



Dr. Walter H. Vernon (seated left) will author a new volume on Methodist history in Arkansas. Shown with him are members of the Area Committee on the History of Methodism in Arkansas: Dr. C. Ray Herendorf (seated), Winfield, Little Rock, convenor and (from left), Judge Franklin Wilder, Fort Smith; the Rev. Earl B. Carter, North Little Rock First; the Rev. Ralph E. Hale, Hot Springs Grand Avenue; the Rev. William M. Wilder, Wynne, chairman of the North Arkansas Conference Commission on Archives and History; the Rev. Alf A. Eason, director, Little Rock Conference Council on Ministries; Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, Little Rock District superintendent; the Rev. Fred R. Smith, College Hill-Garland, Texarkana and chairman of the Little Rock Conference Commission on Archives and History; Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden, Little Rock First and Dr. Paul M. Bumpers, Fort Smith First. Bishop Eugene M. Frank is chairman of the committee.

New history of Methodism in Arkansas to be prepared

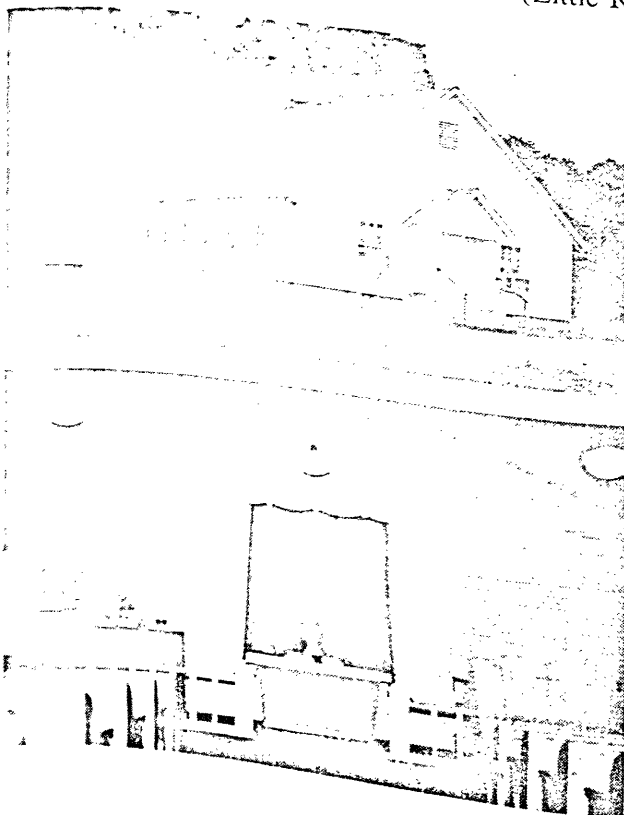
Finalization of plans to prepare a new volume on the history of Methodism in Arkansas were announced on Sept. 25 by the Area Committee on the History of Methodism in Arkansas. Tentative date for the availability of the new volume is May 15, 1976, the year marking the 140th anniversary of the organization of the Arkansas Conference and the approximate 160th anniversary of Methodism in the state. The volume will be illustrated and indexed.

A theme the new volume will be Dr. Walter N. Vernon, former executive in the General Board of Education. At his retirement in 1972, Dr. Vernon served as executive editor of General Publications and as administrative director in the Division of Curriculum Resources of that General Board. He is a member of the North Texas Conference where he serves as conference historian. He lives in Nashville, Tenn.

The committee states that the history will cover the period from "the beginning of Methodism in Arkansas (approximately 1816) through the year 1972." Dr. Vernon will begin his work in Arkansas in October and will utilize resources at Hendrix College, The Arkansas Methodist files, city, county and state libraries, The Arkansas Historical Commission, and others.

The committee asks that persons having materials of particular significance to a history of Arkansas Methodism send these to Dr. Walter N. Vernon, THE ARKANSAS METHODIST, Post Office Drawer 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203, or to the chairman of either conference's Commission on Archives and History: the Rev. William M. Wilder, Box 849, Wynne, Ark. 72396 (North Arkansas Conference), and the Rev. Fred R. Smith, 401 Kirby, Texarkana, Ark. 75501 (Little Rock Conference).

Please turn to page 6



Exterior and interior views of Union United Methodist Church at Rye are shown at left. Bishop Eugene Frank, assisted by Pine Bluff District Superintendent Virgil D. Keeley, dedicated the building erected in 1948, three class rooms, the recently renovated sanctuary, and furnishings provided as memorial gifts to the church. The church was organized in the early 1850s; the present building is the fourth one. The Rev. A. J. Lightfoot is pastor. (Photos by Larry Groves)

Philander Smith College launches campaign....

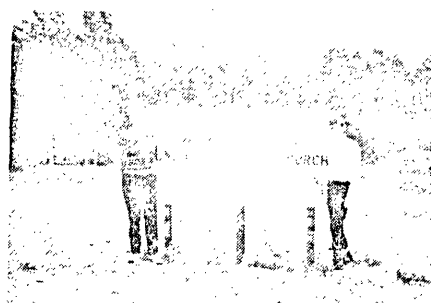
Announcement has just been made as we go to press of the launching of Philander Smith College's United Negro College Fund campaign in Arkansas. Dr. Walter R. Hazzard, Philander Smith president, states that the goal for the campaign is \$30,000. General Chairman for the drive is the Honorable Charles Bussey, Vice Mayor of the City of Little Rock. A detailed report on the campaign will appear in next week's issue of the ARKANSAS METHODIST.

Arkansas Methodist

92nd YEAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1973

NO. 39



Orin Hinson, Hunter Church Building Committee chairman and Nick Evans, minister, stand beside sign on recently purchased church site on Romine Road.



New parsonage purchased by Hunter at 3217 Romine Road for \$35,000. The garage will be converted into temporary offices for the pastor and secretary.

In Little Rock

Hunter Church to relocate

Hunter United Methodist Church, presently located at 11th and McAlmont Streets in Little Rock, has announced plans for relocation to a site recently purchased for \$56,000 in the vicinity of the new Baptist Medical Center. Purchase of the 4.2 acre tract near the intersection of Romine Road and 36th Streets, across Romine Road from Romine School, was made possible with funds provided by the Little Rock Conference Board of Missions in the amount of \$25,000 and another \$25,000 from the Little Rock District Board of Missions.

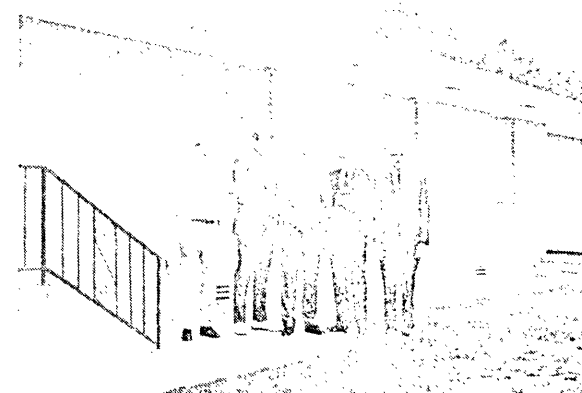
During the month of August a survey was conducted in the Twin Lakes and Campus Place developments through the cooperative efforts of lay persons from Hunter Church, First Church in Little Rock, and Levy Church, in North Little Rock, according to the Rev. Nick Evans, Hunter pastor. More than 100 families indi-

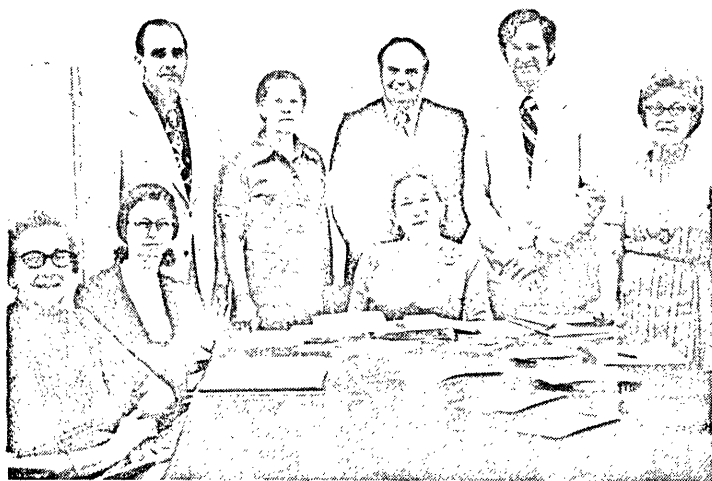
cated their interest in participation in the developing of a new congregation as a result of the survey.

Beginning on Sunday, Oct. 7 a worship service will be held at 9:30 a.m. in Romine School. During the months of October and November, worship services will be conducted in the present Hunter facility at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. On Sunday Dec. 2, the two congregations plan to merge, and following the merger, 9:30 a.m. church school and 11 a.m. worship services will be held in Romine School.

The firm of Roark, Perkins, Kennedy and Associates has been engaged to develop a Master-Plan for the building site. A groundbreaking ceremony is planned for early January of 1974, as construction for the first unit designed to accommodate a congregation of 400-450 persons gets underway.

The Rev. Floyd Villines, Batesville District superintendent (second from right) preached and officiated at the Sept. 9 Service of Dedication of two church school rooms and a memorial cross at Bethesda Church. Others (from left) are Claud Harmon, Joe Low, Harold Case, all trustees, and the Rev. Woodrow Woods, pastor (at right). The rooms were completed recently without incurring an indebtedness.





Mrs. Grafton Thomas (seated at center) chairs Little Rock Conference Advisory Comm. on Church and Community Ministries. The committee met last week at Methodist Headquarters to consider strategy for carrying on the Church and Community Work which has been under the leadership of Mrs. Grace Dwyer, recently retired. Conferring with Mrs. Thomas (from left): Mrs. Hubert Blakley, Mrs. James Nix, Dr. George W. Martin, Mrs. E. T. Davenport, the Rev. Robert E. Woody, the Rev. Robert Van Hook, and Mrs. John L. Tucker.

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'RESOURCE RAP,' NAME SELECTED FOR FILM LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Congratulations are in order for Miss Mary Katherine Gould, secretary and audio-visual librarian in the Council on Ministries' office for Little Rock Conference. Last week Miss Gould received word from the Division of Curriculum Resources in Nashville, Tenn. stating that her entry, "Resource Rap," has been chosen as the name for a new audio-visual resources' newsletter.

With the announcement came the September issue of "Resource Rap," and the 16mm film "Beginning Now" was sent as a gift to the Conference library in recognition of Miss Gould's winning entry. "Beginning Now" is an Advent film and is available upon request for use in local churches.

Miss Gould, who graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock as an elementary education major began her present duties in March of 1972. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Galbraith Gould of 6725 Kavanaugh Place in Little Rock, longtime active members of Little Rock's



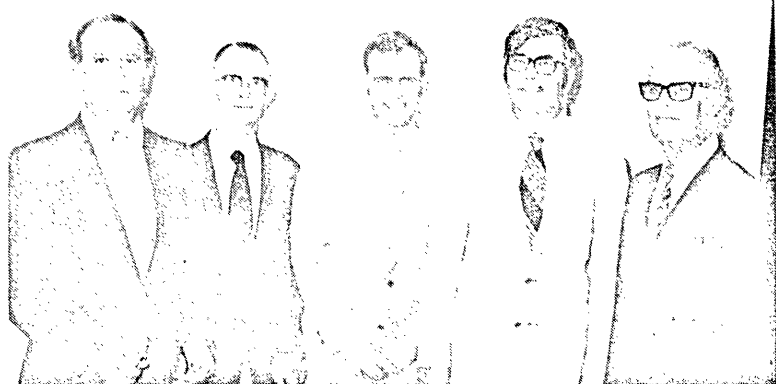
Mary Katherine Gould holds the film sent as gift to the Little Rock Conference film library in recognition of her winning suggestion of the title for national newsletter.

First United Methodist Church. In addition to her work at Methodist Headquarters Miss Gould engages in numerous types of volunteer work in the church and community — especially with children and youth in her church.

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At the June session of the North Arkansas Conference, the name of Mrs. Adrian White was among those who were officially certified as Director of Music. Mrs. White was ill at the time and unable to attend. Official presentation of the certificate was made recently by the Rev. Arvill C. Brannon, associate director of the conference Council on Ministries. Shown at left with Mrs. White are Mr. Brannon (left) and the Rev. G. A. McKelvey, pastor at Pocahontas First Church where Mrs. White serves as director of music. The day was also observed as Choir Day, honoring the church's full volunteer choir and recognizing a number of persons who have each given fifty years of service to the music program to the church. Mrs. Vernon King is the organist.



Representatives of the Methodist Hospital at Memphis reported on the hospital's current \$11 million building project to a recent meeting of the North Arkansas Conference Council on Ministries. Shown above are (from left) James D. Brown, associate administrator of the hospital; the Rev. George Stewart, senior chaplain; David E. Burkhart, director of the Methodist Hospital Fund; the Rev. Dewey Dark, chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee of the conference; and Bishop Eugene M. Frank.

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Construction begins on new Philander Smith College unit

The Board of Trustees of Philander Smith College has authorized the construction of a three-story addition to the Women's Residence Hall. The unit will house a new Health Care and Service Center to serve the health needs of the campus and local community. The \$181,478 contract was awarded to Jetco, Inc.

Dr. Walter R. Hazzard, president of the Little Rock College, announced that the Kresge Foundation had given \$100,000 toward the completion of the project. Dr. Hazzard stated that when he received the check he noted that on the back was a handwritten comment by Mr. Stanley Kresge, Trustee of the Foundation, stating that the gift was made "to Philander Smith College in the name of Jesus Christ and for His sake." Dr. Hazzard stated that "this generous grant and other

contributions to Philander Smith's Capital Fund Campaign are sufficient to defray the cost of construction."

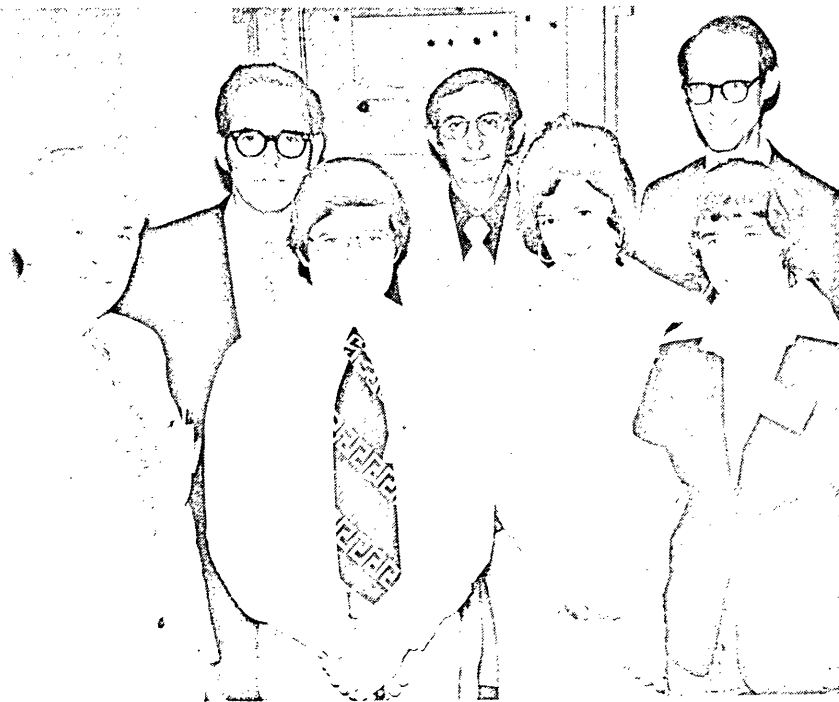
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PINE BLUFF DISTRICT PENSIONS RALLY

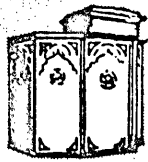
One hundred and eighty persons attended the Pine Bluff District Pensions Rally held Sept. 28 at First Church in Pine Bluff. Dr. Virgil Keeley, district superintendent presided. Sidney Goode, chairman of the Conference Board of Pensions, was the chief resource person.

Every charge in the district except one was represented at the meeting, which was designed to give information in regard to the Little Rock Conference's Ministers' Reserve Pension Fund campaign.

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Pictured left to right at recent meeting of the Perkins School of Theology Lay Advisory Council Executive Committee: (Back row) W. E. "Ned" Hastings of Crossett, vice-chairman of the Little Rock Conference Branch of the council; John Blundell of Ashdown, chairman of the Little Rock branch; Dr. Taylor Prewitt of Fort Smith, chairman of the North Arkansas Conference branch; (front row) Dr. Joseph D. Quillian, Jr., dean of Perkins; Mackey Yokem of Little Rock, Perkins student; the Rev. C. Elaine Smith, Perkins director of Community Life, and Ms. Kathy Fadick of Pine Bluff, Perkins student. Plans were made for the Jan. 25-26 general meeting of the entire Council which has some 150 members across the southern end of the Jurisdiction, with active chapters now in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and New Mexico.



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 11)

THE LORD'S SONG IN A STRANGE LAND

Few challenges and opportunities face the church that are greater than those represented by the "credibility crisis" which confronts our times. Many segments of our society are characterized by a lack of trust and by a failure of confidence. The resulting breakdown in "believability" has resulted in estrangements and polarizations which have created their own crisis of separation. This crisis in "believability" relates not only to some of our national leadership, but is a problem affecting individuals, families and nations. It affects many of the structures of our society, including the church.

To recognize this and to entertain the subject is not to give way to negativism, but is a necessary step in responding positively to a situation which confronts and hurts many, many persons.

What positive response can the Christian and the church make in the face of such crises?

"THE TRUTH CALLS FOR HOPE"

One such response could be that we recognize that the truth to which we witness calls for an attitude of hope. To say this is not to suggest that we be just "whistlers in the dark." It is to recognize that the Word which we have heard and the good news that has been declared give us reason to be "optimists" in the highest sense of that word.

There is a danger, that in the midst of all of our current problems, we may forget this. But the great, hope-giving fact is that God has entered the life of his people; he has come to abide in their midst as redeemer and judge. Because of this we can be persons of hope and we can witness before others to this reason for hope. As such we are not mere whistlers in the dark but are those who sing the Lord's song in the strange land of despair and of continuing crises.

A "SAVING" STYLE OF LIFE

A second response of the church in such a time of crisis can be that we remember that the faith we are called to "do" commits us to a very definite way of life; to a specific style of living. It is the style of "responsible life." It is the style that lives life aware of our "answerability" to God our father and in mutual involvement with man our brother.

It is such a style as lifts up honesty, integrity, morality and right dealing in all our affairs, knowing that only such can be the basis upon which to build mutual trust and confidence. It is a style of life which lays the foundation for such relationships to be built: that as man is reconciled to God, so he can be reconciled to his fellowman.

It is not the way of "cheap grace;" it is the way of costly grace. That God in Christ has so loved us that he has shown us the way. Nothing short of that way is sufficient for the multiplied crises of our time.

It is the privilege and the opportunity and the responsibility of the people of God to "do" that way and witness to it.

Are we "used to it"?

The story is told of the minister who went to his new appointment. On his first Sunday morning the congregation waited for him to come from the study to begin the service. When he did not appear, the head usher went to the study and saw the pastor standing next to the window.

"Preacher," he said, "we're ready to go in." As the pastor turned, the usher noticed tears running down his cheeks. "What's wrong?" asked the usher. The minister replied "I was looking down at all those dirty little children playing in the alley behind the church." And the usher said, "Oh well, preacher, you'll get used to that."

And the pastor replied "Yes, I know. That's why I am crying."

Off the Top of the Head.....

View from the window — #2

I brought my "looker-eyes" — that's what our family has called our binoculars ever since one of our young ones, years ago, so dubbed them — to the office the other day to do some construction-worker-watching. That might not sound as interesting as reading billboards or car watching or person watching, but I'll guarantee you that this kind of watching will keep your adrenalin up and your fingernails trimmed!

For these are not your ordinary-type construction workers. These gents are on a natural high some thirty stories up in the blue, putting together a giant skyscraper kit. They walk along the high steel beams just as pretty as you please and hang out over Little Rock's Broadway and Capitol Avenue just like they were playing construction-worker games in the back yard at home.

I watch them through our window as I hold on to the desk firmly with one hand, the binocs with the other, and place my feet securely on our second-story floor, and conclude four things, in this order: One, they can have it. They don't need to worry about loosing that job, at least not to me. Two, it does look like fun, though; although I still hold with my first statement. Three, there's got to be an easier way . . . And four, you couldn't do that and not be a religious man, maybe even a religious fanatic. You might do it once and not be particularly devout, but before your second trip up, you'd have become a deacon in a First Baptist Church or a Steward in some other kind of religious organization or at least a volunteer member of somebody's Worship Committee or an occasional visitor to the meetings of the Work Area on Social Concerns. But religious you would be!

It suggests a serious thought. To what extent are we really aware of the vital role our faith plays in our daily lives? Do we take our faith for granted or is it a conscious, vital reality in our lives?

We may not walk the high steel hundreds of feet above the ground, but a vital, realized, Christian faith is of inexpressible significance no matter what our daily tasks may be.

In honest reality, we simply could not live without it. Think about it.

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Your Snappy Illustration Service—Item # 2

A regular feature, appearing from time to time, to aid the weary pastor in search of a last-minute sermon illustration. Today's offering, to be filed under "Lightning, #B," follows:

A Canadian radio station was recently struck by lightning and put out of service for an extended time. The storm came just at the conclusion of a program featuring a heated debate. The question under consideration: "Is God dead?"

End of illustration.

Now . . . In an effort to assist the wondering minister in determining the best application for this Snappy Illustration (#2), the following possible uses are suggested:

- ★ in the annual message launching the Every Member Canvass for pledges.
- ★ in selected children's sermons (preferably those rated 'Parental Guidance Recommended'), depending on the attention the little ones are giving at the moment.
- ★ when there are an unusually large number of backsliding and inactive members present.
- ★ in any sermon dealing with women's lib, depending upon which point of view the preacher is taking.

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.

Editorial and business offices: United Methodist Headquarters Bldg., 715 Center Street, Little Rock, Ark. ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark., 72203. Articles other than editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE — \$3.00 per year

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

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

MEMBER: Associated Church Press, United Methodist Press Association, and news sources including United Methodist Communications (UMC), United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, National Council of Churches, and Religious News Service (RNS).

ADVERTISING RATES on request. Represented nationally by Jacob's List, Inc., Clinton, S. C. 29325.



news and views

OF THE WORLD OF RELIGION

by doris woolard

The focus of the United Methodist Church is shifting from building institutions to "building lives," according to Dr. Melvin Talbert, the new head of the denomination's Board of Discipleship. Speaking to various issues the black clergyman said Key 73 "does not furnish an end to world problems but does present an ongoing sustained witness to the Christian faith." He said the agency he heads is "studying and planning for just one end — to be disciples of Jesus Christ."

American citizens working overseas, including Protestant and Roman Catholic missionaries, are being "denied their constitutionally-assured right" because "our antiquated election laws are tying" them up "with miles of red tape," said J. Kevin Murphy, chairman of the Bipartisan Committee on Absentee Voting, Inc. He also charged in a press conference that "antiquated state election laws are disenfranchising three-quarters of a million Americans living and working overseas." The committee he heads is comprised of church, educational and business groups which are supporting legislation in Congress to up-date election laws.

Bishop Obispo Alejandro Ruiz, head of the autonomous Methodist Church of Mexico, said in Nashville that the greatest barrier to the advancement of his denomination is the indifference of its members. The 52-year-old churchman, who spoke at Scarritt College and other local centers of the United Methodist Church, said that many Mexican Methodists, who number about 50,000, "feel that religion is an individual experience and not something to share with their fellow man."

Bishop Kenneth Goodson of the Richmond Area, and the Virginia Conference missions board president wrote 200 churches asking them to increase their mission giving by \$15 a month. The conference needs \$35,000 to fully support the 13 missionary units related to it. Unless increased missions giving by United Methodists is forthcoming as many as 100 United Methodist overseas missionaries face the possibility of being called home.

A call for increased missionary support was issued by Florida Area Bishop Joel D. McDavid in the Aug. 17 issue of the area's newspaper. First Church, Ormond Beach responded with a \$750 pledge. The Florida Area contributes to the support of 16 missionaries. Other conferences are inviting furloughed missionaries to speak in an effort to create renewed interest in mission work and support.

Initial studies show that drug sales and use have dramatically dropped on college campuses in New York State following enforcement of the strict anti-drug law which went into effect Sept. 1. The new law requires judges to impose life sentences on defendants convicted of selling or illegally possessing various amounts of certain drugs, and increases penalties on a wide range of drugs. Gov. Nelson Rockefeller has called it "the toughest anti-drug law in the nation."

Some 350 professional fund raisers attending the National Catholic Development Conference's annual convention in Washington, D. C. were challenged by Lt. Col. Andrew S. Miller, to "let the spiritual nature" of their organizations be a "plus factor" in fund-raising. In the keynote address, the unified commander of the Salvation Army in Greater Chicago, said the "single greatest strength of religious fund-raising is spiritual—sharing our relationship with God with others."

The General Executive Board of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. (Southern) has authorized a \$10.5 million financial base for 1974 mission programs. It also approved the use of 67 staff professionals to guide the domestic program and the work of 400 missionaries in 12 foreign countries. The board called for special efforts "to alert the church at large to the impact of dollar devaluation and spiraling inflation abroad on the cost of maintaining international missions in 1974 at 1973 levels." Members will be asked to double their usual responses to the denomination's Witness Season Offering.

The Board of Jewish Education, Inc., has launched a "Survival Through Education" drive to enroll every Jewish school age child in the New York area in some type of Jewish school. In a message to school and synagogue administrators, Dr. Alvin Schiff, executive vice-president of the Board, said "We're fighting for our survival." "At a time when assimilation threatens our existence," he continued, "every Jewish parent who turns away from Jewish education for his children is unknowingly helping to sign a death sentence for American Jewry."

Dr. Eric W. Baker, chief administrative officer of the British Methodist Conference for 19 years prior to his retirement in 1970, died in London on Sept. 19 at the age of 74. A leading British ecumenist, he was long active in the World Methodist Council, and supported the union of British Methodism with the Church of England — a move voted down by the Anglicans but approved by the Methodists.

The Dalai Lama, exiled spiritual leader of Tibet's Buddhists, was received in private audience by Pope Paul VI on Sept. 30, according to a Vatican Radio announcement. The 38-year-old leader, who has been living in India since the Chinese took over his Himalayan country in 1959, is scheduled to visit 13 Western European countries, and to meet with Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury, spiritual head of the worldwide Anglican Communion, and with Cardinal John Hennen of Westminster.

The USSR has stopped the jamming of some Western broadcasts, according to reports received in Washington, D.C. A U.S. State Department official said that monitoring stations and the American Embassy in Moscow report that the jamming of programs of the Voice of America, the British Broadcasting Corp. and the West German radio have stopped since about Sept. 9. Jamming is usually accomplished by placing a regular Soviet program directly over the one being jammed, or by placing a loud crackling noise over the program.

Dr. Arnold Mickelsen, president of the Lutheran Council in the USA, addressing the 60th annual meeting of the Lutheran Editors' and Managers' Assn., said there is currently a "pause" in moves toward merger of the three major U. S. Lutheran Churches. The layman, who is also general secretary of the ALC, made the observation that the Missouri Synod has not been a product of mergers during its history, whereas both the ALC and the LCA grew out of Church mergers. The basic questions, he said, are more practice-oriented, such as, "What does it cost?" or "Who will have the power?"

A new 18-member task force to help churches and colleges work together for prison reform has begun operation in New York as a program of the National Council of Churches. The group, called the National Task Force on Higher Education and Criminal Justice, met early in September to set goals and map plans of action. Most members of the panel are college and university level educators. Also included are three ex-offenders now giving full time to correctional education work.

Christian Herald, the 94-year-old nondenominational monthly, is moving its editorial and executive offices from New York City to a former Roman Catholic convent located on a 42-acre site in Westchester County. Since 1947, the Herald, which has a circulation of 300,000, has been located on Manhattan's East 39th Street in a five-story structure built when the late Dr. Daniel Poling was editor. Two years ago the building was sold. Dr. Kenneth Wilson is the present editor of the magazine, which has a staff of between 50 and 55 persons, 80 per cent of whom will make the move with the offices.

Whether women should be ordained as priests and consecrated as bishops will be a key issue at the general Episcopal convention when it meets in Louisville, Ky., early in October, according to spokesmen.



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Dr. Henry A. Kissinger takes the oath of office as Secretary of State in the East Room of the White House. Administering the oath is Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, at right. Dr. Kissinger's mother, Paula, holds the Bible for her son as President Nixon looks on. Dr. Kissinger is the first Jew and the first naturalized citizen to hold the office of Secretary of State. (RNS Photo)



Visiting with our retired ministers

(INTERVIEW: THE REV. JOHN H. OLIVER)

"My time is taken up preaching, fishing and gardening!" But for a retired minister of 74 years who is presently serving an appointment of five churches, and who has already preached four revivals this year, one would guess that the fish have to wait and the garden has to beg for time.

The Rev. John H. Oliver, now of Hot Springs, had served the Methodist Church as a minister for 49½ years at the time of his retirement in 1971. And he continues to serve today as the pastor of the churches at Foreman, Saratoga, Horatio, De-Queen and Lockesburg.

For a man who has been a district superintendent on two occasions and has served at least eleven other pastoral appointments in the former Lincoln and Southwest and now Little Rock conferences, preaching is both a habit and a love that can't be let go of easily.

THREE MEMBERS AND FIFTEEN CENTS

What does a retired minister remember most about the past? For J. H. Oliver it's mostly concerning experiences from his early ministry.

He tells of events on his first charge at Clarendon. It was 1921, the depression was on and times were hard. He lived at Rison and "it cost about five dollars to go down to Clarendon and back to preach to the three members of our church there. And," he said, "my first collection was fifteen cents, and that finally ran out!"

"Well," he continues, "I had never hoboed in my life. But to get down there I had to catch a freight train out of Clarendon to Pine Bluff and then I'd walk 20 miles, all night long. I'd get to the church at about 7 o'clock in the morning, put two benches together and sleep before time for folk to come to church." He remembers that his last meal would be on Saturday noon before leaving Pine Bluff, that he would eat again on Sunday afternoon and preach again that night. Following that he would "blind" a passenger train into Pine Bluff and then catch the freight into Clarendon and walk the few miles home.

On one occasion, which he remembers quite well, the freight train failed to stop at Clarendon. "I had to try to get off that train! So I jumped and went rolling down the hill." But that jump was bad, knocking his hip out of joint. "I stayed down under

the hill until the 4 o'clock passenger train came and then went up on the hill, so if anybody saw me they'd think I had gotten off the passenger train."

"Now," he said, "I've got to get home; had three miles to walk." And he tells of having to crawl the last half-mile home. The worst part was, he said, "that my folks didn't know I was hoboing to get to



my church. So I told them I was riding a cross-tie wagon and it dropped off in a hole and I fell off." When his mother finally found out how he got hurt, he reported, she said "I would have sold the last chicken on the yard" to see that her son could have gotten to his church by a safer means.

FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST

Remembering one of his first revivals, John Oliver reflected on some of the mistakes he had made as a young preacher. After one sermon, in which he "had been generous with mistakes," he went "down behind the barn to pray. And I said 'Lord, whatever I say, if it's incorrect, you correct it by the time it gets to the ears of the hearers!' And he did it, too," the retired minister reports.

Delighting in memories of the past, Mr. Oliver recalled his first district conference. His clothes were "ruined from the hoboing," so a friend lent him his shoes, saying "Here, wear these 'til October." An-

other lent his black Stetson hat and when he went to pick it up the man's wife said "Here's a white shirt and a blue suit, you can wear these too." "So," remembers J. H. Oliver, laughing, "I went to my first district conference all dressed up!"

THOUGHTS ON THE PENSION PLAN AND ON MERGER

When, in 1971, the Southwest Conference merged with the North Arkansas and Little Rock Conferences, the retired ministers in the former all-black churches were receiving at least one-third less retirement than those in the former all-white churches. Asked about the current Minister's Reserve Pension Fund campaign in the Little Rock Conference, Mr. Oliver stated "Our people have known the need for this program and see the value of it. They will respond."

In reference to events since the merger, Mr. Oliver stated "We're making much better progress than I thought we would. Because of the attitude that is being taken by the leaders of our conference, the black person is beginning to see that he is being recognized and being placed in positions in the church. It's not the total loss that some thought it would be."

"I'VE HAD A GLORIOUS MINISTRY"

Looking to the past John H. Oliver says "If I had it to do over again I know I could have done better. But it takes a man all his life to learn about 'being a preacher' and to learn the church. But all things considered I think (our church) has done a marvelous job." "And," says this veteran of almost 50 years of active ministry, "I think our future is bright!"

Reflecting on his own experiences as a Methodist minister he concludes "The church has been extra, extra good to me. The Methodist Church has sent me to General Conferences, to Jurisdictional Conferences, and I have served nearly every office you can name. I've had a glorious ministry!"

And any who share with him these memories of the past and know of his ministries in the present would say that the Rev. John H. Oliver, retired United Methodist minister, continues today to have "a glorious ministry!"

Council Directors to Local Churches

WORLD ORDER SUNDAY, October 21, provides an excellent opportunity for the local church to promote international brotherhood and good will, peace. It is time for us to challenge the church in a creative effort for peace and world order. Our failure to build a lasting peace during the next twenty-five years will mean that the Twentieth Century will be recorded as a time of war, strikes, demonstrations, and protests. The choice is ours!

THE LOCAL CHURCH can do more to build a lasting peace than any institution we have. Surely we have learned that peace cannot be legislated. And it cannot be negotiated. As important as the conference table is, it cannot produce peace apart from the desire of people. This is because peace comes directly from the desire, the will, of persons. The local church has the opportunity of directing the lives of persons in the community for the good of all concerned.

THE "BISHOP'S CALL FOR PEACE AND THE SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLES" is an effort to get the church, local church primarily, to work for peace. The "Self-Development of Peoples" is a vital part of this "call," but we emphasize the idea of "PEACE" here, hopeful of the local churches organizing at the local level to work for a peaceful world. World Order Sunday is an excellent time to begin such an effort. THE BOOK OF WORSHIP, page 64 lists aids to be used in worship services on World Order Sunday.

"THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE" is an article in the January, 1973, issue of THE INTERPRETER, pages 3 to 10, in which the "Bishop's Call for Peace and the Self-Development of Peoples" by John Wesley Lord, is emphasized. Those who want an additional copy of this magazine may get it from the Office of Publication, 1200 Davis Street, Evanston, Ill. 60201. "Some Suggestions for Getting Started" by Theodore C. Mayer, are included in this article, pages 7 to 10. This part provides an occasion for the action in the local church. Five study sessions are out-

lined, using a statement of Jesus Christ as a Scripture reference, "Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace" (Luke 19:42). Other Scripture references are also listed, from both the Old and New Testaments. The local church may plan a series of study events in which the material from THE INTERPRETER could become a guide. The BIBLE is the basic resource, but there are other helps also. "The Bishop's Call for Peace and The Self-Development of Peoples" is available in pamphlet form

HONG KONG'S OUTSTANDING HANDICAPPED WOMAN OF THE YEAR SPEAKING IN ARKANSAS

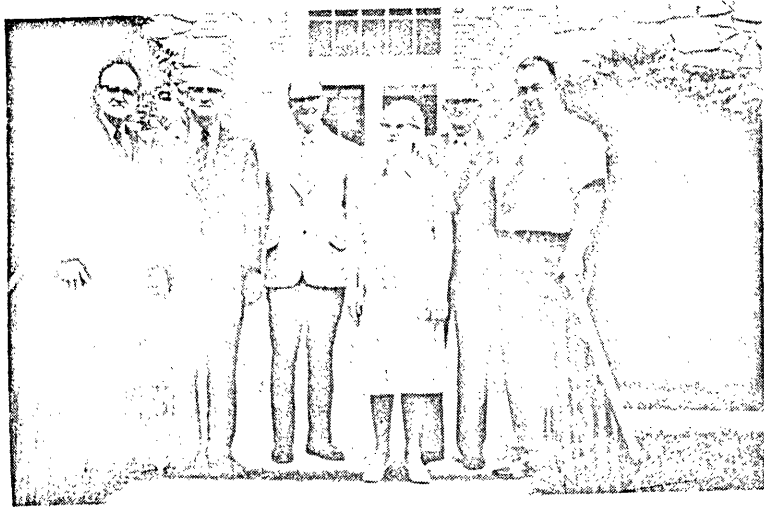
Lucy Ching, who five years ago was selected as Hong Kong's Outstanding Handicapped Woman of the Year, was blinded in infancy when a medicine man in China put the wrong medicine in her eyes. Last year the poignant story of her courageous rise above her physical handicap appeared in the European and Eastern editions of Reader's Digest.

Miss Ching, who early in life came under the influence of Christian missions, and who subsequently studied at the Perkins School in Boston (made

from SERVICE DEPARTMENT, 100 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D. C. 20002.

DISTRICT COUNCILS ON MINISTRIES as well as the Annual Conference Council on Ministries Staff may be in position to help where it is desired. A district might promote it as a joint effort of all the local churches. Our church could make a tremendous contribution to the peaceful conditions of the world by approaching this task nation-wide. It is a worthy cause.

famous by Helen Keller) and later at a seminary in the States, has returned to the United States for a visit, according to Mrs. Wes Smelley, director of Youth Home, Inc. in Little Rock, who is a personal friend of he visitor. Miss Ching will be in the Arkansas area during October and November, and will be available as a speaker before church and civic groups during that period. During October she will be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Wes Smelley, Route 3, Box 195AA, Little Rock, Ark. 72205 (phone: 225-2344). In November she will be staying with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burns, 1515 Main Street, Jonesboro, Ark. 72401 (phone: 932-3396).



The 25th anniversary of Asbury United Methodist Church in Batesville was observed on Sunday, Sept. 9. Participants in the service are shown above. From left: Burnell McClure, Administrative Board chairman; Ernest Phillips, trustee; Mrs. Elsie Drown, UMW president; Ed Ellison, lay leader; the Rev. S. Woodrow Woods, pastor, and the Rev. Floyd Villines, district superintendent, who brought the message at the morning service. A luncheon at noon was followed by afternoon singing. The pastor brought the message for the evening service. The first pastor of Asbury was the Rev. M. L. Kaylor. Three charter members in attendance are shown at right. They are Mrs. Lillie McClure, Ray Hanks and Mrs. Ozella Pruett.

NEWS and NOTES

GARDNER MEMORIAL United Methodist Church in North Little Rock will hold a revival Oct. 7-10 with the Rev. Merle Johnson of Siloam Springs as the guest minister. The Rev. Byron McSpadden is the host pastor.

MRS. SHARON PALLONE, the director of the SCAN Program in Arkansas, was the first leader of the Fall Adult Study Series at Winfield United Methodist Church, Little Rock, on Sept. 23. The SCAN program is designed to help parents of children who are abused and is one of only two of its kind in the nation. The Rev. C. Ray Hozendorf is the Winfield pastor.

DR. CLEM N. BAKER, longtime member of the Little Rock Conference, celebrated his 92nd birthday on Oct. 3, and would appreciate hearing from his many friends on this occasion. The address is Box 421, Clovis, New Mexico 88101.

THE SWIFTON-ALICIA Charge appreciated having Mike Orr, ministerial student of Jonesboro, as interim minister during the month of August. Mike is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Bob Orr of Marked Tree. The Swifton congregation honored Mike and his wife with a fellowship dinner and gift certificate on his last Sunday. He is a second year student at Arkansas State University.

THE YOUTH CHOIR of First Church, Paragould, gave a program Sunday evening, Sept. 23, in the sanctuary of First Church, Jonesboro. The program included numbers from "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Godspell." The Jonesboro pastor is the Rev. Worth Gibson. Dr. Raymond Franks is the Paragould minister.

FIRST UNITED Methodist Church, Benton, will hold its Fall Preaching Mission October 7-10. Dr. Walter Underwood of First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, will be the revival speaker. Dr. Edward Hollenbeck will be the host pastor.

DR. JAMES ARGUE, pastor of Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock, is the revival speaker at First United Methodist Church, Bentonville, this week at the Fall Preaching Mission. The Rev. Samuel B. Teague is the Bentonville pastor.

METHODIST MEN of Crossett met Monday, Sept. 24, at Crossett United Methodist Church. The program was presented by Dick Meredith, Mac McGoogan, Tom Norsworthy and R. V. Heflin, all of whom attended the Lay Men's Assembly this summer. The Rev. Harold K. Davis is their pastor.

THE WILLISVILLE United Methodist Church closed a revival meeting on Aug. 24 with the Rev. Allen Bonsall of Magnolia, as the evangelist and Mr. and Mrs. Otto Crumpler as song leaders. Attendance was good, with one person uniting with the church. The Rev. J. Frank Hamm is the pastor.

THE REV. DICK SIGLER of Jackson, Ala., and Bill Kennedy of England are the evangelistic team for a New Life Mission being held this week in the Nettleton United Methodist Church, Jonesboro. Services are at 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. each day. The Rev. J. Anthony Holifield is the pastor.

JOAN CLARK, Regional Director of the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church stationed at Dallas, Texas, spoke at Hendricks Hills Church in Fort Smith recently. Ms. Clark, a native of Michigan, was commissioned a Deaconess in The United Methodist Church in October, 1971 and was elected to her present position in June, 1972. The Rev. Waymon Hollis is the Hendricks Hills pastor.

MRS. MARIE ZIMMERMAN has presented a set of paraments in the colors of the Christian year to the Salem United Methodist Church, Batesville District, in honor of all her students. She has been a church school teacher for 14 years. Members of her class explained to the congregation the meanings of the colors and symbols used. The pastor is the Rev. DuBois M. Pettit.

from page one

.....NEW HISTORY OF ARKANSAS METHODISM

Opportunity will be given, probably through the local churches, to submit advance orders for the volume. The committee expresses hope for a wide distribution of the new book.

The Area Committee was instituted in May of 1971 and the invitation to Dr. Vernon to author the volume was given at the June 13, 1973 meeting of the committee. Other members of the committee, in addition to those shown in the picture are: Bishop Eugene M. Frank; Bishop William C. Martin, retired, Little Rock; the Rev. Michael R. Clayton, Lonoke; the Rev. James E. Major, Conway; Dr. W. D. Lester, Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. Alfred A. Knox, Little Rock; and the Rev. John S. Workman, Little Rock.

A Committee of Review was named

at the Sept. 25th meeting, as follows: Judge Franklin Wilder, James E. Major, Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden, Dr. C. Ray Hozendorf, Dr. Paul M. Bumpers, and Dr. W. D. Lester.

Two former volumes on the history of Arkansas Methodism have been commissioned by the church. The first, published in 1892, is entitled "History of Methodism in Arkansas," and was authored by Horace Jewell. It covered the period from approximately 1815 through 1891. The second, "Centennial History of Arkansas Methodism," by James A. Anderson, was published in 1935 and was "A History of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in the State of Arkansas" and covered the period from 1815 to 1935.

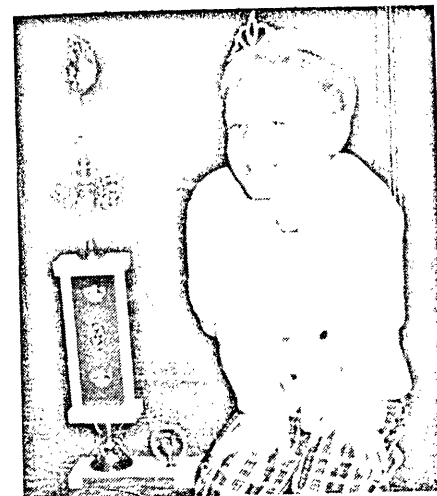
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DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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.

Oct. 7—Sunday	1 Cor. 11:23-32
Oct. 8	Philip. 1:21-30
Oct. 9	2 Tim. 1:1-14
Oct. 10	2 Tim. 4:1-8
Oct. 11	Acts 20:24-32
Oct. 12	2 Cor. 5:1-8
	Rev. 14:13
Oct. 13	Psalms 116:1-15
Oct. 14—Sunday	Joel 3:9-16

P.K. (Preachers' Kids) KORNER



Frederick Pettit was selected as the first "Little Mister Fulton County," by judges at the Fulton County Fair. Frederick is four years old and a member of the Methodist parsonage family at Salem. DuBois and Violetta Pettit are his parents.

PAMELA SUSAN MOONEY was married to Henry Howard Henley, III, in a ceremony held in Greene Chapel, Hendrix College, Conway, on Sept. 15. The Rev. Von D. Mooney, director of the Wesley Foundation at Arkansas Tech, Russellville, father of the bride officiated with Dr. Harold Eggen-sperger, pastor of First United Methodist Church, Conway. The couple will reside in Little Rock where Mr. Henley is with Pfeiffer-Blass.

KATHY LYNETTE WEBB and Joseph Grainger Rath exchanged marriage vows in First United Methodist Church, Little Rock, on Sept. 22. Dr. R. E. L. Bearden, pastor, and the Rev. Maurice Webb, associate pastor and father of the bride, officiated. The couple will live in Little Rock where the groom is employed by the Arkansas Department of Labor and Mrs. Rath is activities director in First Methodist.

ALMA RITA WILLIAMS and Steven Howard Curtis were married in Good Faith United Methodist Church at Pine Bluff, Sept. 22. The bride's father, the Rev. Don R. Williams, read the ceremony, assisted by the Rev. Dale Harrell, uncle of the groom. The couple will live in Benton where Mr. Curtis is employed. The bride attends Henderson State College in Arkadelphia.

OCTOBER 4, 1973

Church and Community worker retires

Announcement has been made of the retirement on Sept. 1 of Mrs. Grace Dwyer. She has served as Church and Community Worker of the Hot Springs area for the last four years, working with the United Methodist Churches and the community in and around Hot Springs, as an employee of the National Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. This leaves Arkansas without a church and community worker.

A Church and Community Council, composed of pastors, lay representatives of the churches and Mrs. Dwyer, was organized and worked to give direction to the work to be done, promotion of the work, and participation to help strengthen the churches and the community.

Recently the women of the churches were organized into a Subdistrict to help meet the need. It was named "The Grace Dwyer United Methodist Women's Subdistrict, Hot Springs Area." A "Key 73 Missions Fair Booth" for Scripture distribution at the Garland County Fair with mostly youth workers is one of the latest ventures. For four years families of the churches have received a monthly newsletter giving highlights of each monthly Council meeting, coming events, accounts of special things being done in the area and news of the churches.

Leadership training and many other special activities have been a part of the Church and Community program with work in the churches and community. Seven Vacation Church Schools were held in ten of the churches with a small number of members. She has served as the coordinator of the cancer bandage project with over 23,000 bandages completed. She has also worked with the telephone Ministry "Contact" in the area, as well as other community projects.

Recently, the Hot Springs area Church and Community Council had a special "Appreciation" event for Mrs. Dwyer, with special music, some being dedicated to her, comments by pastors and laymen and the presentation of an engraved silver tray in appreciation for her ministry in the area. The Rev. Robert E. Woody, Council chairman made the presentation.

Mrs. Dwyer was reared in central Missouri on a farm and has a genuine love and concern for people. She graduated from the University of Missouri and served as Home Demonstration Agent for 18 years—being one of the two agents in the United States to receive the Distinguished Superior Service Award for outstanding work in 1958. She has done graduate work at University of Missouri, Colorado State University, taken special work at Scarritt College for Christian Workers, Nashville, Tenn, and Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colo.

She attended the World Methodist Conference in Oslo, Norway and toured Europe and the Holy Land. She also served on a Local Church and Community Council for 12 years where a worker was employed, before going into full time Christian Service.

Previous to coming to Hot Springs, Mrs. Dwyer served as Church and Community Worker in southwest Missouri, working with 14 churches for



Mrs. Grace Dwyer

six years and in Polk County several years. She has now completed 12 years as Church and Community Worker. For a while she will continue to live in Hot Springs. Sometime in the future, plans will take her to Missouri to live near her son, John E. Dwyer and family.

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COMMISSION ON STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN MEETS, SETS GOALS

ERLANGER, Ky. (UMC) — Balancing such pragmatic aspects of Church organizational life as budgets against a desire to operate in an open, consensus style with sensitivity for many concerns kept the United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women in session long hours here September 21-23.

When the weekend ended, the 43-member body had adopted a budget for 1974, re-elected its unique, two-woman executive secretariat, chosen six vice-presidents and set a variety of goals for its work through six task forces:

Included in the latter are:

- A possible church-wide consultation for the some 300 ordained women in the 70 annual conferences, hopefully in cooperation with the Board of Higher Education and Ministry;
- Development of resources for local churches and other groups concerned with theological and Biblical issues concerning women;
- Addition of Indian-American representatives to the commission;
- Creation of a similar body in each annual conference by 1976;
- Provision of a monetary allowance for women on commission business who must hire child care;
- Advocacy of "fair treatment" for all persons regardless of life style;
- Wider dissemination of information about the commission and its work across the denomination.

In receiving and accepting the proposal for a convocation of ordained women, the commission also asked its secretariat to develop proposed guidelines for employment of women on various church agencies.

On theological issues, the body also endorsed development of seminary curriculum helps on women's issues.

Considerable discussion was sparked by the Life Styles report at the point of whether the desire to educate com-

Newport to have guest speaker

Mrs. Edward Brandhorst, immediate past president of the South Central Jurisdiction WSCS/WSG, will be a guest in First United Methodist Church at Newport, Oct. 14 and 15.

She will be the principal speaker for the Family Fellowship dinner on Sunday night, and will be the leader for Monday morning and afternoon sessions for the ladies. All women of the area are invited to attend. The morning program begins at 10 o'clock and the short afternoon session will follow a sack lunch together.

Mrs. Brandhorst is well known in Arkansas, having been the speaker at an Annual Meeting for Methodist women, and also for Church Women United. She lives in St. Louis, and among her many church responsibilities, national and local, she is a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Paul School of Theology, Methodist, Kansas City, Mo. She has been serving on the planning committee for the First Assembly of United Methodist Women being held this week in Cincinnati, O.

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Mrs. Lilas Brandhorst

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DISTRICT PARSONETTES MEET AT CONWAY

Conway District Parsonettes met at the home of Katherine Egensperger on Sept. 20. After being greeted by the hostess, Lois Clayton presided at the business meeting.

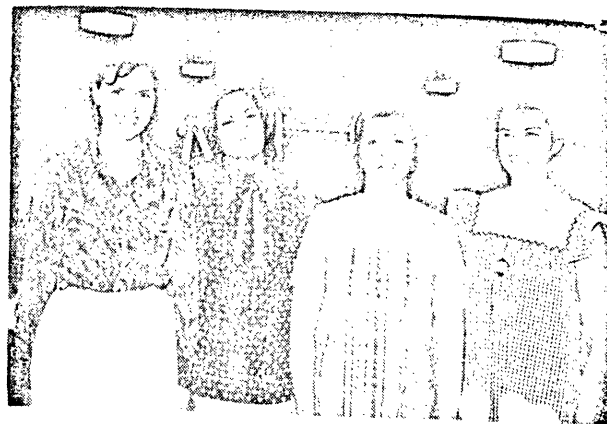
A retreat or day-apart was discussed. An appointed committee will report on this at the next meeting, to be held Nov. 15 at the home of Othella Peters in North Little Rock. Velma Cordell presented the devotion centered around Christ as the Bread of Life. All ladies participated in the receiving of the loaf of bread as a symbol of unity in spirit, followed by singing "Let Us Break Bread Together" and prayer by Sue Workman.

The group then toured the Egensperger home, visited informally and enjoyed a potluck meal. Holiday gifts, ideas and recipes will be shared at the November meeting.

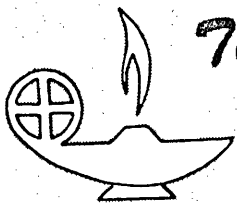
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THE CAMDEN DISTRICT Parsonettes have appointed the following officers for the coming year: Mrs. Carol Ann Nolley, president; Mrs. John T. Dill, vice-president; Mrs. Marie Hamm, secretary; and Mrs. James Shaddox, treasurer. This committee met with Mrs. Dill recently and planned meeting dates and programs for the coming year. The first meeting was held at First United Methodist Church, Magnolia, on Oct. 3.

Serving as "schoolgirl hostesses" at the DeWitt WSCS September meeting were, from left: Diane Faucett, Marge Jenkins, Marilyn Braswell and Dorothy Barnes.



OCTOBER 4, 1973



The Sunday School Lesson

by the Editor

LESSON FOR OCTOBER 14:

'Reconciliation Through Christ'

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 of this quarter. The unit subject is **THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION**. Our lesson for Oct. 14 is the third in this unit of five lessons and is entitled "Reconciliation Through Christ."

THE SCRIPTURE: Romans 5.

MEMORY SELECTION: God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. — Romans 5:8

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON: To see that Jesus Christ is the "agent" of reconciliation; to examine the meaning of Paul's concept of "justification"; to review the benefits of the new relationship to God that comes through faith; and to see wherein this new relationship enables us to "rejoice."

JESUS CHRIST: AGENT OF RECONCILIATION

Our unit subject is The Message of Reconciliation. Today we center our attention upon Christ as the agent of that reconciliation.

Recall that we are concerned with the most vital of human needs: that of being in right relationship with God. It will be helpful to remember that when Paul speaks of reconciliation he is referring to man's need to be reconciled to God rather than to his fellow man. It isn't that Paul is unconcerned with the latter, for he most certainly is. But the subject of Romans is "theology"; it is concerned with man's relationship to God. And Paul is herein concerned primarily that his readers hear the word that they are reconciled to God, not by obedience to the law, but by faith.

A TURNING POINT: "THEREFORE . . ."

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. — Romans 5:1

With the beginning of chapter five we enter a new phase of Paul's thought. At the end of the first four chapters he has completed his theological argument that man cannot gain his acceptance before God by obedience to the law. Such acceptance is acknowledged and received by our act of faith.

In chapter 5 Paul turns his attention to the new life into which God's grace admits the believer. The author's "Therefore . . ." (5:1) signals this shift of attention, and indicates that what follows is dependent on what went before.

It is important, therefore, before we examine portions of chapter 5, that we note a significant fact about chapter 4. In this chapter Paul reviews the faith of Abraham. The entire chapter is essential to Paul's argument. In it he appeals to the record in Genesis to show that Abraham — whom the Jews to whom Paul was writing hailed as the father of the faithful — was justified before God by faith and not by works.

Paul's point is to demonstrate to his fellow Jews that the Christian gospel of salvation by faith is not any new and unbiblical idea, but rather that it is rooted in their very faith, in the book of their law itself.

A NEW "STATUS" BEFORE GOD: JUSTIFIED!

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith . . ." The word "justified" and the concept of "justification" are vital to Paul's entire message. What faith does for us is to "justify" us. What does this term mean? An examination of it can open some windows of vital understanding for us.

The term is a "legal" one; it is a court room term. It suggests that Paul sought to convey his message to his hearers by suggesting that they think of man as being "on trial" before a judge. William Barclay is helpful here. He says that

. . . if a man appears before a judge and is innocent, then he is acquitted. But the whole point about God and man is this — that when man appears before God he is anything but innocent; he is utterly guilty; and yet God, in his amazing mercy, treats him, reckons him, accounts him as if he were an innocent man. That is what justification means. When Paul said that "God justifies the ungodly," he means that God, in his incredible mercy, treats the ungodly as if he had been a good man . . . (DAILY STUDY BIBLE, Romans, pg. 54)

Justification, then, refers to a man's "legal status" before God. He is, before God, not liable; he is entitled to all the privileges due to those who have kept the law. He is acquitted, excluded from condemnation. Justification settles the "legal status" before God of the person justified.

Think how the Jews must have been shocked by such preaching! To treat the evil man as if he were a good man was unthinkable. "He that justifieth the wicked is an abomination to the Lord" (Proverbs 17:15). "I will not justify the wicked" (Exodus 23:7).

But Paul's gospel is so revolutionary that he states that this is precisely what God does. This is the gospel: that though we are sinners, God loves us and will not let us go. Such an act, when it is received, changes our whole relationship to God.

To quote Barclay again:

This is what justification by faith in Jesus Christ means. It means that we are in a right relationship with God, because we believe with all our hearts that what Jesus told us about God is true. We are no longer terrorized strangers from an angry God. We are children, erring children, trusting in their father's love for forgiveness. And we could never have known that if Jesus had not come to live and die to tell us so. And we only know it when we trust absolutely that what Jesus said about God is true (op. cit. pg. 54).

THE NEW RELATIONSHIP BRINGS PEACE WITH GOD

. . . we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand. . . — Romans 5:1b

Faith in Jesus Christ introduces us to the multiple favors of God. It avails us of the "benefits of salvation."

One of these benefits is "peace with God." When Paul uses this term he is referring not so much to the peace which comes to the heart of the believer as a result of the justifying act of God's grace, as he is to the fact that the "wrath" of God no longer rests upon those whom God has justified. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

Rather than meaning "peace of heart," Paul is speaking about our "status" in God's sight: that we are in a peaceful, secure relationship with him.

Our feelings within our heart may change; we may not always have "peace of heart." But our place in God's family is secure: we are justified; we have peace with God and our inward feelings cannot change this fact of our basic "status." The Christian is not dependent upon his feelings to know that he is secure in God's keeping.

THE NEW RELATIONSHIP IS "NOW" — A LIVING HOPE

Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. — Romans 5:2

Throughout the first several verses of Romans 5 the emphasis is upon the *already realized* meaning of the life in Christ. We *are* justified; we *have* peace. We *have obtained* access to this grace and in it we *already* stand. The tense of these verbs is that of "already completed action" (John Knox, THE INTERPRETER'S BIBLE, Vol. 9, pg. 453).

The significance of such a stand is that we have assurance that in Christ our hope has already been rewarded. Christianity is more than a futile, shallow "wishfulness." It is a bold declaration that man's ultimate hope has already been confirmed.

J. B. Phillips translation helps immensely here in catching this emphasis: "This doesn't mean, of course, that we have only a hope of future joy — we can be full of joy here and now . . ." (Romans 5:3)

The Christian life is indeed a life of abiding and fulfilled hope. God is at work in the Christian life and God can be depended upon. Such "realized hope" is expressed through God's grace, mercy and presence. It is experienced in the many assurances that the Christian has of God's reality.

IN THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP: "REJOICE IN SUFFERING"

We can be full of joy here and now even in our trials and troubles. — Romans 5:3, J. B. Phillips trans.

It has been said that this fifth chapter of Romans is one of the most important sections of all of Paul's correspondence. Verses 3, 4 and 5 have surely made it one of the most beloved.

Few benefits of God's grace are more valued than those which enable us to confront human suffering. Read Romans 5:3-5. Suffering produces valuable assets. An anonymous poet has expressed it this way:

I walked a mile with pleasure, She chattered all the way,
But left me none the wiser For all she had to say.
I walked a mile with suffering And n'er a word said she;
But oh, the things I learned from her When suffering
walked with me!

AT THE RIGHT TIME CHRIST DIED FOR THE SINNER

"The greatness of God's love is revealed in the fact that Christ died for sinners" (E. L. Titus, INTERNAT. LESSON ANNUAL, pg. 59).

The experience of reconciliation enables us, Paul says, to "rejoice in God!"

The message of reconciliation is that what we cannot do for ourselves through slavish obedience to the law, God has done for us in his generous act of grace. And the agent of that reconciliation is Jesus Christ. We receive this new relationship with God through faith in him.

OCTOBER 4, 1973

How can United Methodists help?

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — How can United Methodist board and agency staffs coordinate their resources to sensitize and assist local churches concerning the needs of Vietnam era veterans and their families?

That question was a major agenda item for 12 representatives of United Methodist agencies as they met here Sept. 11. Joining them were Richard Killmer, director of the National Council of Churches Emergency Ministries; Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Large, United Methodists who direct a national amnesty Information Center in Ann Arbor, Mich.; a staff representative from Goodwill Industries; and the director of the Center for Continuing Education at Scarritt College which will host a consultation on amnesty Oct. 24.

While some church agencies have provided funds to assist Vietnam era veterans ministries, Board of Global Ministries staff member Mia Adjali said the major disappointment has been the lack of involvement of people in the local church. "Hopefully our members will see individuals hurt by the war as persons for whom they have a concern and ministry."

The ad hoc task force created a continuing sub-group which will ad-

dress itself to the concern of local church involvement. Among areas listed as needing local church involvement were: educational and job opportunities, emotional health needs, legal assistance, self-help projects, pastoral care, and veterans hospitals.

Describing the veterans as the "invisible generation," Mr. Killmer said the reaction of the American people to the war and the socio-economic background of many veterans have impeded the readjustment of many veterans to civilian life.

To complicate the matter further, he said there is a distrust between the Vietnam veterans and the veterans of other wars. "They did not have common experiences. They did not come home to victory parades. Not only has the country ignored them but the country has rejected them."

Concern was also voiced by the task force over the plight of persons affected by the war in peculiar ways. Listed by Mr. Killmer, these included: more than 350,000 veterans who have received less-than-honorable discharges from the armed forces; more than 6,500 men convicted by federal courts for draft violations during the Vietnam era; 35,000 deserters at large;

and nearly 40,000 war resisters in Canada.

THE AMNESTY ISSUE

"Perspectives on Amnesty," a new "no-conclusions" film produced by the United Ministries in Higher Education, was viewed by the group.

Study guides have been produced by the Boards of Global Ministries and Church and Society since the 1972 United Methodist General Conference approved a pro and con statement on amnesty for study by local churches.

For two years the Amnesty Information Center directed by Dwight and Frances Large has been supported by the Board of Global Ministries and Board of Church and Society with some help coming from other agencies.

Mr. Large said he hopes more local groups will consider amnesty in all three of its forms: unconditional, conditional and case by case.

Serving as convenor and temporary chairman of the "Interstaff Task Force on Emergency Ministries Related to Vietnam and Its Aftermath" is the Rev. Glenn Hosman, Board of Higher Education and Ministry, P. O. Box 871, Nashville, Tenn. 37202.

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COCU reaffirms original purpose

PRINCETON, N. J. — The central objective of the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) as "the union of the participating churches" was strongly reaffirmed here Sept. 10-12 by the movement's Executive Committee.

The affirmation came as the two representatives from each of the nine participating churches reviewed a proposal for committee procedures. By unanimous vote, the committee mem-

bers put at the top of the document this paragraph:

"It is assumed that the objective of the Consultation is the union of the participating churches and the product which the operation is called upon to deliver is a basis and process whereby the united church can be achieved."

African Methodist Episcopal Bishop Frederick D. Jordan, Hollywood, Calif., chairman of COCU, and other leaders voiced hope that this action

would help allay some widely-voiced opinions that the Consultation has lost sight of its original purpose. Some of these reports grew out of the 1973 COCU plenary in Memphis, Tenn., when several other emphases were adopted, along with a process for rewriting the 1970 draft **Plan of Union** in light of some three years of study at the local level.

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Brooks Hays on Methodist Church staff

WASHINGTON, D. C. (UMC) — The newest staff member at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church here is one of the nation's best-known Baptists.

Brooks Hays, former member of Congress from Arkansas and a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will become "lay minister in residence." He plans to work "in my own neighborhood (he has lived on Capitol Hill for 27 years), primarily with people in my own age group (he is 75)."

But the Rev. James P. Archibald, pastor, said Dr. Hays is to "try out some of the innovative ideas for which he is so well known." He will work without remuneration and is not leaving the Baptist church but taking a "leave of absence."

Dr. Hays, well-known as a speaker, has been a presidential adviser and on the faculty of several colleges since his "retirement" in 1958.

The church has another unsalaried associate pastor already—the Rev. John P. Adams, whose regular work is on the staff of the General Board of Church and Society. His assignment is in the area of community relations.

MORE
THAN
BREAD

'Called Together,' theme for Oct. 14 Laity Day

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — "Called Together" will be the theme for the newly designated "Laity Day" to be observed by United Methodist churches October 14.

Formerly United Methodists along with many other Protestant denominations observed Laymen's Day but Dr. David Self, associate general secretary of the Board of Discipleship's Division of Lay Life and Work, said the new name was chosen to emphasize the fact that laity includes men and women, children, youth and adults.

The theme is based on passages from Ephesians and First Peter emphasizing the common ministry of clergy and laity in the life of the local congregation and focusing attention on the unity of all Christians.

A brochure with suggestions for the observance has been sent to all United Methodist pastors, lay leaders, district superintendents, and conference and district leaders of the laity through the Division of Lay Life and Work.

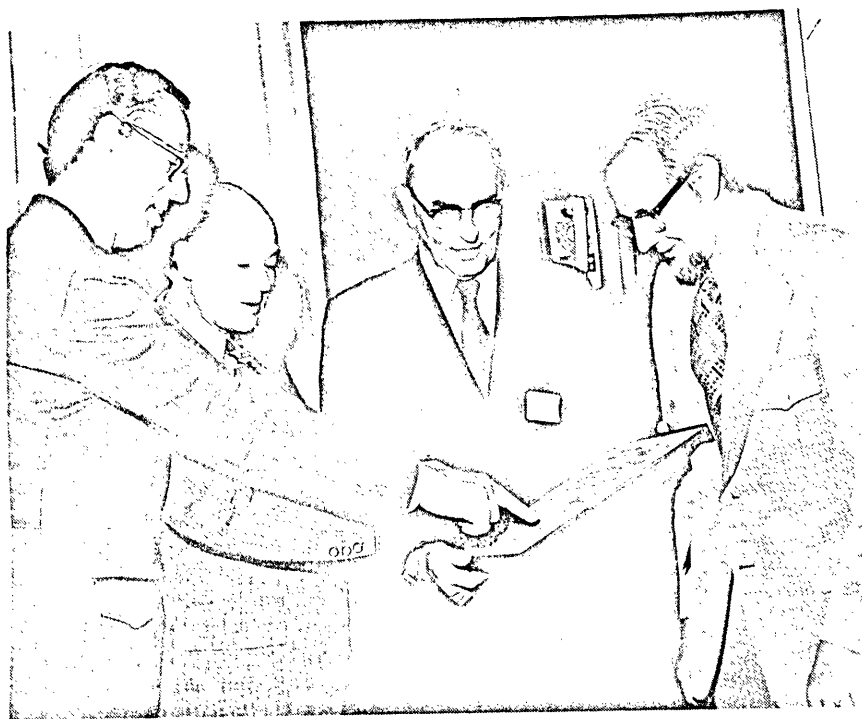
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Michigan Advocate editor retires, successor named

The Rev. John E. Marvin is retiring after 37 years as editor of the Michigan Christian Advocate in which he achieved wide recognition for his support of such causes as organized labor and elimination of segregation in the church. Some 300 persons attended a dinner in his honor Sept. 16. The Rev. Keith Pohl will succeed Dr. Marvin as editor.



"I think we've demonstrated that the laity includes all persons in the church — men, women and youth," said Sidney R. Nichols, a staff executive of the Board of Discipleship's Division of Lay Life and Work which sponsored the first "National Conference of the Laity," held at Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind. Some 3,000 persons attended the Summer weekend event.



The Rev. Dr. Harry C. Spencer (second from right), who retired Oct. 1 from his post as associate executive secretary of United Methodist Communications, receives plaque from the board of managers of the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches for his "unprecedented service" to ecumenical broadcasting over the past 23 years. Shown with Dr. Spencer (left to right) are: the Rev. William F. Fore, executive head of the BFC; the Rev. Everett C. Parker, director of communications, United Church of Christ; (Dr. Spencer) and Nelson Price, assistant executive secretary for broadcasting of UMC and current BFC chairman. (Photo by Toge Fujihira)

In TOGETHER magazine article . . .

METHODISM: 'Too tired and too liberal?'

A former member of The United Methodist Church charges in the October issue of TOGETHER Magazine that the denomination has become "too tired and too liberal."

Mrs. Marjorie King Garrison, a world traveler and Methodist for five years before returning to a more conservative denomination, declares that loss of spiritual power, weak sermons, and poor Bible teaching are among the reasons for the church's decline in membership, financial giving and worship attendance.

In a survey conducted by TOGETHER prior to the article's publication, a number of United Methodist readers of the magazine agreed with most of Mrs. Garrison's claims. Nearly 60 per cent said the church is too tired and too liberal; and 63 per cent agreed that United Methodism had lost some of its spiritual and financial power. About half of the readers who responded to the survey said they are not satisfied with the Christian training provided by their church, and agreed with the author that this is a prime reason why the church has failed to attract youth.

"The really vital, alive youth groups were in the more fundamental churches," according to Mrs. Garrison. "Why? Because young people found there an authority and commitment not stressed in our more permissive churches."

NOT ALL AGREE

But not all readers agreed with the author. "Our denomination is not tired

or too liberal," one wrote. "It is ready to meet every need of its members. Have you sought for answers and reinforcement from your church lately? Seek and you may find — but don't whine if the church makes you take the responsibility for finding God's plan for you. The United Methodist Church wants you to have your own happening — not a pre-outlined security blanket!"

Said another: "I object to the equating — even the hyphenating of tired with liberal. The connection is mostly in the minds of authors such as Mrs. Garrison. Remember that it was the 'tired/liberal' churches — Presbyterian, Episcopalian, United Church of Christ — telling thousands of disadvantaged people that there are Christians who care for them as entire persons body and soul."

The October TOGETHER will be the last regular issue of the magazine before it is succeeded by the new general periodical of the church — UNITED METHODISTS TODAY. The November and December issues of TOGETHER are being combined into a special commemorative-collector's edition that will contain some of the outstanding articles, pictorials, and inspirational features published during the magazine's 17-year history, during which time it has been the recipient of numerous awards for excellence in church journalism.

Also stressed in the forthcoming special issue will be the magazine's changing role during years of extraordinary sociological, theological, and economic change.

In November meeting . . .

Council of Bishops to hold open session

DES PLAINES, Ill. (UMC)—Plans for an open session of the United Methodist Council of Bishops in Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 14, were announced here Sept. 21 following a two-day meeting of the Council's Executive Committee.

Bishop Charles F. Golden of Los Angeles, president of the Council of Bishops, presided at the Des Plaines meeting and will be in charge of the Council's fall meeting in Nashville. The host in Nashville will be Bishop H. Ellis Finger, Jr., episcopal leader of that area.

Plans for the November meeting were announced by Bishop Ralph T. Alton of Indianapolis, Ind., secretary of the Council.

Bishop Alton said that the morning session on Wednesday, Nov. 14, "will be open to the press and to anyone desiring to observe the meeting of the Council, as space allows." The session will be held at the Holiday Inn-Vanderbilt, 2613 West End Avenue.

Agenda items for the open session include a report of the Council's Urban Study Committee, headed by Bishop Thomas M. Pryor of Sarasota, Fla.; a report on the vote on constitutional amendments, by Bishop Alton; a presentation by the Commission on the Status and Role of Women; a presen-

tation of the Bishops' Call for Peace and Self-Development of Peoples, by Bishop John Wesley Lord of Washington, D. C., and Bishop A. James Armstrong of Aberdeen, South Dakota; a progress report by a committee of bishops which has conferred with the parties concerned in the strike-bound Pikeville (Ky.) hospital situation. Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke of Fort Myers, Fla., heads the latter committee.

The Council of Bishops held its first open session in connection with the spring meeting in Washington, D. C., last April. News media personnel and others who attended the meeting were favorably impressed by the open meeting.

The Nashville meeting of the Council will open Monday evening, Nov. 12, at 5 o'clock with a service of holy communion in the Upper Room Chapel for bishops and their wives. This service will be led by officers of the Council and Bishop Finger and will be followed by dinner at Meharry Medical College.

The Council will be in session in Nashville, Nov. 12-15. With the exception of the open meeting on Wednesday morning, Nov. 14, the other sessions will be closed.

UMCOR reports on emergency areas

NEW YORK (UMC) — Action to aid flood-ravaged areas of Pakistan and India, drought-stricken parts of West Africa and post-earthquake rehabilitation in Mexico is reported by the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR).

The Rev. Dr. J. Harry Haines, New York, UMCOR chief executive, said a total of \$40,000 is being sent now to Pakistan and India to help meet emergency needs arising from recent floods in the Punjab which, Dr. Haines said, covered 41,000 villages and left as many as 8,000,000 homeless. Also, he noted water purification tablets, medicine and blankets are being sent through Church World Service, interdenominational relief agency of which UMCOR is a part.

In a second telephone message to UMCOR and the World Division (both parts of the Board of Global Ministries), Bishop Alejandro Ruiz of the Methodist Church of Mexico confirmed there was no damage to Methodist property in the earthquake in central Mexico. He also corroborated reports that the Mexican people and government have been able to meet immediate needs of quake victims for food, medicine and other emergency supplies.

The Mexican church is not asking for aid now, Dr. Haines said, but Bishop Ruiz has advised that requests probably will be made in the next few weeks for help in the rehabilitation stage, especially in rebuilding schools and community centers.

"It must be remembered that UMCOR works in at least two phases of any disaster — the immediate emer-

gency phase and the often more difficult rehabilitation phase when public attention is no longer focused on an area of need," the relief executive noted.

In answer to questions from United Methodists about gifts for Mexico, Dr. Haines said UMCOR is receiving them and seeks gifts from all concerned persons. About \$4,000 has been sent in already. The funds will be disbursed as needed and requested by Bishop Ruiz and the Mexican church, he said.

Meanwhile at another disaster point, the parched Sahel in West Africa, UMCOR has sent a United Methodist missionary nurse serving in Algeria to join a mobile medical team at work in Niger, Dr. Haines reported. Marjorie Nellis is on two months' loan by the World Division to UMCOR for the special service.

Referring to the Asian subcontinent, Dr. Haines said the recent floods came at a time when a massive exchange of humanity, involving as many as 700,000 persons, was about to get underway in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh — and UMCOR is aiding in the exchange. Involved are 90,000 Pakistani prisoners of war to be returned from India to their homeland, 300,000 citizens of Bangladesh detained in Pakistan who will be going home, and 3-400,000 Biharis in Bangladesh who will go to Pakistan.

UMCOR has sent \$30,000 to Bangladesh to aid suffering Biharis, who need particularly food and medical supplies, Dr. Haines said. The agency has also sent \$10,000 to Karachi to aid in the migration of Bangladesh citizens from Pakistan.

OCTOBER 4, 1973



The Rev. J. D. Lawrence of Hoxie (left photo) with some of laymen who attended Paragould District set-up meeting at First Church, Walnut Ridge on Sept. 20. (At right) The gentlemen nearest camera — the Rev. James Weatherford, Bruce Havens, the Rev. Clyde Crozier, and the Rev. Charles Thompson — look over agenda prior to meeting. Led by District Superintendent Ben Jordan, presentations were made by the Rev. Arvill Brannon of North Arkansas Council on Ministries office, the Rev. Wayne C. Jarvis, chairman of district council, and Henry Rainwater, conference lay leader. Chaplain George Stewart, Jim Brown and Dave Burkhart made presentations on behalf of Methodist Hospital in Memphis.



FROM OUR READERS

Dear Editor:

... I've been reading or having read to me THE ARKANSAS METHODIST for more than 70 years ... and I'm enjoying it almost as much as I did when Ruth Carr wrote to the Children's Page. I still remember many of her stories, etc., especially when she asked the children to buy a wheel chair for a little crippled boy ...

... this is my first attempt to try to get a picture of one of "Old Union's" churches printed in THE METHODIST. I hope you can find space for it.

Thanks, — a reader,
Mrs. Chester Tooke
Warren, Ark.

NOTE: The pictures of the dedication of the Union church may be seen on page one, Arkansas edition.—
The editor.



District coordinators of Children's Ministries in Little Rock Conference in planning meeting at First Church, Pine Bluff. (Left to right) Mrs. W. Darrell Bone, Mrs. Larry Williams, Mrs. John Tucker, conference director, Mrs. Hazel Watkins, Mrs. N. J. Garrett, Mrs. Frances Prothro, and Mrs. Sheila Hurt. All districts were represented, and tabulation of vacation church school giving to various causes during the summer showed a total of \$1095, with more gifts anticipated.



Daily attendance at Black Rock vacation church school averaged around 30 boys and girls. Mrs. Glen Verkler and Mrs. R. D. Calahan, assisted by other members of the church, co-directed the school which closed with a picnic on the church lawn. The Rev. Bill J. Kirkland is pastor.

Arkeology

by Gene Herrington



They always keep the sanctuary too hot — for those of us who have furs.



Poetry Panorama

by barbara mulkey

"The way of the soul's transformation is the Way of Divine Companionship." (from "God Calling" edited by A. J. Russell). . . "Incline your ear, and come unto Me: hear and your soul shall live." (Isaiah 55:3)

A Burning Bush

If I can't be the ocean,
I will be the river.
If I can't be the river,
I will be the running brook.
If I can't climb the mountain,
I will climb the hill.
If I can't harvest the field,
I will plant a flower.
I know there will be a bush
Burning for me.

—by Rosemary Clements

Show Us, Lord!

It's easy to pray in a garden, Lord,
I see You in everything there:
flowers in loveliness, quietness,
birds singing or wheeling on flashing wings,
living things, growing things, clouds in the air
drifting, fantastic and marvelous fair —
Life, Music, and Being; Yours — everywhere.
Your beauty shines through and sings.

Who can hold back praise, adoration, Lord,
under a starry sky . . .
to look out into the vastness of space
seeing worlds You have made . . .
no limit to find?
It fills my being and silences words,
My mind reaches out to touch the hem
of Your garment, and finds You there.

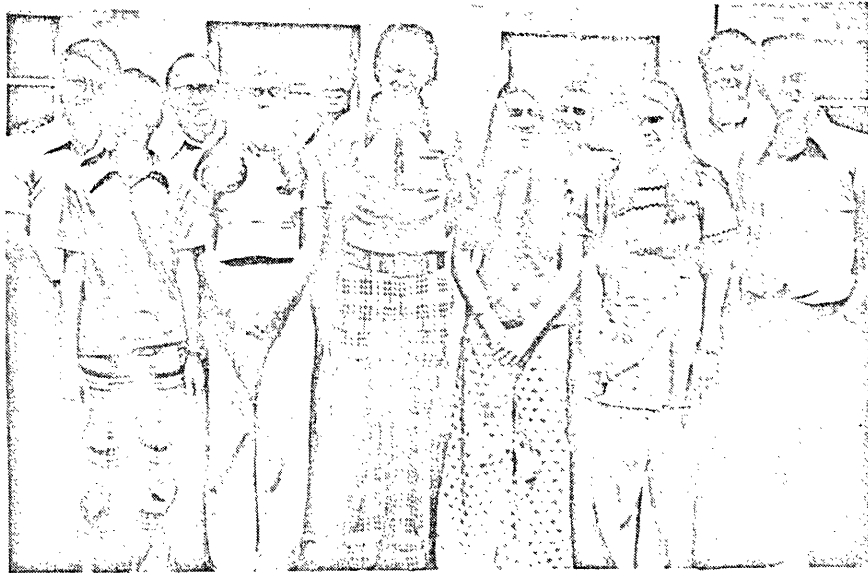
Dear Lord, show us Yourself in the crowds,
in the streets —
Help us to see behind sad faces, tense faces,
unconcerned ones,
as well as happy ones, out-reaching, aware.
Show us Yourself in us, all of us, one in You.
Tune our hearts and our minds to all the wave-lengths
of humanity that we may know . . .
As You know, as You said, what Son of Man means!

—by Lois W. Evans

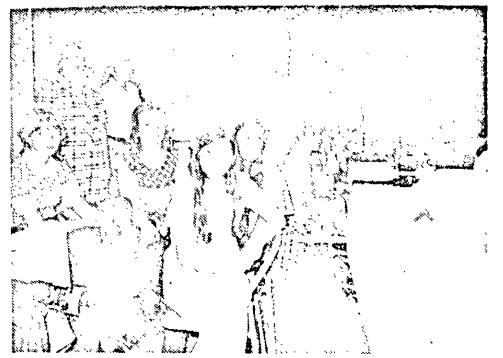


Tom McDonald, North Arkansas Conference youth president, speaks to the Paragould Youth Rally attended by over 100 persons.

Paragould District Youth Rally



The Paragould District Council on Youth Ministries poses following their Sept. 15 election.



Above photos show segments of youth attending rally.

The first Paragould District Youth Rally of the new conference year was held in Walnut Ridge on Saturday, Sept. 15, with 102 youth and adults in attendance.

The event opened with the youth choir from Newport First Church performing the musical, "Tell It Like It Is." This was followed by four workshops: "Structure of Youth Ministry," led by Mrs. Saville Henry, North Arkansas Conference coordinator; Youth Service Fund by the youth of Walnut Ridge; Audio-visuals by Steve Jordan

of Paragould, and New Youth Literature by the Rev. Wayne C. Jarvis of Rector. Lunch was followed by caucuses and election of the district youth council.

Named to the council were Doug Hoffman, Paragould; Alan Foster, Pocahontas; Robin Wheatley, Rector; Judy Newton, Piggott; Steve Doyle, Hoxie; Mark Grace Denton, Newport; Steve Pankey, Newport; Sandy Shanks,

Imboden; Connie Thompson, Shiloh, Paragould; They joined Mrs. Bill Russell of Rector, the Rev. Ben Jordan, district superintendent, the Rev. David Driver, co-ordinator, and David Wright, conference council member on the district council.

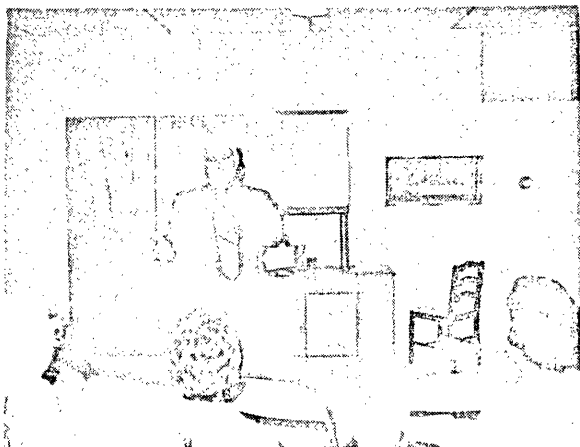
Tom McDonald, chairman of the conference council on youth ministries, closed the meeting, speaking on the work of the council and the impor-

tance of the local church youth ministry.

At the close of the meeting an offering was taken for the Youth Service Fund.

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LAITY TRAINING SCHOOL

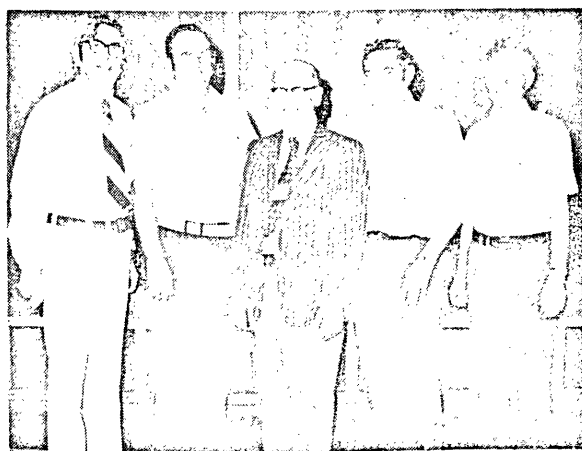


Dr. George Herrod (standing) of Conway is instructor for the Laity Training School being conducted at Dardanelle. Thirty-five persons are enrolled with other individuals attending on a non-credit basis. Area churches represented include Danville, Russellville, First, Waldron, the Dover, Morrilton and Ola Circuits.

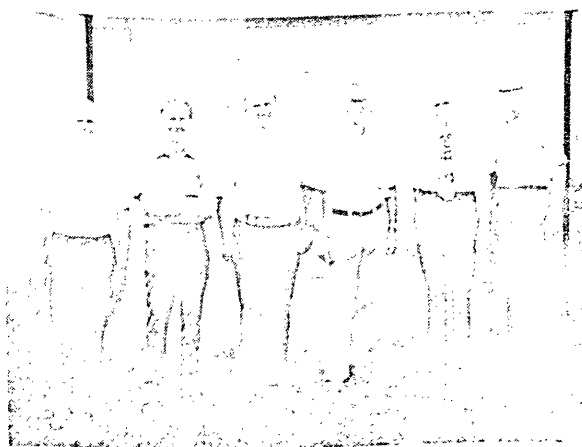


Class members who complete the requirements for the course may be certified as Lay Speakers in the United Methodist Church. James Lane, Conway District lay leader, in cooperation with Neal Goins, lay leader of the Dardanelle Church, arranged for the school. The Rev. Frank Clemmons is host pastor for the training series which concludes on Oct. 8.

Batesville District Laymen's Assembly



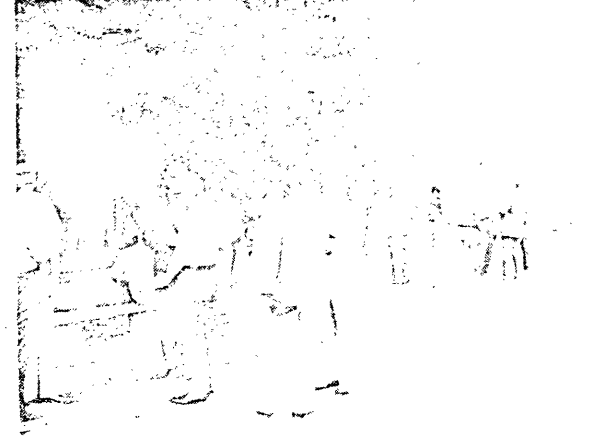
(From left) The Rev. Dewey Dark of Beebe, who spoke on the assembly theme: "Every Man a Commitment" on Saturday evening, Marvin Gaither of Batesville, district lay leader, Jim Wiseman of Searcy, Ray McManus and Sam Britten, both of Batesville.



(Left to right) Dick Cole, Mountain Home, J. L. Mullens, Jr., Heber Springs, Gaither, Bob Crouch, Clinton, Henry Rainwater, Walnut Ridge, and Superintendent Villines.



(Left to right) The Rev. Floyd Villines, Batesville District superintendent; Oscar Patchell, Heber Springs, who presented the Sunday School lesson; and Gaither. Forty-nine men from 14 churches attended the Sept. 15-16 event.



A time of fellowship, games, and sharing of Christian experiences.