL

... a true Jew is not the man who is merely a Jew outwardly, and real circumcision is not just a matter of the body. The true Jew is one who belongs to God

in heart, a man whose circumcision is not just an outward physical affair but is a God-made sign upon the heart and soul ... —Romans 2:25-29 (J. B. Phillips trans.)

To the Jew who was certain that he stood in a special relationship to God, such a passage as the above must have been an outrage. Jewishness, says Paul, is not a matter of race; it has nothing to do with outward signs such as circumcision. It is, rather, a matter of conduct and of the heart. The gospel, says Paul, is for all persons.

William Barclay states it this way: "God's promises ... are not to people of a certain race and to people who bear a certain mark on their bodies. God's promises are to people who live a certain kind of life irrespective of what race they may belong to. To be a real Jew is not a matter of pedigree; it is a matter of character ..." (Wm. Barclay THE DAILY STUDY BIBLE, Romans, pg. 42).

THE ROLE OF FAITH

But now we are seeing the righteousness of God declared quite apart from the law ... — it is a righteousness imparted to, and operating in, all who have faith in Jesus Christ ... Under this divine "system" a man who has faith is now freely acquitted in the eye of God ... the whole matter is now on a different plane — believing instead of achieving. —Romans 3:21, 24, 28 (J. B. Phillips trans.)

Paul has been called "the world's first free man," and it was the discovery which he pens above which brought this freedom. Faith, complete trust, "utter yieldedness" in and to what God has done for man — not what man could do to please God — is what reconciles man to God.

The way to God is not the way of law; it is the way of grace. The way to salvation is not the way of works; it is the way of faith. Barclay says that "... the way of obedience to the law is concerned with what a man can do for himself; the way of grace is concerned with what God ... has done for man. Paul is insisting that nothing that we can ever do can win for us the forgiveness of God; only what God has done for us can win that ..."

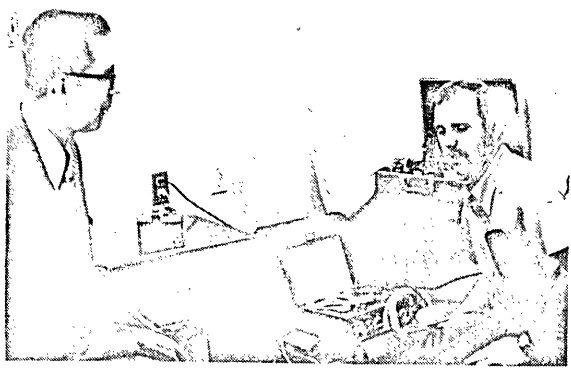
Paul's great understanding of the gospel, that salvation comes by faith, brings us to the heart of the message of reconciliation. It is that through Jesus Christ we are offered the way to salvation; a way that is free from slavish adherence to a system of law or works and delivers us from preoccupation with punishment or reward. By the grace of God we can accept the fact that we are accepted by God.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Do we find it difficult to "accept the grace of God?" If so, why?
2. Do we feel that we must "earn" our salvation? If so, why?
3. Why is the concept of salvation by faith so revolutionary? Explain your answer.
4. In what sense are we not to take pride in good works? In what sense can we justify joy in them?

NEXT WEEK: "RECONCILIATION THROUGH CHRIST" — Romans, Chapter 5

'More than Bread'



"Our chaplains' retreat is one of the highlights of our year. We never miss one if we can help it."

"Without the Crusade Scholarship program I couldn't have made it to graduate school."

"The scholarship and work program at Southwestern opened the only door I had to get a college education."

"It is the United Methodist compassion for people, evidenced through the World Communion Offering, that adds a plus factor to this already significant day."

Four statements, all related to the personal meaning of World Communion Sunday and the special offering of the day. The first is from Robert Simpson, chaplain at the VA hospital in Dallas, Tex. Mr. Simpson has been in this specialized min-

istry since 1956 and reports that he depends heavily upon the support given him through the Division on Chaplains and Related Ministries of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The Dallas VA hospital specializes in work with cancer patients, and performs many open-heart operations. The work with patient and families is both rewarding and taxing, Mr. Simpson reports, because of the very serious nature of each patient's illness. The spiritual lift he gets from the fellowship at the annual chaplains' retreats is something he and his wife have come to depend upon.

One fourth of the World Communion Offering supports the work of the Division on Chaplains and Related Ministries. This agency staff carries on a visitation program with all chaplains, civilian and military, and serves as the certification agency for the United Methodist Church.

Rodolfo Barrera was born in Tampico, Mexico, and grew up in a military garrison. He attended the Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, crossing the international bridge each day from Mexico. Called to the ministry, he is now in his second year at Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, Tex. He is interested in the parish ministry and, as a part of his training, was a student intern during the summer of 1973 at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. It is Crusade Scholars' money which permits him to remain in school.

Denice Wang was born in Hong Kong. With her family she now lives in the U. S. Chinese by birth, American by choice, Denice wants to be a school teacher. She will be able to realize this goal because of funds received by her school from the World Communion Offering.

The Rev. Howard Greenwalt has been working in the field of general church benevolence promotion for more than 20 years, and can assess the remarkable giving record of our denomination. He now heads the Interpretation office of the Joint Commit-

tee on Communications, the agency responsible for promoting the World Communion Offering. It is his opinion that the 1973 theme—"More Than Bread"—suggests some of the deeper meanings of this observance. As he puts it:

"Every effort is made to urge people to attend church and participate in The Lord's Supper on this day. Materials are provided to help pastors and congregations sense both the meaning and the scope of World Communion Sunday. The offering is one way to give added meaning to our emphasis upon the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God."



Myriam Visot, left, is a former Crusade Scholar now teaching in the University of Puerto Rico. Miss Visot is also a lay pastor at the University United Methodist Church in San Juan.

†

United Methodist Building in nation's capital city site of celebration marking 50 years of changing functions

WASHINGTON, D. C. (UMC) — The events, the trends and the people that have centered in the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill here for a half-century were celebrated Sunday, Oct. 21.

The 2 p.m. chapel service featured an address by U. S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun, a United Methodist layman.

The ceremony was conducted by officers of the Board of Church and Society. Participants in the worship celebration and reception included the Rev. A. Dudley Ward, general secretary of the board, and other staff and board members.

The five-story structure, built in 1923 to house the Methodist Episcopal Church's Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals and some other Methodist offices, now includes several other Methodist agencies plus those of other denominations. It still contains most of the 67 apartments put in the original building and its 1932 extension.

However, the 50 years of change have encompassed more than tenants. New interpretations of its purpose as a "wakeful and powerful sentinel on guard" in the nation's capital have sometimes altered its early "dignity"

and "quiet" as it became a forum and haven for many of the 1960s' dissent movements.

The sponsoring board has become, through several organizational and denominational mergers, the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. Its Division of General Welfare owns the building, which stands between the Supreme Court and Senate office Buildings and faces the Capitol.

The limestone building, of Italian Renaissance style, rose at 100 Maryland Avenue, Northeast, on what had been a clay bank occupied only by billboards. Its later addition replaced some dilapidated houses.

The structure had its cornerstone laying Jan. 28, 1923, and its dedication a year later on Jan. 16. Its financing came largely through personal donations and collections from meetings addressed by Dr. Charles True Wilson, prohibition leader who was then executive secretary of the church's temperance agency.

President Calvin Coolidge sent the dedicatory service a message which said that the event "suggests how practical and socially useful the work of the great religious establishments is becoming." Speakers at the occasion

included famed orator William Jennings Bryan and Pennsylvania Gov. Gifford Pinchot, well-known conservationist.

Alterations in functions related to the building have resulted from both changes in the times and from agency mergers. While the "public morals" phrase in the original board's name gave it wide scope, that group's emphases were temperance, gambling and obscenity.

The agency's merger with former Boards of Social and Economic Relations and of World Peace, earlier based in Chicago, gave it entry into such areas as race relations, peace, church-state affairs, mental health, population, welfare, economic policies, civil liberties, urbanization and poverty.

This merger, in 1960, also coincided with the beginning of a decade of new concerns for and progress in several of these areas, along with new ways of expressing those concerns. These included confrontation of government representatives, marches and demonstrations, and the building at various times afforded offices, housing and rallying space related to the Poor People's Campaign, protests against the

Vietnam War, support for the United Farm Workers and for the civil rights campaigns.

Its current occupants include United Methodist agencies — the Board of Church and Society, Commission on Religion and Race, Bishop James K. Mathews of the Washington Area, some offices of the Women's Division and Baltimore Conference, the Legislative Affairs Project of the Council on Youth Ministries.

There also are public affairs offices of the National Council of Churches, United Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, Church of the Brethren, Mennonite Central Committee, Unitarian-Universalist Association, American Baptist, Episcopal, American Ethical Union, American Humanist Association, and several inter-group coalitions in areas related to church and society. Others are the American Library Association, the Population Institute and the Committee on Africa.

In 1957, warned of possible federal takeover of the property, the former Board of Temperance bought a 19-acre undeveloped tract in Northwest Washington and passed it on to the denomination. Though the threat diminished, the property is still being held for possible headquarters use.

World Methodist Evangelism Council announces simultaneous events

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UMC)—Three vital steps have been announced by the World Methodist Council Evangelism Committee.

They are:

- a worldwide vigil of prayer, Dec. 31, 1973.

- a simultaneous Bible study around the world during Lent, 1974.

- a Congress on Evangelism at Dallas, Texas, Jan. 8-10, 1974.

The Worldwide Vigil of Prayer, Dec. 31, will begin with a service in Tonga, near the International Date Line, and proceed around the world.

One unique aspect of the vigil will be the linking together of Christians from many countries by the use of an international recording.

The cassette begins with greetings from the Tonga Islands. It contains brief, challenging statements from Dr. Allan Walker of Australia, Bishop Yap Kim Hao of Singapore, Mrs. Elisa Ocera of the Philippines, Bishop Eric Mitchell of India, Rev. Thomas Koomson of Ghana, Dr. George Sails of London, Bishops Arias and Bahamonde of South America, Dr. Ira Gallaway of the Division of Evangelism, Worship and Stewardship of the United Methodist Church, Dr. Gaius Thibadeaux of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Shreveport, Dr. Robert Andrews of the Free Methodist Church, and other leaders of the World Methodist Council.

Under the guidance of the World Methodist Evangelism Committee, of which Bishop F. Gerald Ensley of Columbus, Ohio, is chairman, a packet of materials has been prepared for this vigil. It contains:

- One International Recording (a 23-minute cassette)

- One Vigil Sign-up Chart

- Four Posters

- 100 Vigil Programs, containing pictures of all persons who are heard on the cassettes and suggestions for those participating in the prayer vigil

- 100 Commitments Cards (to be offered participants for use)

- One Sheet of Suggestions for Vigil preparation

This packet is now available through Tidings, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, 37203 for \$7.95.

In the United States this Worldwide Vigil of Prayer is being considered by many United Methodists, Wesleyan, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, and Free Methodist Christians as a fitting climax to Key 73 and a time for launching into increasingly vital activities of Christian witness and service.

A cassette has also been prepared in Spanish for Spanish-speaking persons in the United States and Latin America.

The simultaneous Bible Study

around the world during Lent of 1974 will follow a guide prepared by Dr. William Barclay of Edinburgh University. This new publication is entitled JESUS CHRIST FOR TODAY. It will be off the press by the end of September. It will be available from Tidings in both English and Spanish, in a special British edition from London, and in many other languages including Chinese, German, French, Portuguese, Fiji, Korean, and languages used in Africa, India, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines.

The material is copyrighted by the World Methodist Council. Information regarding translations and editions should be secured from the administrative assistant to the World Methodist Evangelism Committee, Dr. Raoul C. Calkins, 395 East Broad

Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Dr. Calkins expresses the hope of the committee that both the Worldwide Vigil of Prayer and the Lenten Bible Study will be included in the immediate planning of every church, and that through the fellowship and prayers of the study groups hundreds of thousands of persons will become better prepared and determined to witness for Christ through word and deed.

Previously it had been announced that there would be a Worldwide Consultation on Evangelism in the fall of 1973 at Lake Junaluska, N. C., but in the light of priorities, Dr. Calkins said a prior place will be given to the regional congresses and that the Worldwide Consultation has been postponed until late 1974 or early 1975.

†

Jerusalem site selected for World Evangelism Consultation in 1974

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UMC) — A world-wide Methodist evangelism consultation in Jerusalem has been set for Nov. 17-23, 1974, according to an announcement by Bishop F. Gerald Ensley of Columbus following an earlier meeting of the executive committee of the World Methodist Council's Evangelism Committee in Des Plaines, Ill. Bishop Ensley heads the committee which is directing the Council's major thrust in evangelism.

At an earlier stage, plans had tentatively been made for the world-wide consultation to be held at Lake Junaluska, N. C., this fall, but the committee has decided to give priority to regional congresses on evangelism being held in seven areas of the world during 1974 and to postpone the world-wide consultation until the week of Nov. 17-23 in Jerusalem.

The Rev. Raoul C. Calkins, Columbus, explained that the consultation will be a delegated meeting with official delegates who have responsibility in the area of evangelism in their re-

spective denominations affiliated with the World Methodist Council. Dr. Calkins is administrative assistant to the World Methodist Evangelism Committee.

Dr. Calkins said that a convocation on evangelism, open to all persons desiring to attend, will be held in Jerusalem in conjunction with the delegated consultation.

One of the primary purposes of the Jerusalem gatherings, Dr. Calkins explained will be to launch the evangelistic emphasis in all participating churches in 1975.

Both the consultation and the convocation in Jerusalem will receive input from all of the seven regional congresses to be held earlier in 1974.

In other action, the executive committee heard a report that, because of a conflict in hotel scheduling in Houston, Texas, it has become necessary to move the United States evangelism congress from that city to Dallas, Tex. The dates, Jan. 8-10, 1974, remain the same. The Rev. Dr. Ira Gallaway of Nashville, Tenn., an executive of the United Methodist Church's Board of Discipleship, is in charge of arrangements for the Dallas congress.

Delegates at the Dallas meeting will come from the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Free Methodist, United Methodist, Wesleyan, the Caribbean, and the United Church of Canada. Several of these participating groups will have denominational meetings on the evening of Jan. 7 and the morning of Jan. 8 prior to the convening of the congress.

The executive committee has also asked that the Division of Evangelism, Worship and Stewardship of the United Methodist Board of Discipleship develop a cooperative International Christian Witness exchange program involving persons from member churches of the World Methodist Council. The program will culminate in 1975. While the program may involve persons within the same country, major attention will be given to exchanges between the United States and other countries. This program is in addition to the on-going ministerial exchange program sponsored by the World Methodist Council.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1973

Government's role in abortion issue examined

WASHINGTON, D. C. (UMC) — Examination of all sides of the abortion issue is being urged upon members of Congress by two United Methodist leaders, in the wake of proposals to overturn court rulings supporting abortion rights.

Each congressman has received a letter setting forth the 1972 General Conference stand and suggesting that "the proper role of government in so private a matter as abortion is one of non-interference." The letter was from Bishop James Armstrong, Aberdeen, S. D., president of the Board of Church and Society, and Bishop Wilbur W. Y. Choy, Seattle, chairman of the board's Division of General Welfare.

Following Supreme Court rulings earlier this year, several legislators have proposed anti-abortion amendments to the U. S. Constitution. The

bishops' letter urges: "The state should neither force abortions nor child-bearing on unwilling women. An anti-abortion law does the latter. The judgments involved in so complex and difficult an issue need to be humanized, not rigidly codified."

The letter cites a portion of the United Methodist Statement of Social Principles adopted in 1972: "Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion. But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother. . . . In continuity with past Christian teaching, we recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion. . . . We support removal of abortion from the criminal code. . . ."

†

Drug and Alcohol Concerns to receive emphasis, Nov. 11

WASHINGTON, D. C. (UMC) — Help for parents in discussing the drug issue with their children is the focus for this year's observance by United Methodists of Drug and Alcohol Concerns Sunday.

In preparation for the Nov. 11 emphasis, the church's Board of Church and Society has published a pamphlet, "Ten Points for Parents Perplexed about Drugs," is recommending a book, "You, Your Child and Drugs," and is publishing others in the same category.

Chavez Victory Forecast

FRESNO, Calif. (UMC) — The United Farm Workers, led by Cesar Chavez, will eventually win in the current bitter struggle with the Teamsters' Union for labor contracts in California fields, predicts the Rev. Leo D. Nieto, New York, executive secretary of ethnic and language ministries for the National Division, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

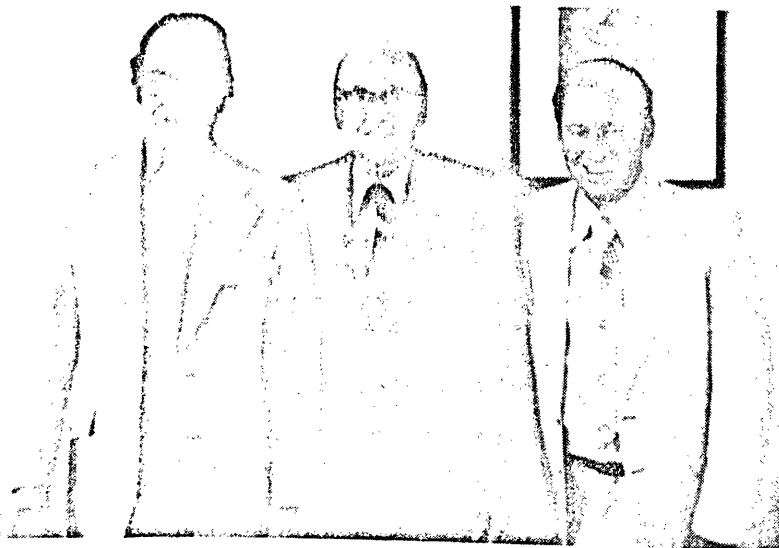
Mr. Nieto, who also is chairman of the National Council of Churches-related National Farm Worker Ministry, spent more than three weeks in August on the picket lines in grape vineyards with the UFW in California's San Joaquin Valley.

PAGE TEN



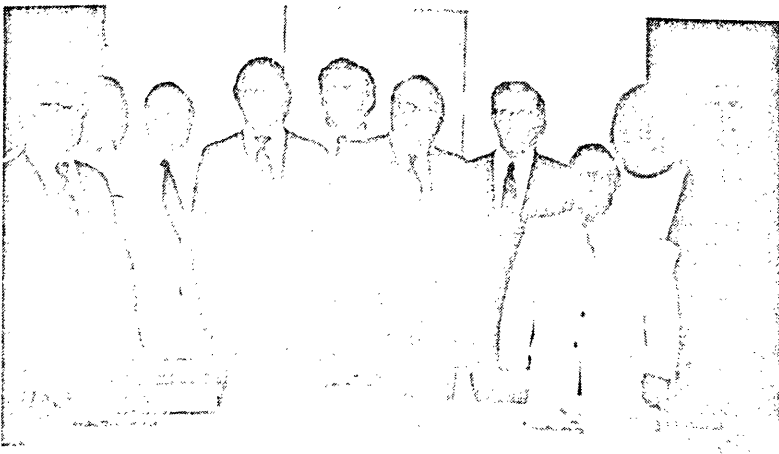
Newly elected officers of the Conway District Council on Ministries shown with Dr. J. Ralph Clayton (right), district superintendent. Others (left to right) are the Rev. Earl B. Carter, First Church, North Little Rock, chairman; Mrs. Edward O. Davis, Sylvan Hills Church, vice chairman, and Miss Cindy Henry, Lakewood, youth representative. Agenda items at recent meeting held at Ramada Inn in Conway included discussion of the council's role at the district level, a review of programs and activities, and making plans for setting of priorities.

†



Shown at recent Batesville District Council on Ministries meeting held at Central United Methodist in Batesville: Dr. Myers Curtis, director of the North Arkansas Conference Council on Ministries, District Superintendent Floyd Villines who presided, and Dr. Charles Casteel, host pastor.

†



Dr. Charles McDonald, Fort Smith district superintendent led a recent district Council on Ministries planning meeting held at First Church in Fort Smith. Pictured with him are the Rev. Pryor Cruce, the Rev. Waymon Hollis, Judge Warren Kimbrough, Dr. Myers Curtis, director of the North Arkansas Council on Ministries, the Rev. Andy Hall, Dr. Charles McDonald, Dr. Paul Bumpers, host pastor, the Rev. W. L. Douglas, Tom McDonald, Conference youth president, and the Rev. Larry Powell.

THE REV. R. OWEN BECK TO SPEAK TO MEN AT LITTLE ROCK FIRST CHURCH

The Rev. R. Owen Beck, director of Camp Tanako and associate director of the Little Rock Conference Council on Ministries will address the Methodist Men of First United Methodist Church in Little Rock, as they resume their regular monthly luncheon meetings on Friday, Sept. 28.

All United Methodist Men in the area are invited. The meeting will be held at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall of First Church at 8th and Center Sts. Reservations should be made by calling 372-2256.

†

ST. PAUL, EL DORADO UMYs ADOPT SIOUX CHILD

The youth of St. Paul United Methodist Church, El Dorado, have adopted a foster child, Jasper Peneaus, a Rosebud Sioux Indian. Jasper lives in Rosebud, South Dakota. His parents are living but desperately poor. The Junior and Senior UMYs of St. Paul Church have accepted him into the St. Paul "family" and will be raising money throughout the year and sending him monthly support. The money will be channeled for him through the Christian Children's Fund, Richmond, Va. The Rev. F. Gladwin Connell is pastor of St. Paul.

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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.

Sept. 30—Sunday	Deut. 28:1-14
Oct. 1	Psalms 121:1-8
Oct. 2	Psalms 122:1-9
Oct. 3	Psalms 128:1-6
Oct. 4	Psalms 141:1-15
Oct. 5	Isaiah 40:1-11
Oct. 6	Rev. 7:1-8
	14:1-5
Oct. 7—Sunday	1 Cor. 11:23-32

THE REV. ROBERT L. (BOB) MOORE, son of Mrs. Margaret Moore of Lonoke and the late Golden F. Moore Sr., has been named assistant professor of Philosophy at Western Illinois University at Macomb. He will have the responsibility for developing the University's new program in religious studies. A graduate of Hendrix College, he also holds degrees from Southern Methodist University, Duke University, and the University of Chicago. An ordained United Methodist minister, he is a member of the Little Rock Conference and has served churches in Texas and Illinois.

†

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6th Annual Little Rock Conference

Children's Choir Festival & Camp



Mrs. Butler

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL -

May 5, 1974

A worship experience in which all choirs attending sing from memory music selected for the service and sung under the direction of a guest conductor. No individual choir performances.

Guest Conductor: Mrs. A. L. Butler (Jo Ann)
Instructor of Music Education
and Voice
East Central State College
Ada, Oklahoma

FESTIVAL WORKSHOP

Held in conjunction with Choir Festival. Reading session - New anthems - New ideas - New music.

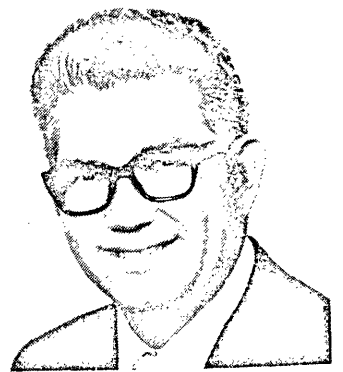
Clinician: Mrs. A. L. Butler

CHILDREN'S CHOIR CAMP -

Camp Tanako - June 3-5; June 5-7, 1974

Only those churches whose choirs participate in the Festival are eligible to send children to Choir Camp. The church's Children's Choir Director must attend camp if the church sends any children. Music - Recreation - Swimming - Handicrafts - Fun - Fellowship - Worship - Inspiration.

Guest Conductors: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Butler
(Pete and Jo Ann)
First Baptist Church
Ada, Oklahoma



Mr. Butler



Workshop scene



Choir Camp scene

5th ANNUAL LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL & CAMP REGISTRATION BLANK

Name of Church _____ Minister _____

Director of Children's Choir _____

Address of Church _____ City _____ Zip _____

A \$10.00 Church Registration fee must accompany this registration blank.
List of music for Festival will be sent upon receipt of registration fee.

Send to: Mrs. Felix Thompson, Jr.
% Children's Choir Festival
St. James United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 5417
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

COST: \$10.00 per church
Payable before October 1st.
This church registration fee along
with the offering taken at Choir
Festival used for the expenses of
the projects.

OPEN TO: All interested Churches
in the Little Rock Conference who
wish to participate in the Children's
Choir Festival and Choir Camp.