

## Pension campaign enters new phase

With the launching of the laity section of its special gifts phase, the Little Rock Conference Ministers' Reserve Pension Fund (MRPF) Campaign entered a new and major emphasis this last week.

The goal of the special gifts phase is \$1 million, to be secured over a four year period. The total amount sought in the eight year program is \$4 million. The MRPF program and campaign was overwhelmingly approved at the last session of the Little Rock Annual Conference.

In one of a series of District events to promote the phase, lay persons from the Little Rock District met Tuesday, Nov. 27 to hear details of the Campaign. Principal speaker was Dr. Marshall T. Steel, former president of Hendrix College and retired member of the Little Rock Conference. Dr. Steel was introduced by Richard C. Butler Sr., of Little Rock, co-general chairman of the Conference-wide Campaign. Dr. Imon Bruce of Magnolia serves as the other co-general chairman of the campaign.

In his remarks Dr. Steel observed that while the Little Rock Conference "ranks with the best" in its giving to Conference and other benevolent causes of the church and "has an en-

viable record in this respect," the same is not true for the Conference's support of its retired ministers. He pointed out that of the more than 70 annual conferences in United Methodism only

five provide less pension support for retired ministers than does the Little Rock Conference. Of these five, three are mission conferences.

Dr. Steel pointed out that the Little Rock Conference presently pays \$61 for every service year rendered by a retired minister and remarked that the conference in which he served while in Texas provides a pension of \$90 per service year.

In observing that the new pension program had begun with concern by the laymen, Dr. Steel noted that "not a single layman spoke against the program" when it was presented at the 1973 session of the Conference. "A few pastors expressed concern that it would place too great a burden upon the church," continued Dr. Steel, "but not one lay person opposed it."

In presenting Dr. Steel, Co-General Chairman Butler stated that the campaign was "the absolutely number one cause" among the laity of the Conference.

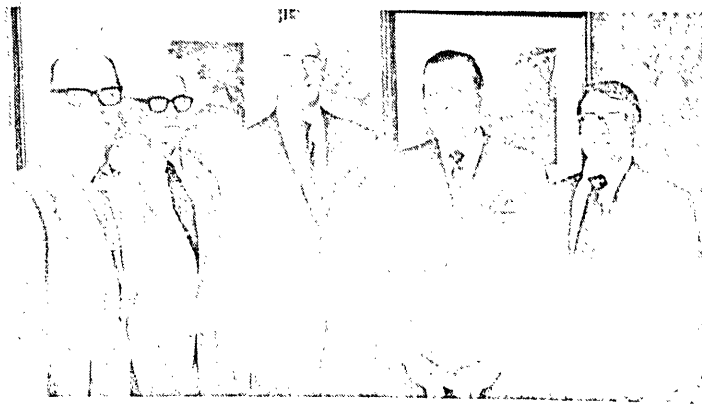
### BISHOP AND SUPERINTENDENT SPEAK

Bishop Eugene M. Frank reported that the pastors of the Conference had pledged approximately \$180,000 in the clergy section of the special gifts phase of the campaign. These funds will apply to the \$1 million goal of this phase of the drive.

Bishop Frank also stated that he "knew of no place in the world where I would be as proud of the young men who are entering the ministry as I am of those in Arkansas. It's something to be very proud of. The one thing that is very embarrassing to us is our pension situation. We simply can't go on like this. We have to do this thing."

Little Rock District Superintendent Dr. J. Edward Dunlap reported that the ministers of that District had pledged approximately \$48,000 to the special gifts phase. He also stated that

Please turn to page 2



Participating in the Little Rock District Pension Campaign program on Nov. 27 were, from left, Bishop Eugene M. Frank; Dr. Marshall T. Steel, principal speaker; Richard C. Butler, Sr., co-general chairman of the Pension Fund Campaign; Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, superintendent of the Little Rock District; and E. B. Matkin, Jr., vice chairman of the Conference Board of Pensions.

# Arkansas Methodist

92nd YEAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1973

NO. 48

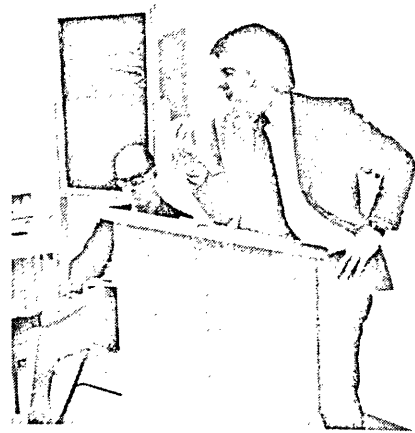
## "Bishop's Call" subject of Area meet

The "Bishop's Call for Peace and the Self-Development of Peoples" was the subject of an area-wide workshop held in Little Rock Nov. 28. Some 23 bishops attended the session on the Bishop's Call, an emphasis adopted by the 1972 session of the General Conference.

Present at the meeting were the chairmen and representatives of the Conference Board of Church and Society, representatives of the District Council on Ministries, members of the cabinet and representatives from the Council offices of the two Conferences. The meeting was held in the Methodist Headquarters Building.

Presiding at the workshop, Bishop Eugene M. Frank noted that life in Arkansas was intricately related to issues of national and international dimensions. "We are more tied up with the Common Market in Europe than where we are going to get our next meal," stated the bishop. He noted that the Arkansas soybean crop and other agricultural and industrial interests gave Arkansas relationships which made world issues of very immediate local significance.

Resource leader for the meeting was the Rev. Mike McIntyre of Washington, D.C., assistant to Bishop John Wesley Lord, who serves as executive coordinator for the Bishop's Call.



The Rev. Mike McIntyre of Washington, D.C., assistant to Bishop John Wesley Lord, was the major resource person in the Area workshop on the Bishop's Call to Peace and Self-Development of Peoples.

### AREA-WIDE CONVOCATION TO BE CALLED

The workshop was basically informative in purpose. Bishop Frank stated its objectives as "to learn what the Bishop's Call is; to see its scope; and to examine what each Annual Conference might do to relate to its purposes." Before adjourning, the group recommended an Area-wide convoca-

tion related to the Call, and suggested either late winter or spring as the time for such a convocation.

Please turn to page 2

## "The Louisiana Methodist" to be under new management

By action of the Council on Ministries of the Louisiana Conference The Louisiana Methodist newspaper will no longer be published in conjunction with the Arkansas Methodist. The Council voted to begin publication of its Conference paper as an edition of The United Methodist Reporter, a Texas-based paper which prints editions for 19 annual conferences. The vote was made at a meeting of the Louisiana Council on Ministries in Alexandria last Friday and Saturday, Nov. 30, Dec. 1.

The Louisiana edition has been published from the Little Rock office for approximately 22 years. The paper began as a successor to the New Orleans Christian Advocate, which served both Louisiana and Mississippi for some years. After discontinuance of that paper, The Louisiana Methodist began under the leadership of Dr. Jolly B. Harper, Dr. Virgil D. Morris and Dr. Guy Hicks, who published the

paper for about a year.

When it was seen that assistance was desired, the Arkansas Methodist was approached to see if the Louisiana paper could be produced from the Little Rock office. Such a request was made by the Louisiana Annual Conference in 1951 and approved by the two Arkansas conferences. The conferences have enjoyed a pleasant relationship through the association across the years.

The report to the Council recommending the change, given by the Louisiana Conference Structure Study Committee, cited as reasons for the shift "the fact that we are in a new Conference (after merger) and in a period of transition and evaluation and learning."

The change will become effective Dec. 31. The Arkansas Methodist will continue to be published from the Little Rock office.



Shown above is a portion of the some 25 persons who attended the Little Rock District Pension Campaign program. The event launched the laity section of the special gifts phase of the Little Rock Conference Pension Campaign. The goal of this phase is \$1 million to be raised in a four year period. The meeting was held at the Union National Bank.

from page one

## PENSION PROGRAM

about one-third of the churches of the District had held their Charge Conferences and that "not a single negative vote had been cast" when they were asked to accept their apportionments. He stated that this response was most encouraging to all concerned.

Dr. Dunlap's reference was to another major phase of the campaign, the apportionment to the local churches the amount of \$285,000 per year for an eight year period. These apportionments are presently being submitted to the Charge Conferences of local churches and the cabinet reports that to date "all have accepted their apportionments in full."

## PRESENT PENSION PROGRAM INADEQUATE

The MRPF program will succeed the present pension plan which is funded from current income, considered to be the most expensive form of providing pensions.

The new program culminates many years of study and research by the present and past Boards of Pensions. It will increase the annuity rate from the current \$61 figure to \$62 in 1974 and will then be increased one dollar per year for the next eight years until reaching \$69 per year of service in 1981.

At present, 58 of the 74 annual conferences in the nation are participating in reserve funding programs and others are considering similar plans. The MRPF is the official program of the General Board of Pensions of The United Methodist Church.

Officers of the Little Rock Conference Board of Pensions are Sidney L. Good of Pine Bluff, chairman; E. B. Matkin, Jr., of Little Rock, vice chairman; the Rev. Osborne E. White of England, secretary; and the Rev. Howard L. Williams of Magnolia, treasurer.

John Jordan, a member of First United Methodist Church of Collingswood, N.J., where he is song leader for the church school and youth organist, has been named the outstanding Eagle Scout in the nation by a Boy Scout committee.

PAGE TWO

## APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Bishop Eugene M. Frank has announced the following pastoral appointments in the North Arkansas Conference:

—The Rev. R. L. Hanks to the Prairie View-Scranton charge in the Ft. Smith District. The appointment became effective Dec. 1.

—The Rev. Robert O. Crossman to the Faulkner County Parish, Mayflower church, in the Conway District. The appointment became effective Dec. 1.

—The Rev. Edward Doyle Blanton to Plummerville-Springfield, in the Conway District. The appointment became effective Oct. 1.

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT PARKERS CHAPEL, EL DORADO

Parkers Chapel United Methodist Church in El Dorado will hold its Centennial Celebration on this next Sunday, Dec. 9. Camden District Superintendent Dr. Roy I. Bagley will give the message at the 11 a.m. service and the Petit Choir of the church will sing.

At 2 p.m. a memorial and Dedication service will be held. The welcome address will be given by Kenneth Cross, Mrs. J. D. Ainsworth will read names of deceased District superintendents, ministers and members, and the Youth Choir will bring special music. The dedicatory sermon will be given by the pastor, the Rev. J. B. Swaim. A plaque commemorating the event will be received on behalf of the church by Kenneth Buchanan.

A history of the church has been compiled by Mrs. J. F. McKinnon.

The United Methodist Church has a responsibility to keep the rural and small town churches active and vital in order to serve people because population projections for the remainder of the century show decrease in people outside metropolitan areas, the Rev. Doyce W. Gunter, director of the Hinton (N.C.) Rural Life Center has told the denomination's Southeastern Jurisdiction Council on Ministries.



Twenty-three persons attended the Area workshop on the Bishop's Call which met at the Methodist Headquarters Building, Little Rock, Nov. 28.

from page one

## "BISHOP'S CALL"

Participants in the workshop found themselves referring repeatedly to the energy crisis and to Watergate and to the impact of such circumstances and events upon the lives of persons locally, nationally and across the world. The role and responsibility of the church in such a time was the subject of much of the discussion during the workshop sessions. One participant suggested that the role of the church was "to give persons a forum where these issues may be raised." The meeting began at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The participants met by Annual Conference groups in the afternoon session.

## PURPOSES OF THE "CALL"

Mr. McIntyre stated that one primary aim of the Call was that of helping persons "become aware of the kind of world of which we are a part." The Call should, he said, "challenge the concept that we can live in our own back yards and ignore what is going on in the world." The Call, he continued, is "a handle to help the church to a greater consciousness; to assist persons to think in terms of global systems." In reference to the need of the church to be a more effective "sensitizing agency," Mr. McIntyre quoted secular authorities who rated the church as "insignificant" in motivating persons "to come to terms with world problems."

In an interview after the workshop, Mr. McIntyre, asked to define the purpose of the Bishop's Call, stated that

Three generations of the Nieto family of Texas, all members of the Rio Grande Annual Conference, are related to national United Methodist agencies. The Rev. Simon Nieto, a pastor in Corpus Christi, is an at-large member of the Board of Global Ministries' World Division; his son, the Rev. Leo Nieto, is executive secretary of the same board's National Division Office of Ethnic and Language Ministries; and David Nieto, son of Leo and grandson of Simon, is on the staff of the United Methodist Council on Youth Ministries Legislative Affairs Project. Several other family members are active in various church activities, too.

"one way to express it was that it hoped to enable people to become subjects of their own history instead of objects of other's histories." "If I make decisions about my life," he stated, "then my history is my own. If decisions are made for me, then I am the object of someone else's history." He said "the American Indian is a good example. They have become objects of our history. We have drawn the boundary lines of their reservations; we have (made their decisions, etc.) . . . They are the objects of our history, not subjects of their own."

## LAITY AHEAD OF CLERGY

Mr. McIntyre, who is a clerical member of the Central Illinois Conference, stated that the laity are often more ready than the clergy to grapple with the basic issues of the day. He referred to studies that revealed a great readiness on the part of the laity to deal with difficult and controversial issues. "There is too much caution on the part of our clergy," he states; "ours is a time for real courage and not for retreat."

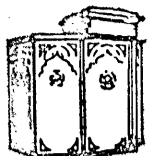
Questioned about the time-table of the Bishop's Call, Mr. McIntyre indicated that unlike many programs with which United Methodists are acquainted, the Call is more of an unprogrammed, loosely knit and intentionally low-keyed but deliberate approach to basic issues and attitudes related to peace and self-development of peoples. The full text of the Call speaks of the nature of peace; the enemies of peace; and the sources of peace. Copies of the Call are available at 15 cents each from the Service Department, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

Speaking of the function of the office he represents, Mr. McIntyre stated that "our role is to pursue and coordinate. We are given the right to 'stethoscope' the church; to listen to the heart-beat of its agencies, boards and commissions, and to perceive where they are or are not attending to matters of peace and development in keeping with the mandate of the General Conference. We can enter into conversation with them."

Mr. McIntyre said that the Call was not a quadrennial General Conference emphasis as such and may or may not be continued after the 1976 session. "That will be up to the General Conference," he stated.

DECEMBER 6, 1973

## The Editor's Pulpit



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.

## From the Bottom of the Heart.....

### SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 1973

#### HE WILL COME

*An evolution of Advent*

\* \* \*

We crouched in darkness  
with tethered breath,  
We feared the night  
and fled toward death.  
Then someone said  
"He will come."

Behind the wall in exile's strife  
We cowered and wept  
but dreamt of life.  
For "Now," they said,  
"He will come."

We fled them far through every land  
Night's long grasp  
and death's cold hand,  
Yet toward hope we ever sped  
for still, still they said  
"He will come."

Then one night a star did shine  
and darkness fled  
and exile passed  
and even death succumbed at last.  
For all the while we ran toward life.  
And He did come!

\* \* \*

#### Cortege

Now we must run throughout the land  
to share with all good news at hand:  
Fear not the dark  
Flee not the night  
Let neither death give cause  
for fright.

For he is life  
And he is light,  
And he did come,  
And he will come.

†

**THINK-A-GRAM:** We'd all like a reputation for generosity, and we'd all like to buy it cheap.

†

**THINK-A-GRAM:** The cheapest way to have your family tree traced is to run for public office.

## Off the Top of the Head.....

### Louisiana Reform

Having never been to Louisiana, our young son, fourth-grader Chuck, hitch-hiked along with his mother and myself on a trip last week to Alexandria. Now if you think that going to Louisiana is not a Big Adventure, then you're just not in the fourth grade!

Among the many religious experiences I had on the trip was one in which I vowed to write to congress to suspend the 50 m.p.h. speed limit for parents travelling with fourth graders. But that's another two stories.

While Daddy was in a meeting, mother and son set out upon the joys of seeing Louisiana. Having been told that "we'd get some real Louisiana food" on the second day, they agreed to settle for regular fare on that first day, which meant for them "some real pit bar-b-que!"

Not having been there to report first hand on their travels, I must translate their experience for you.

It seems that they stopped at an establishment called Sam's Place, having been attracted by a sign that announced that Sam offered about the best pit bar-b-que in the universe, this side of Okmulgee, Okla. As they started to go in — and started is, I guess, the right word since they never completed their mission — their first impression was that these good folk were really taking the energy crisis seriously because it was mighty dark in there.

The further they went the more evil the darkness felt and more clear became the sounds which greeted their ears: sounds (ye-gods) like billiard balls bouncing and beverage bottles clanging and Sunday School words being loudly unspoken.

Mother rescued son just in the nick, his having seen only one man, seated at an un-holy semi-circle table, lift a glass to his lips. Gratefully, our son didn't witness the startled man swallow anything, so I guess he's still pure — our son, that is.

Now Sam of that Place is probably a very fine gentleman indeed, maybe even a deacon in a First Baptist Church or an officiant in our kind of church, but, thank you, my family will eat elsewhere today. They just don't go in much for bar-b-que in the dark.

And besides, what they really wanted was a McDonald's hamburger. Out in the bright, clean, fresh Louisiana air.

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### On being 'over introduced'

I attended a meeting recently in which the presiding person gave a deservedly elaborate introduction to the guest speaker. The speaker, an attorney, responded by saying that the generous presentation reminded him of an event which happened in his home city in Texas.

It seems that an excited and happy couple came to the court house late one Friday afternoon to secure a marriage license. Early the very next Monday morning the lady-person of the couple was waiting at the door as the court house opened. The clerk expressed surprise at seeing her again so soon and asked if she needed anything. "You bet I need something. I need a divorce!" The clerk responded "But you only got married last Friday; what on earth is the problem?" "Friend," the woman replied, "that was the most over-introduced man I ever met!"

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*JSW*

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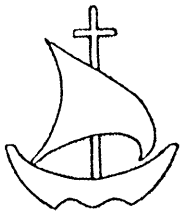
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# news and views

OF THE WORLD OF RELIGION

by doris woolard

Commenting on the predicted appearance of the newly-discovered Comet Kohoutek during the Advent season, an Arlington, Va. pastor noted, "God is decorating the sky for Christmas this year. By reminding us of the Star of Bethlehem, Comet Kohoutek may provide us with a more spiritually meaningful Christmas." Skylab astronauts plan to study the comet and hope to point their instruments at it on Christmas day.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was the recent recipient in absentia of the annual Charles Evans Hughes Award of the Nat'l. Conference of Christians and Jews. In a letter expressing regret at his inability to attend the presentation ceremony, Dr. Kissinger declared: "Today, if our vision does not fail us, a structure of peace can be brought within our grasp. The United States faces a moment of opportunity. We can succumb to doubt and turn from hope—or confident of our ability and united in our purpose, we can over the next three years bring a new sense of legitimacy and durability to the international order . . ."

A new Caribbean Conference of Churches, including Roman Catholics, Protestants and Eastern Orthodox has been formally launched in Kingston, Jamaica, with Dr. Philip A. Potter, a West Indian Methodist who is general secretary of the World Council of Churches, preaching the inaugural sermon. Dr. Potter said the Caribbean Churches have in the past been too "self-righteous," careful not to upset the status quo and happy only "when they had positions of power and prestige." He called on the groups to place themselves in God's hand "that we may be strengthened and upheld to be His right hand in the Caribbean and in all the world."

The new Caribbean Conference of Churches went on record against the legalization of "Obeah," a blend of religion and magic similar to voodoo, in Guyana, a country in northern South America. The 300 delegates from 14 Church bodies said "Obeah" would foster the development of "unchristian principles and behavior." Guyana's Prime Minister recently announced plans to legalize the sect as a means of promoting Guyanese culture.

The exploitation of migrant workers moving from one country to another; child migration; the difficulties of growing populations in small countries and the "brain drain" robbing developing countries of specialists who take jobs in North America and Europe were surveyed by a 14-member panel representing all continents. Brought together in Geneva, Switzerland by the World Council of Churches' Commission on Inter-church Aid, Refuge and World Service, the panel specifically pointed to situations in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and proposed research on the relationship between social, economic and political structures on migration.

"We must demand a lot from young people. We must be very demanding in order to reintroduce a true evangelical radicalism among the young," said Bishop Adrien Simonis of Rotterdam, Holland in a Vatican Radio interview. The bishop said that in order to overcome the vocation crisis "the most important step" is to make young people "aware of Christ." The Dutch prelate said: "A crisis does exist, but it does not exist because of any lack of call. The Lord is calling young people, but there is a lack of affirmative reply to the divine call."

Lenardo Pugyao, a young man of Philippines "head-hunter stock" and only 10 years a Christian, plans to return to his Luzon homeland soon as a "flying missionary." It was through a Wycliffe missionary translator that Pugyao—who is called "Nard"—was introduced to Christianity and was converted on Christmas Day, 1963. Nard, whose studies have concentrated on theology and aviation in the U.S., went to Washington recently to help celebrate the announcement by the Philippines' government that the Wycliffe Bible Translators—one of the largest Christian missionary groups in the world—had won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding.

A federally-financed course on "Religion in Human Culture," will be offered students at St. Louis Park High School beginning in January. About one-third of the school's 9,000 students are Jewish, about one-third are Roman Catholic and one-third Protestant. School officials believe the course is the first of its kind to be a part of a public high school's regular curriculum.

A 2½ per cent increase in apportionment payments for churches in the New York Conference for next year will help offset a loss of Conference endowment funds. At a special meeting of the Conference it was disclosed that some \$3.7 million of the \$7 million Endowment Fund is estimated to be lost after having been improperly invested in loans to faltering businesses by the Corporate Treasurer who had not obtained authorization from the Conference trustees. Conference endowment funds are used chiefly to provide pension payments to retired ministers.

A recruitment campaign, described as the first of its kind, seeking candidates for the priesthood and featuring "personalized" advertising in newspapers and national magazines was launched by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese in New York. At a cost of \$100,000, advertisements are scheduled to appear in the N.Y. archdiocesan weekly, local and regional daily newspapers and such magazines as Time, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report, Sports Illustrated and New York Magazine over a 13-week period from November to February.

The United Presbyterian Church "grievously hurt" scores of employees by its handling of a 1973 restructure, according to James A. Gittings, writer of an editorial in the December issue of A.D. The editor of the publication, cooperatively published by the United Presbyterian Church and the United Church of Christ, said reorganization "uprooted families," and "cast out faithful employees" . . . The reorganization involved an entirely new plan for national agencies of the denomination and centralizing of most national offices in New York City. Many operations were formerly in Philadelphia.

A women's caucus has been organized in the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church with the objective of establishing a conference commission on the role and status of women in the Church. Such a commission, the caucus group said, could develop a resource center of persons and materials regarding women in the Church, create a talent bank of women to be considered for staff positions, serve as an advocate for women employed by the Church, and provide guidelines to insure full participation of the women in the life of the Church.

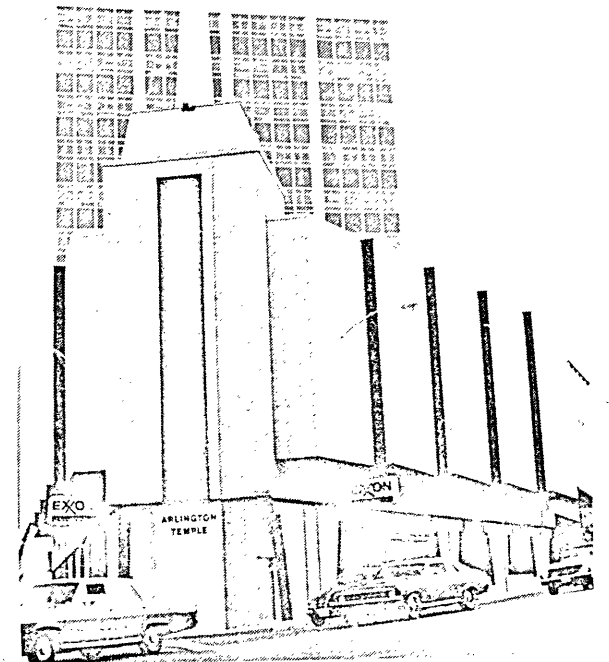
The Austrian Interior Ministry has announced that it would close down Schoenau Castle, the transit facility for Soviet Jews enroute to Israel as of Nov. 30. Approximately 80,000 Soviet Jews have passed through the transit camp on their way to Israel in the past nine years.

A 20-page tabloid designed to aid U.S. Churches in beginning their celebration of the nation's bicentennial has been issued by the National Council of Churches. Called "The Light in the Steeple—Religion and the American Revolution," the publication states that "Religion was a dynamic ingredient in the nation's beginning. Some of its contributions are well known. Others have been neglected in our elementary history books." The publication is meant to help "people discover or recall the importance of religious convictions, experiences and institutions in the revolutionary era." The title was taken from the signal given to Paul Revere from Boston's Old North Church.

The World Council of Churches should stop providing grants to liberation movements in Africa, declared Bishop Stanley Mark Wood, Anglican bishop of Matabeleland in Rhodesia. Bishop Wood, who has worked in Africa for 28 years, said he believes the situation in white-ruled Rhodesia should be changed by evolution, not revolution.

Dr. Porter Routh of Nashville, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, told the Arkansas Baptist Convention that the Middle East situation is of particular concern to Southern Baptists because they have missionaries in both the Arab countries and in Israel. "We feel there are two sides to the problem and we cannot afford to take sides," Dr. Routh said.

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ARLINGTON, Va. — In spite of the gasoline shortage, this church is still being held up by a filling station. Seeking a site which would be in the midst of life's struggle, the congregation of Arlington (United Methodist) Temple found the only way they could afford property in an office complex in the Virginia community was to lease the ground floor to an oil company. Executives and office workers from surrounding buildings, including the Central Intelligence Agency, meet in the church for noontime prayer and Bible study. (RNS Photo)

## Council Directors to Local Churches

### Human Relations Day — January 27, 1974

The United Methodist Church, a church inclusive of members of various races, many cultures and life styles, believes in Christian mutual concern for persons. HUMAN RELATIONS DAY, on or near the last Sunday in January, has been designated by General Conference as a time for the expression of this concern for one another. Although of many cultures, we are one church. All groups have something to share. Also we share in our needs. Some need assistance to rise up and live on their own. The programs funded by the HUMAN RELATIONS DAY OFFERING are a fascinating variety of projects through which persons are assisted in finding fulfillment and self-empowerment.

The minimum goal of the offering

is \$1,000,000 divided as follows:

Thirty-seven and one-half percent to VOLUNTARY SERVICE, which works to meet community needs. Young people and adults, many of them from minority groups, work in these projects. They receive the subsistence only, not wages. Projects aim at definite needs of people and issues of communities. Among the projects are food co-ops, employment services, "runaway" houses to assist runaway youths and their parents, medical assistance and self-initiated businesses. In May, 1973, there were 371 volunteers serving in 73 projects. United Methodists had invested \$249,000, which have performed \$4,500,000 worth of services.

Thirty-four percent (34%) provides

COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS, who serve with pastors and churches in ethnic communities to help organize people to deal with problems created by poverty and prejudice. The developer is a presence in the community . . . not to tell the community, not to do for the community, but to become a part of the community and help it help itself. Various vehicles are established to help minorities be involved in the United Methodist Church, involve the church in projects and assist minorities in their struggles for self-development and fulfillment in living.

Three and one-half (3½%) supports a POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM which encourages understanding and good will between citizens and law enforcement of-

icers. The results have been significant even though the program exists in only a small number of centers.

Twenty-five percent (25%) aids in TRAINING FOR ETHNIC GROUPS. Included in this program are training projects for ministers and lay persons, and scholarship aid for youth among ethnic minority groups.

This is the Church of Christ at work, concerned about the needs of people, both material and spiritual needs. This is our opportunity as Christians to share with one another.

As every member gives, we will extend the Christian outreach of the Church—\$1,000,000 worth of Christian Concern.

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### Some hopeful signs in mission personnel support

by Thomas A. Abney  
Little Rock Conference  
Missionary Secretary

In a September, 1973 release Louis Cassels, a United Press International religious news reporter, stated that "devaluation of the dollar and a high rate of inflation in many foreign countries are badly hurting Christian missionary enterprises financed by the U.S. churches."

Cassels' statement followed the warning notes of major Christian denominations that unless additional mission funding was obtained the foreign mission effort could be cut in half. Our appeal for additional mission personnel support at last Annual Conference and in subsequent letters to The Arkansas Methodist have been attempts to illustrate and personalize this need.

And now, there are some encouraging results to report. The Rock Springs United Methodist Church, the Andrew's Chapel United Methodist Church, the Wilmar United Methodist Church, and others have received special offerings for mission personnel support.

The Wilmar church has established a continuing effort by placing a "special mission offering box" in the church to receive gifts throughout the year. The Harrell United Methodist Church directed the offerings of a whole Sunday, amounting to one hundred dollars, for Mission Personnel Support.

These United Methodists have provided good examples for other churches to consider as means for responding to the need for additional mission funds. And, there are undoubtedly other congregations whose offerings have not come to my attention.

We can build on these faithful beginnings and keep our missionaries in the field. Helen Wilson can continue her work among Bolivian children;

Bill Elder can go on interpreting the Gospel to the Japanese; George Workman can still be teaching in India; Norene Robken can stay on in the Congo, and Delos McCauley can finish his work in Nepal. None of our mission personnel need be cut off as long as church members maintain the spirit of mission evidenced in those churches that have already made special contributions.

Many churches have set their budgets for 1974 and others are in the budget-building process. While financial matters are on our church calendars, we could all conveniently include some "second-mile" giving for mission personnel support.

Such funds should be sent to Mr. Grafton Thomas, Area Treasurer, P. O. Box 6009, Little Rock, AR 72206; and they should be designated as "Advance Special: for mission personnel support."

We cannot all leave home to spread the word abroad, but we can all share in the ministry of mission. With some good examples before us and a good cause to move us, we can support our foreign missionaries—for Christ's sake!

*Editor's note: Two missionaries referred to above have retired. Miss Helen Robken is living in Texarkana, Ark., and the Rev. George Workman in Gaithersburg, Md.*

†

#### QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The churches dare not be unengaged. If they do, then they vote for the evil against both God and people that already exists. Jesus denounced those religious persons who do all the ordinary things of religion—like tithing and worshipping while neglecting the weightier matters of the law, justice and loving mercy."—Rev. James M. Lawson, pastor, Centenary United Methodist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

### A Gift That Pays You Life Income

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Dear Sir:

Please send me information about the Charitable Remainder Trust. I understand that there is no obligation incurred and that my request is strictly confidential.

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# NEWS and NOTES

**THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY-WIDE** Thanksgiving Service for Trumann was held in the First Baptist Church of Trumann. The Rev. J. Leon Wilson of First United Methodist Church in Trumann was the speaker of the evening.

**TYRONZA UNITED METHODIST** Charge observed Retired Ministers' Sunday on Nov. 11 with the Rev. George L. McGhehey of Jonesboro as guest speaker. Mr. McGhehey spoke at Centerville at the nine o'clock service and at Tyronza at eleven o'clock. The Rev. Ray N. Edwards is pastor.

**THE YOUTH CHOIR** from First United Methodist Church in Monticello, directed by John Browning, sang at First Church, Fordyce on Nov. 25. The Rev. William D. Elliott is the minister at Monticello; the Rev. Rufus F. Sorrells is the Fordyce minister.

**THE REV. ROBERT S. BEASLEY**, retired, of Hot Springs preached at Piney Grove United Methodist Church, Arkadelphia District, on Sunday, Nov. 25, for the Rev. Charlie V. Mashburn, pastor, who was ill.

**THE REV. DAVID B. WILSON** of Nashville has been appointed to represent the alumni on the Board of Trustees of St. Paul School of Theology, Methodist, in Kansas City, Mo.

**THE COMBINED CHILDREN'S** Choirs of Central Church, Fayetteville, presented the jazz cantata for children, "100% Chance of Rain," at the family night supper held Wednesday, Nov. 28.

**DR. MARC JORDIN** of the University of Arkansas School of Pharmacy, spoke concerning "The Potency of Drugs" at the supper meeting of United Methodist Men in St. Luke Church, Little Rock, Monday, Nov. 25.

**THE PINE BLUFF DISTRICT** Youth Rally will be held in the Grand Avenue United Methodist Church in Stuttgart, on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 3:30 until 8:15. p.m. Activities planned include games, a film, group singing, a turkey dinner, worship, and a talk by George Fisk of Lakeside Church, Pine Bluff.

**MRS. JAMES NIX** of Lonoke was the guest speaker in First Church, Hot Springs, on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 2, when United Methodist Women entertained new and prospective members. Mrs. Nix is president of United Methodist Women of the Little Rock Conference. Mrs. J. R. Campbell was general chairperson for the event. Mrs. Gertrude Mann, chairperson for the recent Fall Mart Bazaar, reported gross receipts of \$3,000.

PAGE SIX

**THE ARKANSAS VALLEY** Laymen's Dinner was held in the Dardanelle United Methodist Church on Thursday, Nov. 29. Bishop Eugene M. Frank was the guest speaker.

**PARAGOULD DISTRICT** Youth Retreat was held Nov. 9-10 at Cherokee Village. The youth participated in a special youth study, "Bread and Perhaps a Little Butter," with the Rev. David Driver of Swifton as leader.

**THE REV. AND MRS. M. J. Pollard** of Atkins hosted a catfish supper Sunday evening, Nov. 18, at First United Methodist Church to celebrate the paying off of the debt on the parsonage building. Sixty-five people enjoyed the occasion.

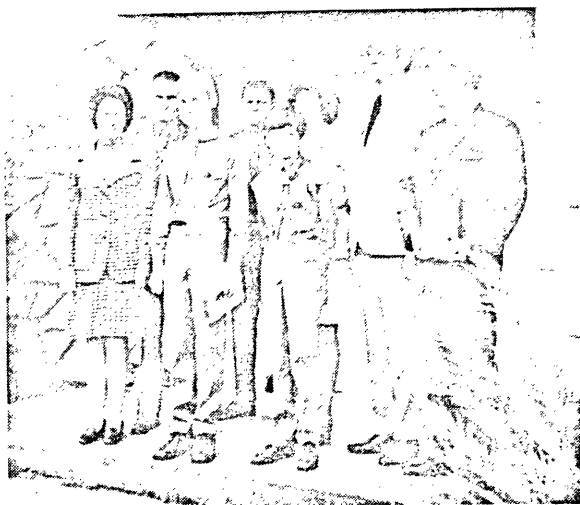
**GORDON E. McCARTY, Sr.**, businessman of Helena, was the speaker in First Church, Forrest City, Sunday morning, Nov. 25. Hiram Brandon, lay leader, was in charge of the service in the absence of Dr. Earl Hughes who was conducting a tour to Methodist points of interest in England.

**"THE GOLDEN YEARS** - Are they really?" was the subject when Mrs. Margaret Kolb, director of Central Services for the Elderly, was the speaker for the Sunday evening series, Nov. 4, in Winfield Church, Little Rock, where Dr. Ray Hozendorf is pastor.

**DR. REX MOORE** of Jacksonville, who worked with his wife as short term missionaries in Algiers, North Africa, last summer, was the speaker at the family night supper in First Church, North Little Rock, Nov. 7. The Rev. Earl Carter was host pastor.

**THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE** of First United Methodist Church, Springdale, sponsored the appearance of the Rev. Merle Allison Johnson, author and Siloam Springs minister, in Ivey Hall at Springdale on Sunday night, Nov. 25. The Rev. Clinton Atchley is the Springdale pastor.

**SPEAKING IN JONESBORO** at the Sunday at Six service in First United Methodist Church, Nov. 25, were Mr. and Mrs. Leslie McCullough, house-parents at New Life Home for Boys which is sponsored by the Arkansas Guidance Foundation in Little Rock.



AT LEFT: Sharp United Methodist Church, Batesville District, recently awarded two Boy Scouts the God and Country medals and certificates. Shown from left are: Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hix and son, Dennis, Scoutmaster Tommy Turner (in rear), Terry Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Neal Turner, his parents, and the Rev. Forrest Thomas, pastor of their church.

**PAUL CROSSMAN**, recently licensed to preach by First Church, Russellville, preached in the Dardanelle United Methodist Church on Sunday night, Nov. 18. He is now serving as pastor of the Oppelo Charge. The Rev. Frank Clemmons is the Dardanelle minister.

**THE HOPE DISTRICT** Youth Rally is scheduled to be held in DeQueen the weekend of Dec. 14 and 15. The Rev. John O. Alston will be host pastor.

**THE CONWAY DISTRICT** Youth Rally was held on Dec. 1 in Lake-wood United Methodist Church, North Little Rock. Using the theme, "We've Only Just Begun," activities included small group discussions, skits, group singing, slides of the youth assembly, recreation, and a presentation from "Godspell" by young people from First Church, Conway. Dennis Edwards is chairman of the District Youth Council.

**WOMEN OF CENTRAL** Church in Rogers report over \$3,000 raised at the recent bazaar. Mrs. Eloise Hackler was chairperson for the bazaar.

**UMYF MEMBERS OF OAKLAWN** Church, Hot Springs, met with the youth of the Bryant United Methodist Church recently, and both groups visited the Girls' Training School at Alexander.

**A THANKSGIVING SERVICE** was held at Piney Grove United Methodist Church by the Hot Springs Area Council of United Methodist Churches of which the Rev. Robert Woody is president. Dr. George W. Martin, Arkadelphia District superintendent, was the speaker. Seven churches participated in the service.

**LARRY JAMESON**, who plans to enter Perkins School of Theology, SMU, in January, preached his first sermon during morning worship services in First United Methodist Church at Malvern, Nov. 18. The Rev. Charles Ashcraft is his pastor.

**THE REV. MAURICE LANIER**, pastor of Wiggins United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, preached the Thanksgiving sermon for the Fayetteville Community Service held in Rolling Hills Baptist Church.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Below is a schedule for the Daily Bible Reading, which the Board of Evangelism invites you to use as a regular guide for use in your homes.

Dec. 9—Sunday	2 Sam. 7:8-16
Dec. 10	Psalms 2:1-12
Dec. 11	Psalms 89:3, 28-37
Dec. 12	Ezek. 34:23-31
Dec. 13	Zech. 14:1-9 Act. 1:6-7
Dec. 14	Rev. 19:11-16
Dec. 15	Rev. 20:1-6
Dec. 16—Sunday	Isaiah 7:10-16

## P.K. (Preacher's Kids) KORNER

**PATRICIA JANE KEITH**, 13-year-old daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. James Keith of Sylvan Hills United Methodist Church, North Little Rock, will undergo surgery in the Baptist Hospital in Memphis on Dec. 11. She would appreciate cards and prayers from friends for the success of this third hip operation.

**MISS CAROL BYERS** is enrolled in the Master's degree program at Scarritt College in Nashville, Tenn., working toward qualification as a Director of Christian Education. She is employed at The Upper Room in addition to her scholastic activities. Miss Byers is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. W. Leonard Byers of First Church in Marianna.

**MISS KATHY ADAMS**, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Harold O. Eggensperger of Conway, was married November 17 to Steve Meyer of Batesville. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Meyer of Alexander and is employed by General Motors Acceptance Corporation.

**DAVID McDONALD**, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Charles McDonald of Fort Smith, was married Nov. 23 to Miss Patricia Honeycutt in Hendricks Hills United Methodist Church.

**MARK ROBERT DILL** was born on November 19 to the Rev. and Mrs. John Dill of Route 2, Magnolia. Mr. Dill is the pastor of the Marysville-Silverhill Charge.

**KEVIN JOSEPH JONES**, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Harrell Jones, was dedicated in baptism at First United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff on Sunday, Nov. 11. Officiating were Dr. John W. Lindsay and Harold Hansford, ministers of the church and Dr. E. Clifton Rule, Kevin's great grandfather. Kevin is the fifth generation of his family to be associated with First Church. His great, great, great uncle, the late J. W. Harrell was at one time pastor of the church. His great-grandmother, the late Mrs. W. D. Jones, was a lifetime member. His great-grandfather, E. Clifton Rule, is a former pastor of the church. His grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Jones, are members of the church and his father was reared in the family of the church.

DECEMBER 6, 1973

The 11 ladies in foreground modeled hats, during the luncheon period at the Forrest City District meeting, depicting ways in which United Methodist Women may serve the needs of both home and foreign mission work.



## Forrest City District women hold Fall meeting in Brinkley

Mrs. Joe H. Smith of Chattanooga, Tenn. was the featured speaker for the Fall meeting of United Methodist Women of Forrest City District held at Brinkley United Methodist Church on Saturday, Nov. 10. Mrs. Smith gave as her slogan for happiness: "Trusting and believing in Christ," and related her knowledge and experience in Christ to family life and the business world.

Mrs. Wesley Freemyer, district president, opened the meeting with the reading of a poem entitled "The Morning of the District Meeting." One hundred and forty persons attended the district event. Local units responded to the roll call by presenting a poster symbolizing the work that each church is striving to accomplish during the current year.

The program included a presentation by Donna Williamson of Wheatley from the recent Cincinnati Assembly

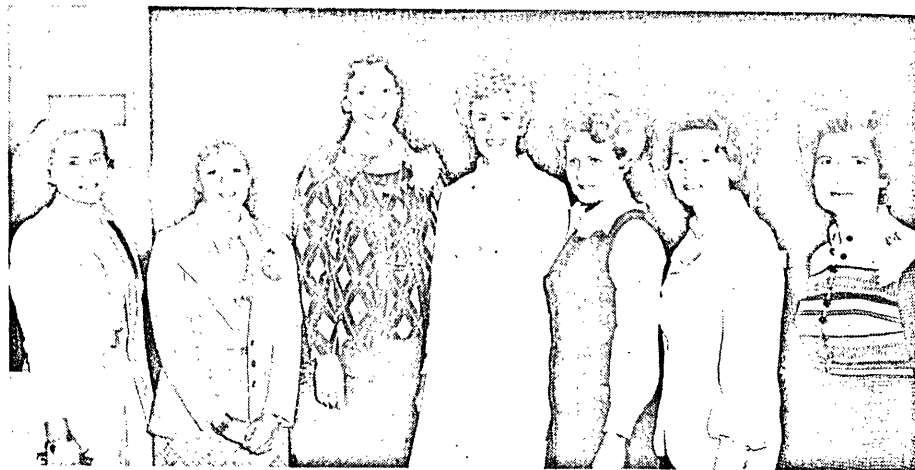
of United Methodist Women: another by the Task Group from Marvell stating why *response* magazine is a "must" for United Methodist Women: an informative "rap session" conducted by district officers; vocal renditions by Mrs. Betty Gills of Brinkley; a Pledge Service presided over by Mrs. T. B. Murray and Mrs. W. W. Brigance.

The luncheon program featured 11 women modeling original hats depicting ways of serving the needs of home and foreign mission work.

Mrs. Carl Geisler, president of United Methodist Women of Brinkley and members of that group were hostesses for the day.

The district president closed the meeting with a litany which pointed up the needs in the world which give cause for concern.

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Participants in the program for the meeting in Brinkley of Forrest City District United Methodist Women, left to right: Mrs. Carl Geisler, president of the Brinkley UMW; Donna Williamson, Mrs. Wesley Freemyer, district president, Mrs. Joe H. Smith, featured speaker; Mrs. Harry Hardwick, Mrs. Don Williams, and Mrs. T. B. Murray.

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## Harrison church observes centennial

A Centennial Celebration is in progress in First United Methodist Church, Harrison, during the months of November and December. Special centennial programs have featured the following speakers:

The Rev. Perry Rowland, pastor of Dale Street United Methodist Church, Springfield, Mo., spoke on Nov. 11. Dr. Rowland grew up in Harrison and entered the ministry from this church. He has served as superintendent of the Joplin District in the Missouri Conference.

Former pastors who have returned to speak are the Rev. William Connell, now pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Rogers, and the Rev. Clarence Wilcox, now pastor of the Booneville United Methodist Church.

The Ozark Gospel Quartet from Mountain Home conducted a service.

Miss Edith Martin, who went out from the Harrison Church as a missionary to Africa, serving there nearly 40 years, was the speaker on Dec. 2.

United Methodist Women are selling Centennial Plates, and Mrs. John Newman is writing a history of the church.

She notes that the Rev. N. E. Fair started preaching in the court house in 1873, and from his efforts grew the present First United Methodist Church. The Rev. John M. McCormack is the present pastor.

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## CHURCH WIDE SCHOOL OF MISSIONS SCHEDULED AT HIGHLAND CHURCH

Highland United Methodist Church, Little Rock, has scheduled a church-wide School of Missions involving all age levels, for each Sunday evening in January. Sessions will begin at 6 p.m. with a 45-minute class period, followed by a 30-minute period of food and fellowship, and close with the second 45-minute class period.

The text book for Youth and Adults will be "For A Time Like This," by E. H. Johnson. The Children's Division will be using "Children and Christian Missions Today" and "Six Times True," for their study.

Teachers in the Children's Division will include Miss Sandra Jernigan,

THE WOMEN'S organization of Piney Grove United Methodist Church in Arkadelphia District recently celebrated twenty-five years of service as the W.S.C.S. and made the changeover to United Methodist Women. Several charter members were present for the special meeting. Mrs. Ross Maddox was program leader for the occasion. Mrs. Joe Jinnings, vice president, presided over the session in the absence of Mrs. Freddie Fletcher, the president, who was ill. The Rev. Charles V. Mashburn is pastor.

†

Mrs. Anna Templeton and Mrs. Caroline Howard. Mrs. Mary Ann Woodworth and Mr. and Mrs. David Carter will be the leaders in the Youth Division. Class leaders in the Adult Division will be Mrs. Caley Clark, Mrs. Bettye Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Baer, and P. B. Frederick.

Mrs. Mary Ella Freibolt is chairperson of the Work Area on Missions, with Mrs. Mary Lou Rowland in charge of publicity. Mrs. Christine Huckleba will head the Attendance Committee, and Bob Hicks and the Rev. Louis Mulkey, pastor, will work together on dramatics and visual aids. Members of the Projects Committee are Mrs. Virginia Greenwood, Mrs. Doris Grubbs, Howard Clark, P. B. Frederick and Mrs. Hazel Alexander, who is also chairperson of the Task Group of the School of Missions.

A nursery attendant will be provided by the church.

## Conway District women report busy season

The elected leadership and the members of United Methodist Women in the Conway District report a busy fall season.

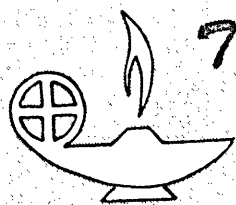
Cluster groups for learning and sharing were held on Sept. 7, 11 and 18 in Wesley Church, Conway, Dardanelle, and First Church, Jacksonville, with a total attendance of 163.

An Enrichment Weekend held at Aldersgate Methodist Camp, Sept. 22 and 23, sponsored by the North Arkansas Conference, was attended by eight members of the Conway District leadership. The district was represented by seven women and one man when the Women's Assembly was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct. 4-7.

A spiritual renewal held at Aldersgate Camp, Oct. 12 and 13, was sponsored by the Conway District. Members of the Pine Bluff and Little Rock Districts joined in the fellowship.

Open House held in the new district parsonage, occupied by Dr. and Mrs. J. Ralph Clayton, was sponsored by district leadership.

The U.M.W. Fall District Meeting was held at Rose City-Beacon United Methodist Church in North Little Rock. "A Call to the Churches" was the theme of the day. An informative and inspiring program was presented for the 86 members attending. Mrs. Ed Davis, district president, presided.



## The Sunday School Lesson

by Dr. Ethan W. Dodgen

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 16:

"Belief Or Unbelief"

**ORIENTATION:** We are studying the Gospel of John this quarter, and this is the third lesson in the first unit under the title: "THE SON OF GOD CAME TO US." The topic today—"Belief or Unbelief?"—focuses our attention on the idea the author of the Gospel emphasizes as to the importance of belief in accepting the gift of God. The main question is what does it mean to believe in Christ? We will be dealing also with the problems of unbelief and the rewards of faith.

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** John 3:16-21; 5:30-47; 12:37-50.

**MEMORY SELECTION:** "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; He who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him."—John 3:36 (RSV)

**PURPOSE:** To be able to go beyond our doubts to believe in Christ so that our faith will sustain us and lead us into new adventures in rich and full lives. Through our increasing faith to become aware of God's love and saving power for ourselves and the human family on earth.

\* \* \* \*

### INTRODUCTION

We have seen that the Gospel of John is different from the other three in that it is concerned with the meaning of what Jesus said and did. That its purpose is to influence the reader to believe in Jesus as the Son of God. As a result of that belief to have life in his name. If the Gospel achieves its purpose in our lives as we read and study it we will have a new experience of Christ because our faith has been deepened.

The Gospel of John is rich in ideas. It is profound in its Christian teachings. It has the power to give us new life as its insights reveal God's mighty works through his Son. What does it mean to believe? What are the consequences of unbelief? What rewards?

### A CRISIS IN CONFIDENCE

The simple faith of childhood is often shaken as the individual matures. Fantasies and fairies become unreal to the youth and sometimes when confidence is shaken all meaning and purpose flees in a mighty wave of doubt.

The late President Lyndon B. Johnson said that one of the reasons he decided not to run for reelection was that the nation was torn by division and distrust. If a new leader could inspire confidence it gave promise of uniting the people again. It only signalled a deepening crisis of confidence in our land. In recent weeks the nation has been shaken because of uncertainty about its government. People's belief in the moral integrity of leaders has been shaken. We speak of the credibility of governmental policies and pronouncements. No one needs to describe for us the magnitude of this political tragedy. A nation is built on confidence and trust, we are told. Belief in its chosen leaders, belief in its ideals, and belief in its destiny make for strength and permanence in a country.

The Christian sees as a greater tragedy the loss of belief in the God of Jesus. Doubt, itself, may be a temporary illness that leads to a healthier faith. But unbelief shuts out the glory of life and destroys the soul of man.

### THE CHOICE BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARKNESS

"God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil" (John 3:17-19—RSV).

Wilbert F. Howard in *The Interpreter's Bible* (V. 8, pp. 445-6), describes the Gospel of John as the drama of the conflict between light and darkness. Here the writer insists that those who refuse to believe in Jesus have chosen darkness rather than light. They prefer the dark because their deeds are evil.

This view takes no account of honest doubt. There are those whose honest doubts arise from a sense of intellectual honesty. They would like to believe but their understanding of reality makes it impossible for them to do so. "There is more faith in honest doubt than half your creeds," says the poet Tennyson. As suggested above, honest doubt that finds an answer to honest questions is the basis for a stronger faith.

We have seen those who have had such tragedy and misfortune that they cannot understand and see no meaning or purpose in their suffering. Others have been disillusioned by the impractical and hypocritical character of the church and refuse to believe when to them actions do not seem to square with teachings.

As a young minister I knew a woman who suffered endlessly from crippling arthritis. When I saw her from time to time I marvelled at her cheerful smile and radiance in conversation. Once I asked her what the pain was like. She described it as soreness or stiffness such as we experience after strenuous and unaccustomed physical exercise — yet more intense. I did not understand how she could smile and enjoy company with that kind of pain. The only relief I knew from such pain was complaining. Somehow it relieved me to fuss and fume at those about me until the soreness had passed. She had chosen to believe. She was not going to be cheated out of life. She chose the light instead of darkness, self-pity, and bitterness. Since that experience in real life I have decided that physical pain and human tragedy need not bring doubt if we choose to believe.

But it is not about this kind of doubt that John speaks. It is the choice of disobedience because of evil. This is the love of God and the judgment of God we bring on ourselves by our choice.

This passage comes at the close of a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. This wise man is puzzled about the idea Jesus gives him in answer to his question that man must be born of God. But Nicodemus fades out of the picture. The author is pondering the mystery of how "law and judgment have been superseded by gospel and forgiveness" (INT. BIBLE, V. 8, p. 509). It is not a record of the advice of Jesus to one man, who may have a special need. It is for all who would believe in Jesus as the Son of God, who reveals the love and forgiveness of The Heavenly Father.

### BELIEF IN SPITE OF WHAT MEN SAY

Many Jewish leaders believed in Jesus; but because of the Pharisees they did not talk about it openly, so as not to be put out of the synagogue.

They loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God" (John 12:42-43).

Part of John's problem, as well as the Christians of his day, was to explain to gentiles why the Jews themselves did not all believe. Of course, many of them did believe, and we learn a few of the leaders secretly believed. For fear of being put out of the synagogue they were afraid to speak openly about it. This, to the writer of this Gospel is not to believe in Jesus. Belief must be demonstrated in deeds that all men can see.

Nicodemus sought out Jesus secretly, and later tried to persuade those plotting against Jesus that he should have a fair hearing. But he did not press the matter when his friends turned on him. Belief is more than intellectual curiosity or interest. Certainly not if it means a cross or death for what you believe.

### BELIEVING THE WITNESS

We have a safeguard in our trials where a witness appears on the stand. If his witness is made under oath he is liable for punishment if he gives a false testimony. It is assumed he is likely to be more truthful under oath with the threat of punishment than if he can be untruthful but has not sworn to tell the truth. In spite of this, we still have witnesses who are convicted of perjury under oath. We cannot always be sure about witnesses.

The Jews had a custom that a witness could not bear testimony to himself. Two or more witnesses who agreed were required. John says that Jesus has ample witnesses. God bears witness to him. The believer recognizes this witness of God. The unbeliever may reject it because he does not believe. John the Baptist, also witnesses to Christ. The marvelous deeds of Christ testified to God's approval and help. The Scriptures describe and promise just such a one. Jesus fulfills these prophecies. John rests his case on these four witnesses.

These may seem a little obscure to us. We may prefer propositions illustrated in more modern terms. The language and thought forms may be different, but it is still a matter of choice. The evidence is before us in the New Testament, the Christian Church, and the lives of men and women we know, if we choose to believe.

For those who choose to believe in Jesus today there is a great challenge in a day of skepticism and confusion. There is limitless opportunity to bring the spirit of Christ to bear against the problems of peace, of race, of suffering through pain or poverty, of secularism or materialism, and compassion in a world of fierce competition.

### PREPARATION FOR NEXT SUNDAY

"The Word Dwelt Among Us," is the topic for our Christmas Sunday lesson. A characteristic of Christmas is the sense of wonder. The headline of an article published in the *Arkansas Gazette*, January 24, 1970, by George W. Cornell read: "There is no Wonder Left and Man Faces Madness, Says a California Theologian." I used to sit almost breathless before the television set to watch the lift-off of a space ship. Now it has become commonplace and is hardly worth the time to watch the coverage of these flights into outer space.

"Wonder," says Harold R. Weaver, "is the window that looks out on heaven. Wonder is the door that leads to everlasting life. Wonder is the gateway to God." (International Lesson Annual, 1973-74, p. 136) May we be prepared for the wondrous celebration of the Coming of Christ.

DECEMBER 6, 1973

## 'Gasless' Sundays may be blessing in disguise

NEW YORK (RNS) — The "gasless" Sundays prescribed in President Nixon's message on the energy crisis may prove to be a blessing in disguise, the president of the National Council of Churches has suggested.

In a statement commenting on the President's message to the nation, the Rev. W. Sterling Cary commented that some effects of the ban on Sunday sales of gasoline may include a rediscovery of the local church and of one's neighbors on the part of some persons.

The United Church of Christ clergyman also called for further steps to meet the energy crisis, including dismantlement of the "highway lobby," and government initiatives in seeking alternatives to existing energy sources.

Full text of Mr. Cary's statement follows:

"We are aware, as are all Americans, of the gravity of the worldwide energy crisis. There have been fears expressed by some about the effect of gasless Sundays on church attendance.

"While commending the President on the steps he has taken, we would support further actions such as the dismantlement of the gigantic highway lobby, which funnels billions of tax dollars yearly into oil, auto, and highway construction industries, starving the public of adequate mass transportation.

"We would endorse government initiatives in seeking creative and safe alternatives to current energy sources, such as solar energy rather than the gravely dangerous atomic energy.

"We wonder whether the oil and coal industries are reaping high profits without being asked to sacrifice.

"For several years, the church has been aware of the coming ecological crisis and cautioning, where possible, a return to individual and corporate simplicity and economy.

"Rather than fearing the 'gasless Sunday,' we wonder whether it might be a blessing in disguise. Lacking the opportunity for vacation weekends, people may find again their local church, get to know their neighbors, and have time to search again for the values which once made this nation one of hope and trust."

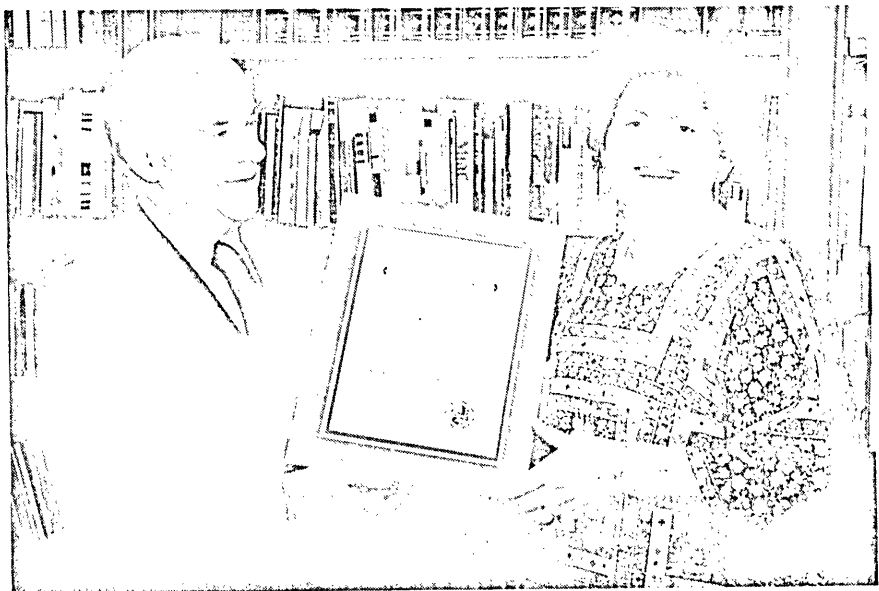
### ENERGY CRISIS

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (RNS) — Instead of lighting a candle, you may have to curse the darkness. Along with shortages of fuel oil and gasoline, there's a shortage of candles, according to a major St. Louis candle manufacturer.

Ed Kaletta, of Kaletta Candle Co. here, said paraffin, a major ingredient in most candles, is a hydrocarbon by-product of oil refining. And the shortage of crude oil that is turning down thermostats across the country is also cutting the output of paraffin, he said.

The Kaletta firm, which supplies candles to churches and institutions in a 10-state area of the Midwest, is also having trouble with the natural product — beeswax. "It's not the bees' fault . . . they're God's creatures," Kaletta said. "I'm convinced it's the cost of freight that's raised the domestic prices."

Much beeswax used in the U.S. comes from South America, Algeria and the North African coast, he said.



Mrs. June Lewis Shore, Jeffersontown, Ky., receives the 1973 Abingdon Book Award from Senior Book Editor Emory S. Bucke. The presentation of the \$5,000 award for her children's book "What's The Matter With Wakefield?" was made during the opening sessions of the semi-annual meeting of the 45-member Board of Publication, governing body of the United Methodist Publishing House. The book, to be published in April, was selected from hundreds of manuscripts submitted as the "book of fiction for ages nine through 12 which best depicts the story of a boy or girl in a family with a working mother who successfully manages her household as well as a career outside the home."

## Pornography damaging quality of life, judge charges

NEW YORK (RNS)—A New York City Criminal Court judge told a symposium on obscenity at Fordham University that unrestrained depiction of explicit sex is seriously damaging the quality and tone of our society.

Pornography from film and television screens, newspapers and magazines constitutes an impingement on privacy and leaves no choice to the individual to view it or not to view it, declared Judge Joel J. Tyler, who banned the showing of "Deep Throat" here earlier this year.

The judge, keynote speaker at the symposium, pictured this as a time rampant "with drugs offering psychedelic round-trips through Hell, monstrosities in speech, glorified violence, genitalia and orgy."

Candor and honesty in developing an understanding and appreciation of sex is humanly essential, Judge Tyler said. However, he pointed out that the corrupt exploitation of sex must be recognized as selfish, undisciplined self-indulgence which can only lead to the decline of civilization.

At a panel discussion following the judge's remarks, Leonard F. Manning, Cameron Professor of Law at Fordham's School of Law, held that censorship is not only legitimate but should be demanded in the area of obscenity.

Since neither hard nor soft core pornography is essential to the communication of intelligent ideas, "it deserves no constitutional protection," according to Dr. Manning.

The Fordham professor maintained that the guarantee under the First Amendment does not mean "absolute" freedom. He called for a reevaluation of the meaning of freedom of the press so that "the press is made accountable

to the individual whom it may injure and not merely to the stockholders or publishers who control the press."

"When the press indulges in trial by newspaper and asks for itself the right to print with impunity falsehoods which damage an individual's character, and claims, in addition, the right not to reveal its sources, it asks too much," Dr. Manning asserted.

Among opponents of censorship at the symposium were Leonard Harris, CBS Arts Editor and Dr. John M. Phelan, chairman of Fordham's Communications Department.

Arguing that pornography is no longer the target of censorship that it used to be, Dr. Phelan said: "What people are really afraid of now is crime, and this is translated into race and the ghetto. Consequently, crime is the most highly censored area in our society today. . . ."

Mr. Harris argued that no proof exists that pornography causes anti-social acts. "Until it is proved that there is no other way of discouraging hard core pornography, I see censorship as more dangerous than anything it might protect us against," he said.

### QUOTABLE QUOTE

"We hear a lot of talk about people losing faith in their church. Baloney! In spite of inflation, devaluation, Watergate and technological gadgetry, the people of the church are proving every second, minute, hour, day, week, month and year that they believe in the Church of Jesus Christ. They keep right on putting their money where their gospel is!"—Rev. Joe W. Walker, director of the Advance, United Methodist Church.

## TWO NEW BOOKS FROM THE UPPER ROOM



### MARK THE ROAD

by Wilson O. Weldon

The Editor of The Upper Room describes in pointed phrases the symbols, conditions, and directions of life's journeys. Chapters include "In The Darkness," "Road of Disappointment," and "A Glow On The Go." Hardback. 1.50 each; 10 or more, \$1.30 each.

### DANCING AT MY FUNERAL

by Maxie Dunnam

The new Prayer Life Director of The Upper Room tells in a fresh, exciting manner about his discoveries in living joyously. "Dancing when I have the courage to resist forces that would bury me — when I bury some part of me that doesn't deserve to live." 1.50 each; 10 or more, \$1.30 each.



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## The Upper Room

1908 Grand Ave.

Nashville, Tenn. 37203

## Preacher named for '75 Protestant Hour series

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UMC) — The Rev. Roger Bourland, pastor of First United Methodist Church, Omaha, Nebr., has been chosen to be the preacher for the 1975 United Methodist Series of The Protestant Hour radio program.

The selection was made here Nov. 13-14 at a meeting of the Joint Communications Committee composed of representatives from the South Central and Southeastern Jurisdictions and the Public Media Division of United Methodist Communications.

The 25-year-old radio production group also announced their first attempt in television: local church leadership training for TV specials.

Dr. Bourland, the first Midwesterner to speak on the United Methodist Series of The Protestant Hour, will preach for the Sept. 28, 1975-January 3, 1976 series on 543 radio stations in the United States. Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson, Richmond, Va., is to be the preacher for the Aug. 4-Nov. 10, 1974 United Methodist Series.

Responding to a year-long study by a committee considering ways to use television to "foster the ministry of the church," a Consultation on TV Specials for Local Church Leaders was scheduled for Dallas, Tex., in April, 1974. The Rev. Robert L. Robertson, Dallas, director of the event, said sustained television programming is only a dream for local churches but that nearly 25 percent have the talent, money and TV ability to produce seasonal specials.

## Upper Room Disciplines made available

Dr. Wilson O. Weldon, editor of *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide has announced that the first copies of *The Upper Room Disciplines* for 1974 have been delivered from the printer and are now available for distribution, and that the current price for the past few years will still be in effect, despite increased costs in production.

This annual publication of in-depth meditations has found increased acceptance and use by a growing number of ministers, teachers, and other church leaders, seeking to strengthen their devotional life.

Written by invited authors from many professions and from varied denominations the *Upper Room Disciplines* has been published continuously since 1960 and this pocket size book now sells more than 25,000 each year. Each writer writes on one topic for an entire week; however, the meditations are dated for daily use for the entire year. Copies are available from The Upper Room, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, 37203 at \$1.50 each; 10 or more only \$1.30 each.

DECEMBER 6, 1973

## Church camping, outdoor ministries studied by leaders

CINCINNATI, Ohio (UMC)—The church's outdoor ministries in a society that is increasingly influenced by leisure patterns and environmental concerns was the major focus of a recent four-day symposium here attended by 114 church executives and camping leaders from 19 denominations.

Twenty-five United Methodists caucused during the symposium, outlined "dreams and strategies" for 1980, and appointed a task force to develop a paper on the general topic of "An Understanding of the Theology of Outdoor and Leisure Ministries." The Rev. Kenneth Horn, Statesville, N.C., was named to head the task force which was asked to consider the theological implications for the church including the establishment of priorities at the general church level.

Goals for 1980 for United Methodists include the sensitization of the entire church to a broader concept of outdoor educational ministries, leisure, and church camping.

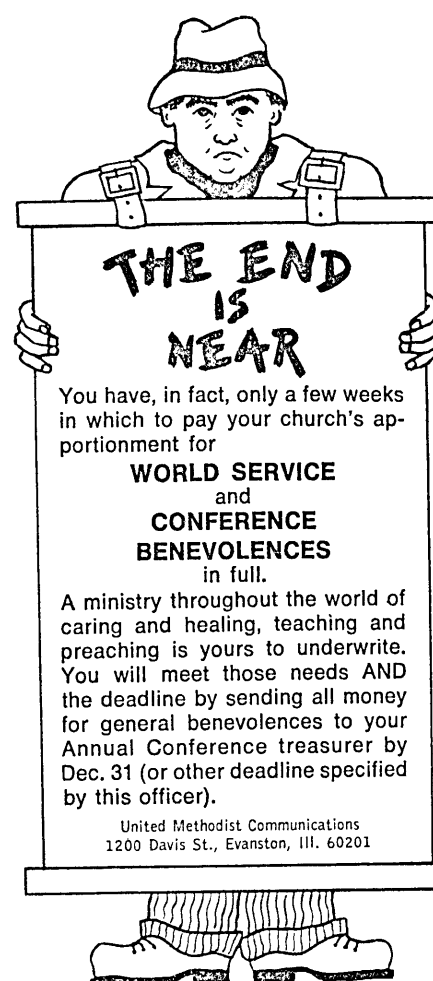
The ability to mobilize and train leadership for ministry and mission in a society that is increasingly influenced

by leisure patterns and environmental concerns was also stated as a goal. The caucus noted the increasing number of 12-month public school sessions and suggested that resident church camp sites might program experiences 12 months during the year.

The United Methodist symposium participants also expressed a desire that seminarians be trained in outdoor educational ministries and the leisure ethic.

More than 120 United Methodist camp leaders are expected to attend a denominational conference Feb. 18 and 19 prior to the ACA Convention in Atlanta, Feb. 20. The denominational meeting, open to all persons interested in the area of church camping, leisure, and education outdoors, will be held at the State FFA-FHA camp in Covington, Ga.

Mr. Moody said the Cincinnati symposium will have a strong influence on what is done both at the denominational conference and the ACA convention.



## Similarities, dissimilarities in United Methodist and Roman Catholic bishops cited

by Winston H. Taylor, Director  
United Methodist Communications

WASHINGTON, D.C. (UMC) — Seven months after the United Methodist Council of Bishops met, you would not have mistaken the Nov. 12-16 session in the same hotel rooms here for the same people, but many of the topics and much of the discussion bore a close resemblance.

This was the annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, in the Statler-Hilton Hotel.

Some of the similarities:

- Both groups comprise all of the U.S. bishops of the churches, and both are totally male.

- Most of the Catholic sessions are now open to press and observers, after a cautious beginning 1½ years ago, while the United Methodists' had their initial open session last spring, on this date.

- In their Washington meetings, both groups were visited by pickets or pamphleteers, both challenging the bishops to uphold justice and "social principles." However, in the current Catholic situation, the disturbing group were arrested by police, over the bishops' objections.

The greatest dissimilarities between the groups are probably in the size (some 250 Catholic, 80 United Methodist), the inclusion of overseas UM bishops and the legislative powers of the Catholic prelates, giving them a more extensive agenda.

The United Methodist Council met in Nashville, Tenn., to urge a "peni-

tent Thanksgiving," to express concern for the "low state of the nation's morality" in its warring, political corruption and obscenity; and to discuss further involvement in a hospital labor-bargaining dispute.

The Catholic involvement with labor came in a unanimous resolution of support for agricultural workers to organize and of support for the boycott of table grapes and head lettuce.

Watergate was not the subject of Catholic action, though Cardinal Krol, the conference president, urged the application of high moral principles in "resolution of the crisis which grips our nation."

Last spring the UM bishops took a full day for education on and discussion of world peace and development, issues which were high also on the Catholic agenda.

Other topics which were before the Catholic bishops, as they are frequently before United Methodist agencies, included evangelism, world relief efforts, the Middle East fighting, the future of church-related higher education, communication, ecumenical affairs, status of women in the church, prison reform and welfare. A welfare rights group occupied the Catholic welfare offices here briefly until they could discuss issues with high officials.

Population and school aid issues also were on the agenda, but with considerably different outcomes than in UM meetings. The Catholic prelates reiter-

ated their strong objections to recent Supreme Court decisions overturning some legal limitations on abortion and barring government aid to parochial schools. United Methodist General Conference and some program boards have acted to support such decisions.

## New facility at Ewha University Hospital opens

SEOUL (RNS) — A new \$1.25 million building was recently opened here at Ewha University Hospital and Medical Institute. The university is related to the Korean Methodist Church and the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries in New York.

Ewha is one of the major medical facilities in South Korea. The new building contains operating rooms, a delivery room, laboratories, pharmacy and examination space.

Bishop Chang Duk Yun, head of the Korean Methodist Church, and Dr. Okgill Kim, president of Ewha University, presided at the dedication. The Ewha complex includes a College of Medicine, a College of Nursing and East Gate Hospital.

PAGE TEN

## MINOR EMMETT PEACE

Minor Emmett Peace, 79, a long-time business and civic leader, of Magnolia, died Nov. 7, 1973, after a short illness. Mr. Peace, with his family, moved to Magnolia in 1923, where he established many business enterprises, including the M. E. Peace Lumber Company and Builders Supplies, the Peace Motel, and the Peace Shopping Center in 1951. He also served on the Arkansas Highway Commission and was a member of the Advisory Board of Scott and White Hospital, Temple, Texas, at the time of his death.

Mr. Peace will be remembered primarily for his philanthropic and religious activities. He and Mrs. Peace were active in every phase of the work of the First United Methodist Church here for the past fifty years and never missed a copy of the Arkansas Methodist during that time. He was active in the establishment of the Wesley Foundation at Southern State College and the erection of its present building.

In 1954, Mr. and Mrs. Peace established the Peace Lectureship, which is held annually at the First United Methodist Church, here, which will continue under a Trust established for that purpose. Following a serious heart illness in 1959 he has supported a missionary heart specialist in Seoul, Korea and has aided many ministerial students.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ima Graves Peace; a daughter, Hazel, and her husband, Wilborn Smith; two grandchildren, Ella Lou and Emmett Peace Smith, all of Magnolia.

—Leland Clegg

†

### Quotable Quotes

"Christian freedom involves commitment. Jesus used the example of the yoke. You don't put a yoke on an animal as a burden. The yoke is the means by which the energy of the animal connects with the load that needs to be moved. Commitment in the community, to other people for the sake of Christ, is the yoke which connects the power of our individual experiences of salvation and freedom to the load that needs to be moved, that is, to do God's work of justice, compassion and love in the world."—Peggy Billings, assistant general secretary, Women's Division, United Methodist Church, to 1973 Assembly of United Methodist Women.

†

"There is only one missionary attitude and action which is appropriate to facing the global realities of today, which like dumb idols are so irresponsible and inhuman. It is love. 'Many gifts, one Spirit' — yes. But let us not forget, as Paul reminds us, that however diverse our gifts may be, the one gift we must all have if the others are not to become sterile and idolatrous is the gift of love."—Dr. Philip A. Potter, general secretary, World Council of Churches, to 1973 Assembly of United Methodist Women.

†

For  
GOLDS  
take 666

DECEMBER 6, 1973



In observance of "Old Fashioned Day" at Shiloh United Methodist Church, Paragould, many members dressed in costumes of by-gone days. Some of the members who participated in the Nov. 18 event were (left to right, standing): Rev. Joe Kennedy, pastor; Joe Simpson, Annie Edrington,

Mary Chunn, Eugenie Walker, Joey Kennedy, Elizabeth Schwamb, Leland Keasler, Mrs. Joe Kennedy and Casey Kennedy; (kneeling) the Rev. Ben Jordan, district superintendent; Harlan Schwamb, Hubert Walker and Cecil Speer.

## THE REV. MIMS THORNBURGH WORKMAN

The Rev. Mims Thornburgh Workman, former member of the Little Rock Annual Conference, died Friday, Nov. 30, at Florissant, Mo. He served as pastor of Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock during the years 1926 and 1927 and served the churches at Dermott, Junction City, Bearden, Gurdon and England. He had also served a number of churches in Missouri. He retired in 1956. He was 78.

Mr. Workman was a native of Conway, the son of the Rev. and Mrs. James Mims and Margaret Elizabeth Thornburgh Workman. He was a 1916 graduate of Henderson-Brown College, attended Hendrix College and was a graduate of Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., and Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Tex. He taught Bible at S.M.U., Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was the author of a large number of poems and prose works, many published in curriculum materials of The United Methodist Church. His poems appeared regularly for some years in The Church School magazine.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Lucille Thomas Workman, a son, Richard Workman of Florissant; two brothers, the Rev. James W. Workman of Conway and the Rev. George B. Workman of Gaithersburg, Md., and three sisters, Mrs. Herman R. Hampton of Houston, Tex., Miss Elizabeth Workman and Mrs. Lucibell Markham, both of Conway; and a grandson.

Funeral and burial was Tuesday, Dec. 4, at Florissant. The family is at 1455 Loveland Drive, Florissant, Mo.

## Poetry Panorama

by barbara mulkey

*From an anonymous source comes the admonition . . . "he who ceases to grow becomes smaller; he who leaves off, gives up; the stationary condition is the beginning of the end." And from Proverbs (4:18), the antithesis . . . "But the path of the just is as a shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."*

### LIFE

I'll hold this day in my hand  
And sift it between fingers  
That grow tense with longing.  
For this day will never come again,  
And tomorrow might never  
reach fulfillment.  
Today is today,  
but tomorrow is the future,  
And I am not wise enough  
to know what comes after.  
So I'll sift today lovingly  
through my fingers,  
Tasting every minute,  
with a singing in my soul.

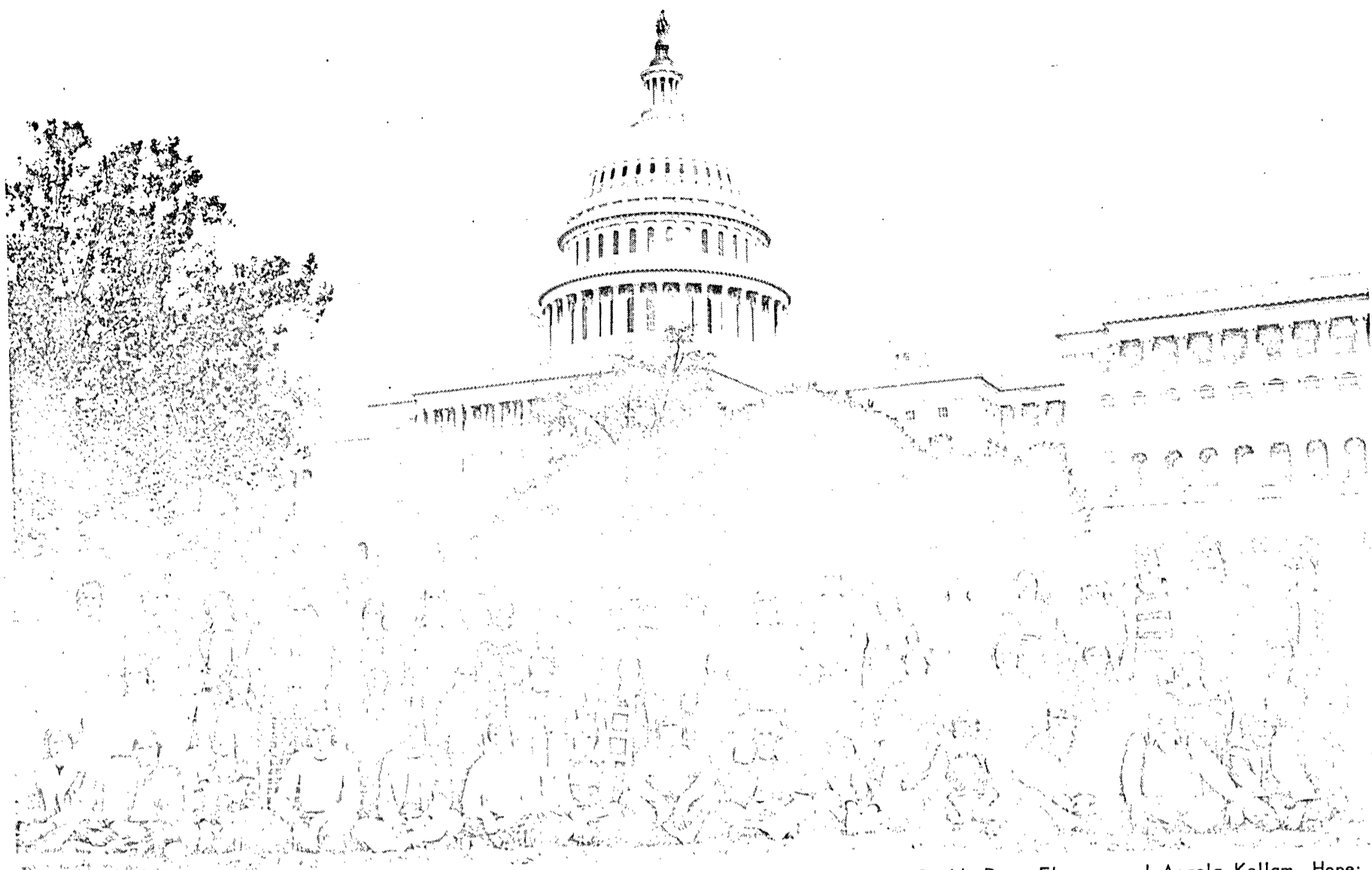
—by Betty Heidelberger

### DEATH

Death  
Let me not tremble at its sting  
But soar aloft on angel's wing  
At peace to join the heavenly horde  
For death  
Is but to rest  
To those who love the Lord.

Death  
Pray let my heart not fear  
But hark to angels hovering near  
Then let my feet toward Heaven tread  
For death  
Is but the door  
To eternal life with God.

—by Imogene Lewis Harding



Youth and sponsors from the Little Rock Conference shown during Nov. 17-25 Washington/New York tour sponsored by the conference Council on Ministries. (FROM LEFT) BACK ROW: Bob Sewell, El Dorado; Steve Buford, Stephens; Mark Vinson, El Dorado; Leanne Hartzler, Little Rock; Paula Anderson, Hope; Sherri Jacobs, McGehee; Janet Etheridge, the Rev. David M. Hankins, Jr. (tour guide), Mrs. Hazel Hankins, Mary Katherine Gould, all of Little Rock; Kaye Douglass, Texarkana; Paul Hankins, Lewisville; Jan Moore, Benton; Arlene Giles, Monticello; Sheila Jacks, Stephens; Judy Watson, Mt. Holly; Craig Ruston and Todd Sisk, Parkin; Randy Whitley, Benton. MIDDLE ROW: Theresa Mallard

and Bonita Spurlock, Gould; Dana Flowers and Angela Kellam, Hope; Teresa Bumgardner, Little Rock; Barbara Moore, Benton; Jana Calloway, El Dorado; Jenene Watson, Mt. Holly; Nancy Holdren, Monticello; Shelley Skinner, McGehee; Ann Calhoun and Libba Johnson, Monticello; Allyce Rice, Little Rock. FRONT ROW, seated: Bruce Samson, Monticello; Johnny Brenner, Parkin; Sid Simons, Little Rock; Phillip Scott and Robert Jackson, Monticello; Jim Tom Alford, Ralph Nutt and Jimmy Cargill, Lewisville; Frank Myhand, Little Rock; Don Dreher, Murfreesboro; Rodney Hardin, Grady; Tim Calhoun, Little Rock; Andy Hodges, Warren; Bruce Harvey, Grady.

## Our Trip To New York

See America First. This land is your land. Leave the driving to us. Who's the leader of the group? Is everybody happy? H-A-P-P-Y!!

From Texarkana to Parkin came forty-one youth, five counselors, and a bus driver — forty-seven strangers — who traveled 2,700 miles to spend Thanksgiving in New York, transformed into the best of friends.

Our first day set the pace with lunch at the Golden Arches (McDonald's) and one of many stops at Stuckey's before spending the night at Knoxville, Tennessee. It was on to Washington, D.C., and a walking tour of that city — Ford's Theater and the

Departmental offices. The next day we couldn't believe we did the whole thing — Bureau of Printing and Engraving, all the monuments — Jefferson, Lincoln, and Washington, the National Cathedral and chapels decorated with the harvest theme, Arlington Cemetery and the changing of the guard, and Mt. Vernon.

That day was matched only by the following, worthy of any American history class — the Capitol with Senate in session, the White House with every third light bulb dimmed, an extended talk with Senator McClellan on present-day crises, the Methodist Building, a glimpse of Sam Ervin, the

Smithsonian, and the Wax Museum.

Our first glimpse of New York appeared as if on a postcard, colored lights against a nighttime sky, tankers in the harbor, planes overhead, and a 12-lane freeway. Besides the Empire State Building, Times Square, Central Park, Chinatown, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and the United Nations, we also walked up the Statue of Liberty, saw the Nativity Presentation, Robin Hood, and the Rockettes at Radio City, ate a "malicious" Italian dinner, and guffawed at "Grease" — but not all in one day! Although the schedule would have tired Joe Namath, we all felt as if every day was

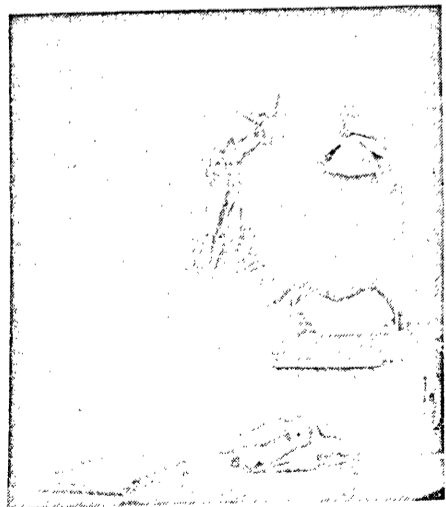
Christmas, wide-eyed and awed, running the course with patience.

The last lap, nothing of a denouement, included Natural Bridge, the Blue Ridge Mountains, Roy Acuff and the Grand Old Opry, West End United Methodist Church, the Upper Room Museum, and parting is such sweet sorrow. Sunday evening had arrived; don't say school to a young person!

With gratitude to the Little Rock Conference.

—Mary Katherine Gould  
Secretary, Little Rock  
Conference Council on Ministries

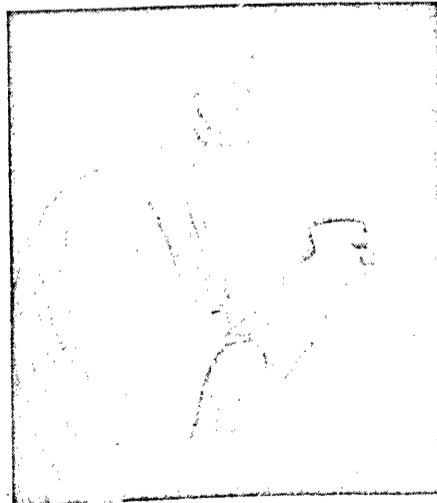
## Bible scholar as Corinthians Study Class saw him



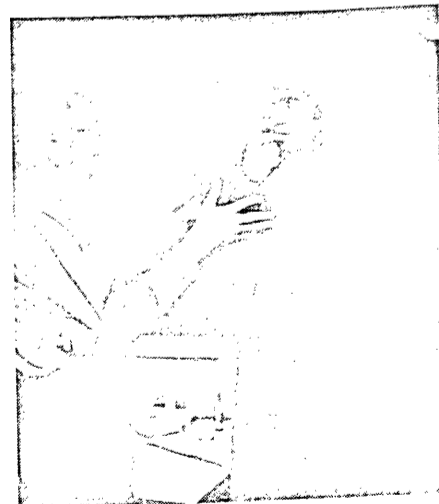
Dr. Lindsey P. Pherigo, professor of New Testament and Early Church History at St. Paul School of Theology, Methodist in Kansas



City, recently (for the fourth year) led the churchwide Bible Study at First Church, Jonesboro. The photos show Dr. Pherigo in char-



acteristic poses as captured by cameraman. This year's study, held Nov. 16-18 focused on I and II Corinthians. Shown with Dr.



Pherigo at right is Youth Director, Clyde Knight. The Rev. Worth Gibson is pastor.