

Participating in a Consultation on Religion and Race for the Arkansas Area Nov. 30, Dec. 1 were (from left) the Rev. Harry Bass; Dr. Woodie White, executive secretary of the churches general Commission and the Rev. Isabel Gomez of the General Board staff, who led the Consultation; Mrs. C. G. Washington; Dr. Myers Curtis; Dr. Charles McDonald and Mr. Reginald Moore.

At area consultation . . .

## Commissions examine 'racism,' map strategies

By  
Mrs. E. T. Davenport  
Secretary, Little Rock Conference  
Commission on Religion and Race

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A Consultation on Religion and Race, led by Dr. Woody White and the Rev. Isabel Gomez of United Methodism's national Commission on Religion and Race, was held Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at the Methodist Headquarters Building in Little Rock.

Members and designated consultants of the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conference Commissions on Religion and Race attended. The purpose of the Consultation was to examine the nature and meaning of white racism and its attitudinal, behavioral and institutional forms and to examine the new ethnic response to white racism. Another purpose was to develop the strategies and tasks necessary to in-

volve a larger segment of the conferences in efforts to deal with racism.

### A GREATER OPPORTUNITY

In discussing the church and racism Dr. White stated "The United Methodist Church has a greater opportunity than other churches to minister to ethnic minorities because they are already present as members of our church. There are one-half million black United Methodists, the largest membership being in the South Carolina Conference. In addition to black membership, the South Central Jurisdiction has the Rio Grande Conference for Spanish-speaking members and the Oklahoma Indian Mission Conference for American Indians. The Western Jurisdiction has a large number of Asian-Americans among their conferences."

In exploring "the church and racism" Dr. White traced three areas:

where were we; where are we; and where are we going? He raised six issues which need to be faced: one, open itineracy and the recruitment of black ministerial candidates; two, racially transitional communities; three, the meaning of ethnic pluralism in an integrated church; four, the effect of integration on ministry to ethnic communities (Will merger diminish the effectiveness of blacks and decrease participation on Conference and District levels of both lay members and ministers?); five, the local church has still been generally untouched in terms of merger. The closer you come to the local church, the more difficult things become in the area of race; six, the inclusiveness of merger. Where there is such a small number of ethnic minorities you have to be more sensitive rather than less sensitive.

### CONFERENCE GROUPS LIST MAJOR CONCERNS

The groups divided by conferences on Saturday morning to organize and determine the major concerns of each Conference. The North Arkansas Conference listed eight major concerns: one, the open church; two, the fears and misunderstandings of ministers; three, communications (black and white); four, the transitional church; five, open itineracy; six, recruitment of black leadership; seven, the lack of black youth participation; and eight, board and agency participation.

The Little Rock Conference listed seven major concerns and goals: one, reexamination of merger; two, complete publication of review committee evaluation; three, move to implement

## Malvern First to rebuild

A decision to rebuild the present sanctuary and three-story educational building at their present location was made by Malvern's First Church at a Church Conference Dec. 2.

Included in the new building site will be the grounds occupied by the old Post Office building adjoining the present church property. This site was purchased by the church in 1967.

The church's present sanctuary was completed in 1910. The first sermon was preached there on June 17 of that year. The educational building was completed in 1923. The fellowship hall, which will be completely remodeled, was built in 1949. The children's building, constructed in 1961, will remain as it is.

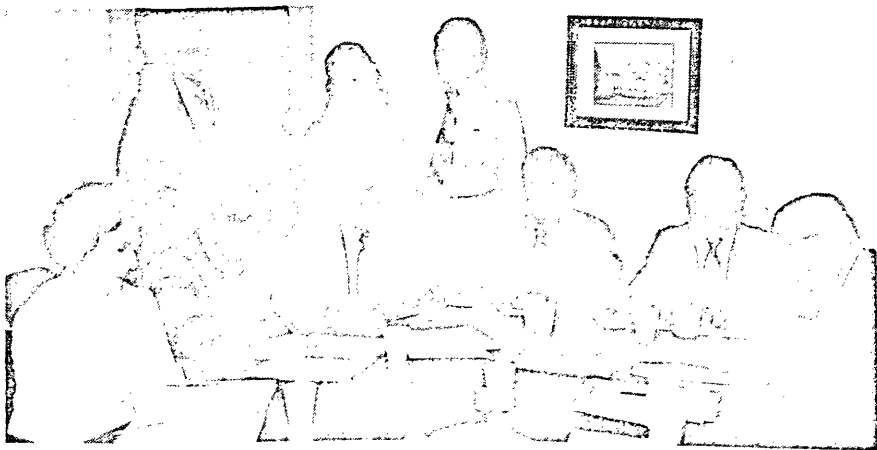
The architectural firm for the project is Design 3 of Little Rock, Ed Wimberly, Don Renshaw and Jim Daily, architects.

The Rev. Charles G. Ashcraft is the pastor.

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the recommendations of the evaluation and then hold District consultations and conversations; four, evaluate the results of the report to the 1973 Annual Conference session; five, recruitment and adequate pay of ministers; six, concern that there be a black District superintendent in the Conference; and seven, evangelism (complete inclusiveness to deepen and widen the concept of evangelism).

Please turn to page 2



The North Arkansas Conference Committee on Structure met Dec. 7 to organize and begin preliminary work. Attending were (from left, standing): the Rev. John B. Hays, Lakewood, North Little Rock; Mrs. Nadine Hardin, Fort Smith, both consultants from the Committee on Research and Planning; and the Rev. Waymon Hollis, Hendricks Hills, Fort Smith. Seated: Mrs. Pat Freemyer, Helena, vice chairperson; the Rev. Vernon Paysinger, Prairie Grove-Farmington; the Rev. Wayne Jarvis, Rector, secretary; Dr. J. Ralph Hillis, Jonesboro District; the Rev. W. M. Womack, Heber Springs; Dr. Myers B. Curtis, Council on Ministries; the Rev. Charles E. Ramsay, Russellville First Church, elected chairman. Among tasks of the Committee are examination of present Conference structures and presentation to the Annual Conference of proposals relating to these.

*Something New in '74*

coming to the

ARKANSAS METHODIST

A NEW SIZE

A NEW LOOK

Trial period beginning with  
the issue of January 3



Ray Tribble (standing), executive director of Aldersgate Camp, reports at the Dec. 6 meeting of the camp's Board of Directors. Others are (from left) Susan Muha, program coordinator; Jo Arnold (behind Mr. Tribble), vice-president; Buddy Arnold; Betty Deaton; Claude Deaton; Dr. James B. Argue; Dorothy Packard; Curtis Brown and Jim Vines. Among agenda items were consideration of a proposed program of alternatives to incarceration of juveniles, employment of a staff person to aid in public relations and fund raising, and the feasibility of adding a swimming pool. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Deaton were named as Country Fair chairmen, the event to be held May 4. The Annual Meeting was announced for Jan. 10.

#### from page one RELIGION/RACE

The two Annual Conferences had functioned as an Arkansas Area Commission on Religion and Race until the 1973 Annual Conference sessions. At that time the individual conference commissions were named. At the Saturday morning meeting of the Consultation officers of the two Conference groups were named.

#### OFFICERS ELECTED

Elected as officers of the Little Rock Conference Commission were the Rev. W. Harry Bass, pastor of Little Rock's Wesley Church, chairperson; the Rev. Kenneth W. Kinard, associate pastor of Camden's First Church, vice chairperson; and Mrs. E. T. Davenport, Little Rock, secretary.

Elected by the North Arkansas Conference Commission were Dr. Olin Cook of Little Rock, associated with the State Department of Education, as chairperson; the Rev. Joe Hughes of North Little Rock, pastor of the Marianna Enlarged Charge, vice chairperson; and Miss Susan Gladin, Helena, student at Hendrix College, secretary.

Bishop Eugene M. Frank announced that a review committee would meet on Jan. 25 to "look at merger and examine where we are in merger." Personnel from the national Commission on Religion and Race will again be present for that meeting.

#### NORTH LITTLE ROCK CHURCHES IN KEY 73 BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Lakewood United Methodist was one among six churches in North Little Rock that participated in distributing 5,000 Bible portions in that city Sunday, Dec. 9. Two hundred volunteers participated in the program, which was a part of the Key '73 effort.

The Bible portions, entitled "Touched by Fire," contain the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts.

Churches participating were First Presbyterian, Park Hill Presbyterian, Cumberland Presbyterian, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Sylvan Hills Community and Lakewood United Methodist, of which the Rev. John B. Hays is pastor.

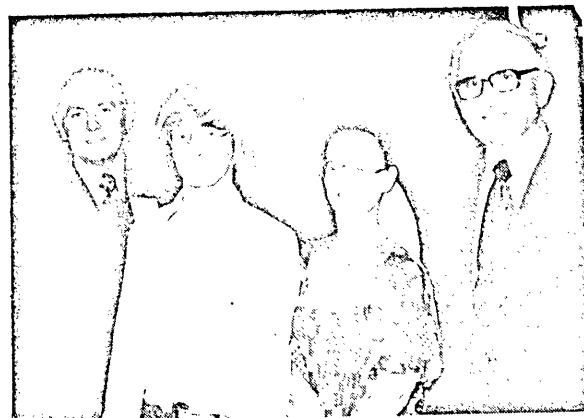
#### APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Bishop Eugene M. Frank announces the following pastoral appointments in the Little Rock Conference.

—Bayou Meto-Lodges Corner (Pine Bluff District), the Rev. Jerry K. Yarbrough.

—Hazen-DeValls Bluff (Little Rock District), the Rev. David F. Prothro.

Participants in Dec. 1 Conway District Youth Rally held at Lakewood Church, North Little Rock, included (left to right) the Rev. Herschel McClurkin, district youth coordinator; Dee Edwards, president; Mrs. Carol (Saville) Henry, conference coordinator, and the Rev. Dr. J. Ralph Clayton, district superintendent. The program which centered around the theme "We've Only Just Begun" drew 155 youth.



#### Ministers adopt energy resolution

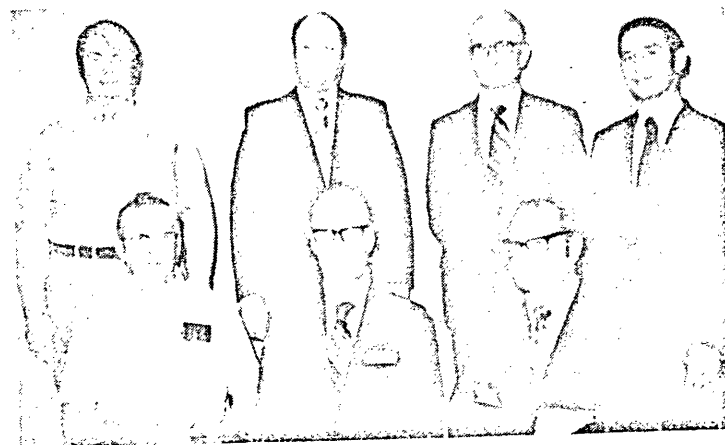
The Greater Little Rock Ministerial Alliance at its November meeting, adopted a resolution requesting that churches take steps to conserve energy. President of the alliance is the Rev. Robert M. VanHook II, pastor of Little Rock's Henderson United Methodist Church. The full text of the resolution follows:

We, the members of the Greater Little Rock Ministerial Alliance, as leaders in the religious community, recognize the serious nature of the present energy shortage. Recognizing the significance of stewardship as a religious tenant in our various traditions, we wish to pledge our co-operation in conserving energy and will urge

our constituency to conserve energy in every reasonable manner.

We suggest that 68° be used as the temperature for buildings and that exterior and interior lighting be kept to a minimum.

Recognizing the religious significance of the upcoming holiday seasons, we feel that the display of festive outdoor lighting can be virtually eliminated without damage to our religious traditions. We would further suggest that car pools be used when and where possible for attendance at religious meetings. We hope that all persons will seek to find creative ways to conserve energy.



Taking part in the meeting of Conway District Men were (front row, left to right) Neal Goins, Dardanelle, new president; Bishop Eugene M. Frank; the Rev. Frank R. Clemmons, host pastor; (back row) Richard Teeter, Atkins, new secretary-treasurer; Jim Lane, North Little Rock, district lay leader; Dr. J. Ralph Clayton, district superintendent, and W. E. "Buddy" Arnold, North Little Rock, district director of United Methodist Men.

#### Arkansas Valley men meet

Bishop Eugene M. Frank spoke to the quarterly meeting of the Conway District Arkansas Valley United Methodist Men, at Dardanelle First United Methodist Church, on Thursday evening, Nov. 19, 1973.

The dinner meeting began at 7 p.m. with 125 in attendance. Bishop Frank spoke on the subject "Where your Heart is there your treasure will be also." He used the life of Dr. David Livingston as the theme of his topic.

The Arkansas Valley United Methodist Men is one of three sub-district

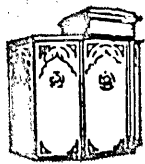
men's group within the Conway District. They elected officers for 1974 who are: Neal Goins, Dardanelle, president; Earl Wise, Dardanelle, vice-president; and Richard Teeter, Atkins, secretary-treasurer.

The United Methodist Men of the Dardanelle Church were hosts; the Rev. Frank R. Clemmons is the pastor. B. J. Dunn, of Russellville was the group song leader.

The outgoing officers were George Potts, Pottsville, president and Bill Henry, Dover, vice president.



A visit to Methodist Hospital in Memphis was made on Nov. 17 by a group of 27 lay and clergy persons from the Paragould District. Hosting the activities were Fred Alexander and David Burkhart of the Methodist Hospital Foundation. Paragould District Superintendent, the Rev. Ben F. Jordan is seen second from right as part of the group is shown the blood bank facility. Among the group were two members of the hospital's Board of Managers, Lon Mann of Marianna and J. C. Portis of Lepanto. Following a film presentation Associate Administrator James D. Brown spoke on the long range plans of the hospital. The hospital invites any group interested in touring the facilities to contact the Methodist Hospital Development Department, 1265 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tenn. 38104.



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

### BONDS WHICH DO NOT BREAK

One more issue of THE LOUISIANA METHODIST remains to be printed under the present arrangement of publication from the Little Rock office. After the first of the year the paper will be published as an edition of the UNITED METHODIST REPORTER.

We want to wish our Louisiana friends our very best as they begin this new venture in sharing the news of the church. We desire for you the greatest success in this new association and pledge to you our every assistance in this time of transition.

Our two episcopal Areas — separate now for almost fourteen years — enjoyed a grand relationship while together in the one Area and have since that time continued to experience a wonderful fellowship. Ours are the kinds of ties which change cannot diminish.

Louisiana United Methodism has been blessed with dedicated leadership at every level — lay, pastoral and episcopal. Those in Arkansas who have had the pleasure of associations in Louisiana have been impressed with the quality and energy of the laity of the church there. And this laity is indeed blest by the dedication of their pastoral leadership. And under the tireless and skilled guidance of Bishop Finis A. Crutchfield Louisiana United Methodism continues its tradition of distinguished episcopal leadership.

Selfishly, perhaps, those of us who have been privileged to be closely associated will miss these relationships; but we know that they are not ended.

So, to our good friends in Louisiana, we wish you well and hope for you every good success in the new relationship with the UNITED METHODIST REPORTER.

†

Before the Third Sunday in Advent 1973

#### ADVENT POSTURES

\* \* \*

There's something about waiting!

There's excitement in it  
And mystery over all —  
Whether for a friend's promised visit  
Or first snow to fall.

There's something about watching!

It calls one to stand fast  
To be patient and still —  
Whether for peace at long last  
Or strength for one's will.

There's something about hoping!

For it keeps faith honest  
And fires the cold soul —  
Whether for love with its promise  
Or life and its goal.

There's something about trusting!

It soothes the weak spirit  
And nerves the faint heart —  
Whether for courage in sorrow  
Or strength for new start.

\* Reprise \*

For our waiting brings joy  
Our watching grants peace  
Our hoping, fulfillment  
Our trusting, release.

Come, Lord Jesus.

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

### New tricks and an old dog

I've got this problem, see, and I need some help. It's about a bad habit I've got which I can't overcome. And I fear that unless I can do something about it, my family's good name may be in jeopardy.

It's that I can't stifle the impulse to tip my hat to ladypersons. And I know full well that that's regarded in these days as a put-down by the new breed of women. It seems that a tip of the hat identifies you right off as one who thinks that women ought to return to the old days and the old ways. And that's bad.

I'm really sorry for my sin, but I just can't seem to help it. It must go back somewhere to my beginnings. My ancestors must have been kind to people, or something like that, and I just haven't been able to rise above it. But given time I think I can whip it.

It could go back to the influence of one of my college professors. I can still see Dr. W. C. Buthman, making his quick little way across the Hendrix campus, tipping his hat to every coed whom he met between the Ad Building and Tabor Hall, even though that might have been fifty or more young ladies. Being a gentleman he never missed a one of them.

I should probably hasten to say that this is not the chief impression Dr. Buthman left with me, for he was one of my major professors and a master of the art of teaching. (I suspect that if he were to reflect upon my days in his classes he would probably be tickled pink to learn that I have remembered anything at all from the years of my struggles there).

My problem is not one that bothers me terribly in the summer for I don't wear a hat much then. But come winter, with my kind of haircut, a hat is about as important as any other clothes I wear — except, of course, my new shoes.

Now for a man of my birthdate to try to walk down the street and meet so many nice ladypeople and not tip the hat to them is really to ask too much. I'm doing better, though, each winter that passes, and I actually met a whole two blocks of Bell Telephone persons the other day and didn't tip my hat to a single one of them! How's that for progress!

The lesson for the day from all of this is, of course, that evil ways can be overcome if one will only persevere.

But a soul will, occasionally, backslide. Every so often, especially when I greet a party I know, I slip back into the old evil ways and lift a hand to the brim of the hat, chiding myself even as I do. It is then I take heart with the thought "But I'll bet that Dr. Buthman couldn't stifle it either!" And that, I figure, places me in pretty good company.

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### Our example in all things

One of his friends reported at a meeting in Louisiana last week that Brother Ed Pickens of Mansfield First and Grand Cane churches preached recently on the energy crisis and fuel shortage. The service's closing hymn: "O Master, let me walk with thee."

†

*John S. Workman*

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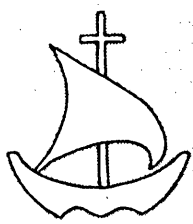
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Editorial and business offices: United Methodist Headquarters Bldg., 715 Center Street, Little Rock, Ark. ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark., 72203. Articles other than editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the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

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE — \$3.00 per year

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

POSTMASTER: MAIL FORM 3579 to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark., 72203.  
MEMBER: Associated Church Press, United Methodist Press Association, and news sources including United Methodist 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

Contrary to some reports arising from a recent decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, "Jesus has not been barred" from the traditional Christian Pageant of Peace in the nation's capital during the Christmas season. The government decided to retain its participation in the pageant but to discontinue the nativity scene from the event. The American Christian Heritage Association has been issued a permit to erect a creche which will be situated near the pageant but will not actually be part of it.

The church in Soviet Russia is "thirsty for the assurance of our help," according to Anglican Archbishop Donald Coggan of York, Eng. Writing in his diocesan newsletter, the Anglican leader said the outside world thinks of Russia as technically advanced and militarily expanding, and it is right. "But," he added, "we often forget that, within that nation, there are many thousands of fellow Christians. They constitute a huge church standing over against a determined and organized atheist system."

"It is often pain which leads to spiritual growth," Archbishop Coggan said. "We cannot be spiritually open to the experience of the Russian church without knowing the suffering out of which it was born . . . Russian Christians have much to teach us (how would your faith—or mine, for that matter—stand up over prolonged and intense opposition? I wonder) . . . Let us not forget them and other Christians in Communist-dominated countries."

Pedro Rodriguez, a 19-year-old Roman Catholic in San Juan, P.R. began preaching to crowds in a shopping center two years ago and the Catacumbas (Spanish word meaning catacombs) movement he founded has grown to include thousands of Puerto Ricans. The Catacumbas are mostly young Catholics although Protestants of many denominations worship with them. The outdoor meeting places have logs or cement blocks for seats. People attending carry Bibles. No one knows how many people attend the Catacumba services, but the number is so great they have caused concern among the established Catholic and Protestant churches.

The World Conference of Baptist Men is scheduled to meet in Hong Kong next year from Nov. 26-30. Two thousand delegates are expected to attend. Primary emphasis will focus on Asia and lay men, according to General Secretary Robert S. Denny.

Britain's Baptists will not withdraw church investments in companies with interests in Southern Africa—they will use them to help relieve or prevent the exploitation of black workers. The decision was made at a meeting of the Council of the British Union of Great Britain and Ireland. Thus the Baptists join the Anglicans and Methodists in new and concerted action by major denominations opposing apartheid. One observer noted, with the exception of the Roman Catholic Church which has yet to act on the issue, the British churches have reached a rare degree of unanimity.

Americans in 1973 need preparation for the coming of the Prince of Peace more than ever before, the Rev. W. Sterling Cary, president of the National Council of Churches, said in his Advent Message. "How dare we herald the fact of Christ's presence if our national life remains in its present state of moral disarray?" he asked, in stressing the need to prepare for Christmas.

The greatest danger to proper Sunday observance comes not from those who oppose such practices but from those who are complacent about the matter according to Dr. Albert P. Stauderman. The editor of The Lutheran warned that "the biggest damage to Sunday comes not from those who would arbitrarily take away a day of rest and worship, but rather from those who are complacent or indifferent about it . . . If we prefer . . . 'armchair religion,' like sitting back and watching a revival service on television, we shouldn't be too surprised if we have traded away something precious for a mess of pottage."

"We have been asked to sacrifice something of our high standard of living . . . None of these measures really requires 'sacrifice' on our part when we think of what the word 'sacrifice' means in the language of the Christian faith," said Episcopal Bishop H. Coleman McGhee of Michigan in a memo to the clergy.

Although many churchmen have expressed concern over the possible cutbacks on Sunday driving in the future, the Rev. Joseph Wade, Baptist clergyman in Detroit observed that "the very foundation of our government is freedom of worship. I doubt if there will be restrictions to stop people from coming to church."

"The reason the church is in the mess it is in in America — with two-thirds of its members either peripheral or out and only 20 per cent of its money being given away — is that the Good News of suffering love has not been preached to churches," says the Rev. Robert K. Hudnut in his new book, *Arousing the Sleeping Giant*, a handbook on how to "organize your church for action." Two years ago, the author wrote the widely-publicized book, *The Sleeping Giant* — a description of the middle class American Protestant church.

"What the Spirit is saying to the Churches," will be the theme of the Jan. 21-23 Ministers' Week at Candler School of Theology, at Emory University. Principal participants will be Evangelist Oral Roberts, Bishop James K. Mathews (Washington Area), Dr. Theodore Runyon, Candler professor of Theology, Dr. Krister Stendahl, Harvard Divinity School dean, Dr. Davis duPlessis, world Pentecostal leader, and Dr. Wayne Oates, Southern Baptist Seminary professor.

Harold B. Lee, president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has called upon all Americans to join in expressions of gratitude to God and "to silence for a season the tide of bitter accusation which has almost overwhelmed us."

The United Presbyterian Church has signed an agreement to sell its downtown Witherspoon Building to the Fidelity Bank of Philadelphia for \$2,750,000. Three United Presbyterian units will continue to occupy three floors of the 11-story building on a lease arrangement. Most of the agency offices will move to The Interchurch Center in New York City.

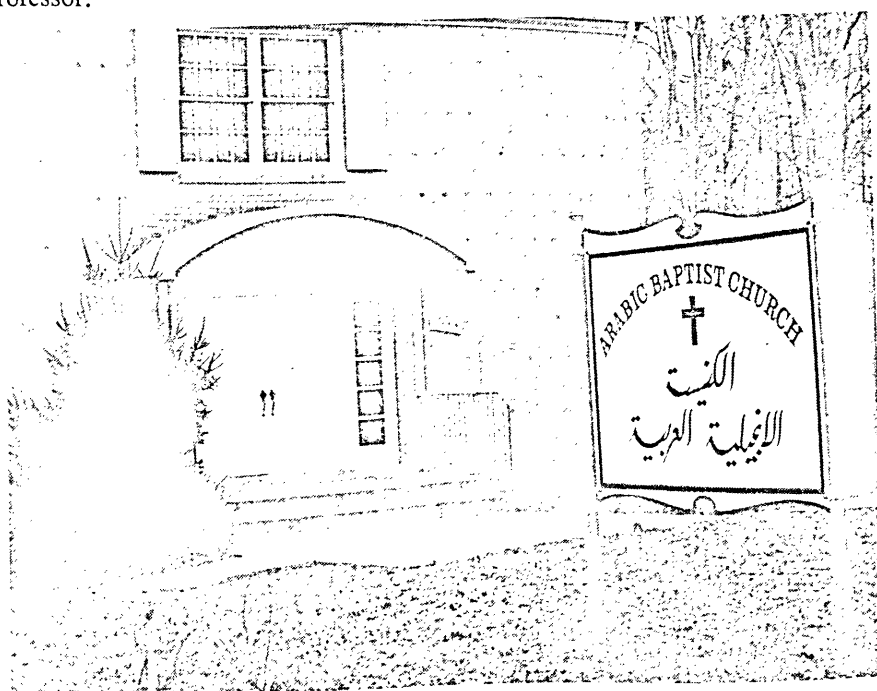
Speaking during a three-day ecumenical conference of 40 representatives of four major Christian Churches in Taiwan, Roman Catholic Archbishop Stanislaus Lokuang urged the "spreading of the Christian faith," concentrating on the spiritual welfare and religious education of young people. The gathering focused on two major problem areas: evangelism among the 14 million people of the island, and church financial support.

Meeting in Chicago 50 evangelical Christian leaders signed "A Declaration of Evangelical Social Concern." Acknowledging the Christian responsibilities of citizenship, it said, "we must challenge the misplaced trust of the nation in economic and military might — a proud trust that promotes a national pathology of war and violence which victimizes our neighbors at home and abroad. We must resist the temptation to make the nation and its institutions objects of near-religious loyalty." Acknowledging also "that we have encouraged men to prideful domination and women to irresponsible passivity," the leaders called "both men and women to mutual submission and active discipleship."

A new Blue Denim Bible has been designed to fit today's life style — in the pocket of blue jeans or out in a student's room. It is described as "a happy combination of a breezy, illustrated New Testament (Today's English Version: Good News for Modern Man) with a flexible binding of genuine blue denim cloth." Copies are available for \$1.95.

Teaching outlines for all courses being taught at Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis will be reviewed by the Board of Control of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod institution. The board also voted to require that all instructors of courses dealing with certain doctrinal matters submit a statement to the board "explaining how they propose to deal with such matters."

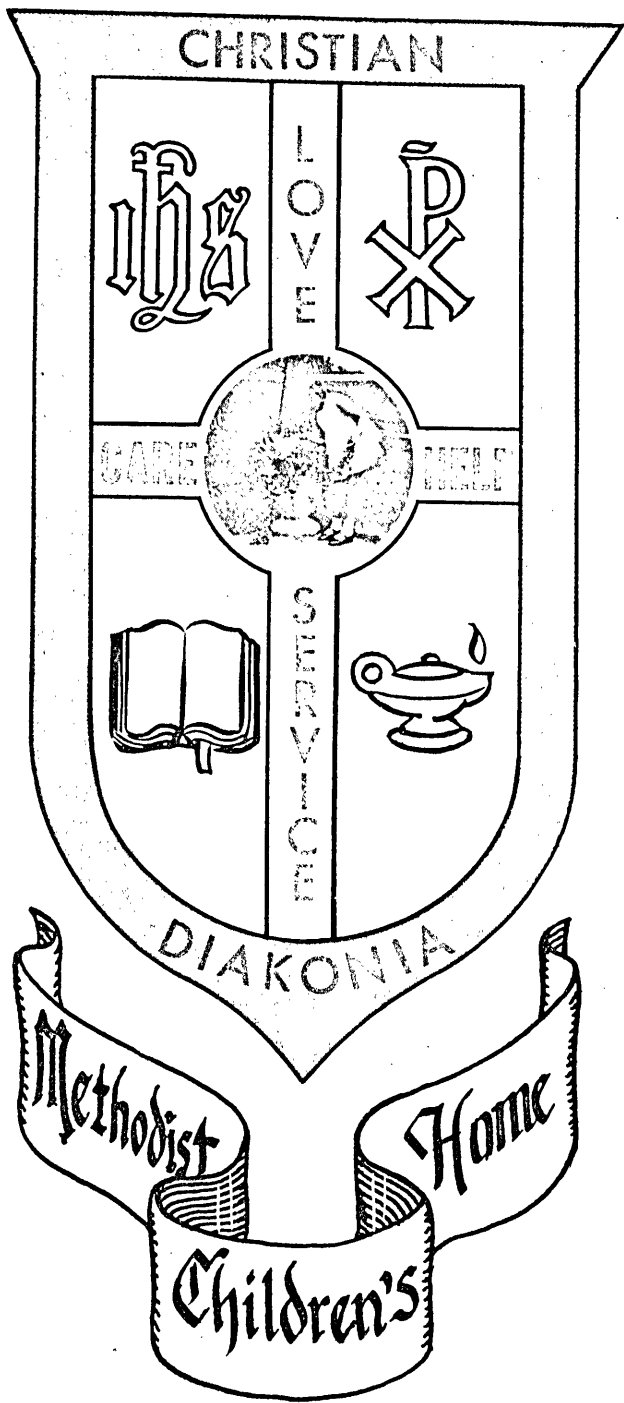
Some 10,000 young people between ages 16 to 25 are expected to converge in Portland, Ore. for the 8th Baptist Youth World Conference — the first held in the U.S. — July 31-Aug. 4, 1974.



## NOT ALL FOLLOW THE SAME PATH

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It is easy to think that all Arabs are Moslems. Most are, but this building which houses the Arabic Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., makes it clear that some Arabs are Christians. The majority of Washington's Arab population worships at a mosque connected with the city's Islamic Center. (RNS Photo)





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EUGENE M. FRANK  
Resident Bishop



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
The Arkansas Area  
721 CENTRE STREET  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201

To Members of the United Methodist Church  
And the fellowship of all deeply caring Christians

Dear friends:

The Advent Season is one of preparation. We prepare to receive from God the great Gift of His Son. We prepare to give and receive gifts.

In all Christian conscience, we cannot forget the homeless, the widows, the sick, the poor, the prisoner, the hungry and naked in our giving. To do so, would be to forget the sternest command of Jesus.

I write to beg you to remember the children. Our Children's Home is our extended hand of love and service to children who will grow to maturity in fear, in abuse, in total lovelessness unless we love them with our hearts, our minds and our money.

A gift to support our Children's Home is an expression of Christian caring. Again, I beg you to tell the story of this Christian witness to everyone in the Church. Send out offering envelopes for a sacrificial gift from United Methodists. Ask your people to pray for the children we are trying to help and those who act as our agents in serving them.

When Christmas comes and our offerings have been made, we can rejoice with grateful hearts to fully receive the wondrous gift of God's love. Let's prepare our hearts for this by a generous and unselfish offering for the children.

With sincere hope,

*Eugene M. Frank*

Bishop,  
Arkansas Area

The Little Rock Conference - The North Arkansas Conference

*Your help is needed and will be greatly appreciated*

# NEWS and NOTES

NEWPORT YOUTH presented a musical, "Look to the Baby," in First United Methodist Church Sunday evening, Dec. 9. Mrs. Frank Rogers and Mrs. Ralph McDonald, Jr., directed the group. The Rev. David Conyers is their pastor.

THE THIRD ANNUAL Chrismon Tree Service was held in the Lonoke Church on Dec. 9. Special music for the occasion was by the Children's Choir, directed by Mrs. J. N. Eagle, and Mrs. Charles Griffin, with Eddie Campbell at the organ. Narrators were Mrs. James Neal Anderson, Mrs. Greg Birdsong and the Rev. Mike Clayton.

AUGUSTA UNITED METHODIST Women held the Christmas program on Dec. 3 with Mrs. T. J. Stacy and Mrs. Clyde Felts as leaders, assisted by Mrs. Henry Eskew, Mrs. Morgan Berry, Mrs. John Stanley and Mrs. Winston Rice.

WEST HELENA United Methodist Men heard Terry Johnson, director of the Phillips County Attention Home, speak at the breakfast meeting on Dec. 9. The Rev. Brady Cook is their pastor.

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT ministers and wives will hold the annual Christmas dinner at Winfield United Methodist Church, Dec. 13. Primary hosts will be Dr. Ed Dunlap, district superintendent, and Dr. Ray Hozendorf, host pastor, and their wives, assisted by others. Program theme is "Reach Out to Christmas Everywhere." Those attending will bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to the six o'clock meal, for which the meat will be furnished.

THE GRAND PRAIRIE Sub-district UMY held the November meeting at Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church. Ms. Sharon Newland from the Department of Pollution Control and Ecology showed a film (The Gifts) and spoke on the problems in Arkansas. Mt. Tabor UMY won the attendance banner. The Rev. George Bailey was host pastor.

THE REV. TOM WEIR, Harrisburg minister, represented the North Arkansas Board of Pensions at a national meeting held in Chicago, Dec. 5 and 6.

ADVENT SERVICES at Jonesboro First United Methodist Church included a program of Christmas music by the Arkansas State University Male Chorus, directed by Al Skoog, following the Hanging of the Greens on Dec. 2. On Dec. 9, the Jonesboro High School Hurricane Choir, directed by Robert Fuller, presented a concert at six o'clock. United Methodist Women held their annual Christmas program on Dec. 11.



Approximately 150 persons attended open house at the St. Paul United Methodist parsonage at El Dorado on Sunday, Dec. 2. Christmas decorations and arrangements were used throughout the house, which has received some changes and several new articles of furniture during the past year. Shown greeting guests are the Rev. F. Gladwin Connell, pastor, Mrs. H. L. Kjeldgaard and H. L. Kjeldgaard, chairman of the board at St. Paul.

THE UNION COUNTY UMY Sub-District met on Dec. 3 at St. Paul United Methodist Church in El Dorado. The Rev. Michael Velchhoff of Bearden was the speaker. The Rev. Gladwin Connell, host pastor, administered Holy Communion.

THE NEW HOPE United Methodist Church Choir participated in the Van Buren Union Thanksgiving Service, Nov. 21. Mrs. Hal Brewer is choir director; the Rev. John H. Brown is their pastor.

THE UMYF of Massard United Methodist Church will present a Christmas program at the church on Sunday evening, Dec. 23 at six o'clock. The Rev. John H. Brown is their pastor.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN of McCrory are sponsoring a Chrismon Tree which will be on display in the sanctuary of the church. A program will be presented on Sunday evening, Dec. 16 at five o'clock. The Rev. Lon Brewer is the McCrory pastor.

PARKER'S CHAPEL United Methodist Church of El Dorado was host church for the annual Community Thanksgiving Service. Other churches participating were Bethel Chapel Assembly of God and Galilee Baptist Church. The three congregations enjoyed a pot luck supper and fellowship before the service. The Rev. J. B. Swain was host pastor.

FIRST CHURCH, SEARCY, had as guest speakers on Sunday, Nov. 25, Dr. Myers B. Curtis, executive director of the Council on Ministries, at both morning services, and the Rev. William Buchanan, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Searcy, at the evening service. Conducting the respective worship services were Mrs. Jim Baugh Jones, Ed Bethune, and Eugene Dodson. The Rev. Charles Richards, pastor, and Mrs. Richards were visiting points of Methodist interest in England.

THE COMBINED CHOIRS of the First United Methodist Church, Springdale, will present a "Christmas Celebration" Sunday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. Following the processional, the Children's and Youth Choirs will present carols with the assistance of the Handbell Ringers. A liturgical interpretive dance, "The Christ Event; the Greatest Gift of All," will be shared by students of Mrs. Mary Gunter, choreographer. The worship will conclude with the Adult Choir presentation of "The Song of Christmas" by Ringwald. A tableau will be created as the Christmas Story unfolds. Narrator is Andy Parker; musicians - Dorothy Joyce, Sue Watson, Nan McLaughlin; director - Karen Chambers; pastors - Clint Atchley, Tom Adkinson.

MONTICELLO DISTRICT Parsonettes met Nov. 8 for a pot-luck luncheon with Mrs. Autrey Sirmon at the Hermitage parsonage.

THE YOUTH MINISTRY Department of the Arkansas Council of Churches met on Sunday, Dec. 9, at Bullock Temple, CME Church, Little Rock. Robert B. Politzer is the adult advisor to the ecumenical group.

ST. LUKE CHURCH in Little Rock will have the candlelight carol service on Sunday evening, Dec. 16. Participating choirs are the Carol, Evangel, Joyful Noise, and Chancel. The Rev. Alfred DeBlack is pastor.

MRS. FLOYD TAYLOR was general chairman for the Chrismon service held in First United Methodist Church, Forrest City, Dec. 2. Dr. Earle Hughes is pastor.

WALNUT RIDGE FIRST United Methodist Church, the Rev. William C. Halton, pastor, was the meeting place for Paragould District ministers for families on Friday, Dec. 7. "Christmas in Mexico" was the program subject.

## 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. 16—Sunday	Isaiah 7:10-16
Dec. 17	Isaiah 9:1-7
Dec. 18	Gala. 4:1-7
Dec. 19	Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 20	Luke 1:39-56
Dec. 21	Luke 1:57-73
Dec. 22	John 1:1-14
Dec. 23—Sunday	Matt. 1:18-25



The Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Noggle

## FORMER ARKANSAS MINISTER & WIFE MARK 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Noggle will observe their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, Dec. 30 at an open house to be held at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 600 Pine Street, Sikeston, Mo. A reception will be given by their children, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cavender, North Little Rock, Ark., and Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Noggle of East Prairie, Mo.

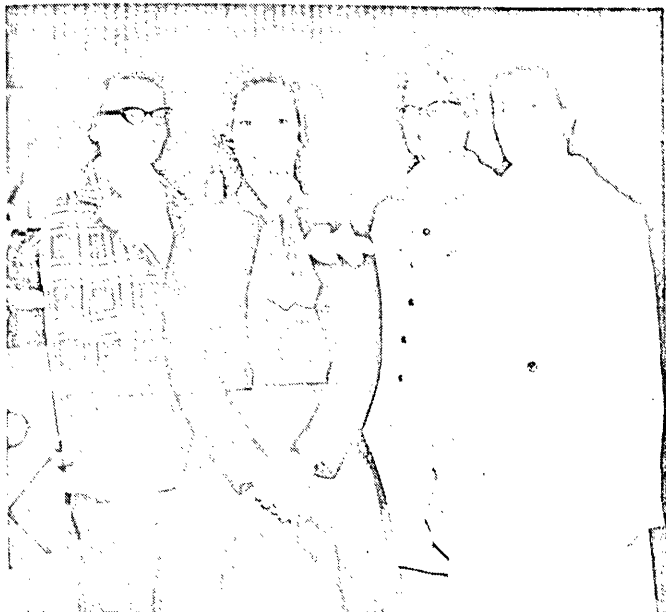
The Noggles are natives of Arkansas and were married Jan. 6, 1924 at Quitman. Mrs. Noggle is the former Nora Brannan. Mr. Noggle, in the ministry since 1922, has served churches in Van Buren, Faulkner, Pope, White and Conway counties in Arkansas. He transferred to the Missouri Conference in 1952 and served churches in Mississippi, New Madrid, Dunklin and Pemiscot counties there. He retired in 1972 and has since served as interim pastor at Steele, Mo. and is now serving at Bell City, Mo.

The couple has 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Servers at the reception will be a sister of Mr. Noggle, Mrs. Ruth Woods of North Little Rock and sisters of Mrs. Noggle, Mrs. Troy Burlison, Steele, Mo., and Mrs. Arnold Holland, Quitman, Ark. Guest book attendant will be Mrs. Jim Maloy of Little Rock, a niece of Mr. Noggle. All friends and relatives are invited.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTIAN Life Conference was held in Fort Smith last week, Dec. 2-7. Sponsored by two churches, First Baptist and First United Methodist, services were alternated between the churches. The Rev. David Stuart Briscoe of Brookfield, Wis., international evangelist, brought the messages.

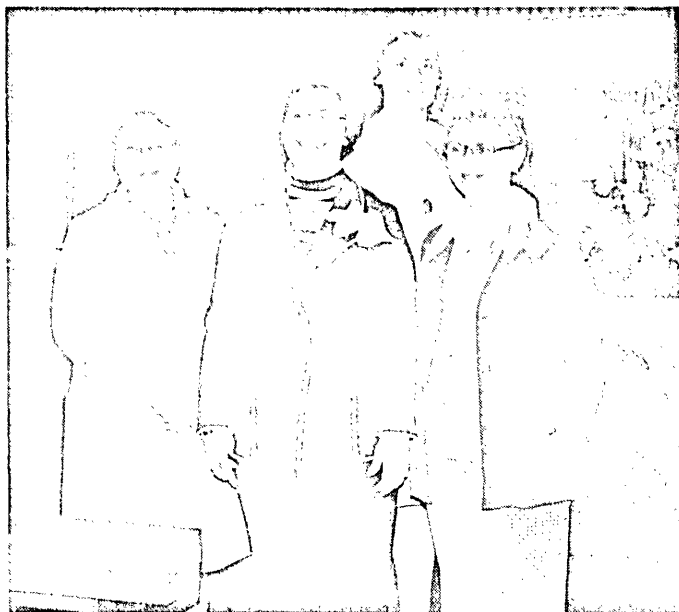
DECEMBER 13, 1973



AT LEFT: Monticello District United Methodist Women held the fall meeting in First Church, Dumas. Presiding were these district officers, from left: Mrs. Louise Councille of Warren, vice-president; Mrs. G. A. Norris of Lake Village, president; Mrs. Helen Pledger of Monticello, secretary; and Mrs. Fred Thornton of Star City, treasurer.

Dumas CLARION pictures

AT RIGHT: Participants in the Monticello District UMW meeting were these leaders: from left, Mrs. Theda Bell Patton of Pine Bluff, who is conference missionary coordinator of Christian personhood; Mrs. Rubye Lee Jackson of Pine Bluff, member of the Jurisdiction Core Planning Group; Mrs. David Porter, III, Dumas UMW president; and Mrs. Vivian Miles of Monticello, conference chairperson of nominations.



## ST. MARK'S, PINE BLUFF HOLDS HOMECOMING

The homecoming of members of St. Mark United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, was held on Oct. 21 with many visitors attending or sending donations. Visiting ministers, choirs and soloists were from Little Rock, Hensley, Grady, and Pine Bluff churches.

The morning message was by the Rev. J. H. Thompson, associate director of the Conference Council on Ministries. A fellowship dinner was served at noon. Mrs. Sanders, the oldest member, gave a talk at the evening service, and guest choirs presented music. Ezra Henry gave a history of the church, a portion of which is printed below:

St. Mark Methodist Church was formerly located at Fourth and Orlando Streets in Pine Bluff. In the twenties it had a membership of 75. The backbone of the church at that time was the families of the Smiths, Stewarts, Altschulls, Taylors, Mercers, Thompsons, Williams, Twines and Washingtons.

During World War II the young people began to leave for other parts of the country and the membership dropped to around 45. These few were determined to carry on the work of serving the community.

In 1950 the church was torn down and plans for rebuilding were delayed two years. During this time Mrs. M. O. Hunter, a friend of the Sanders, came down from Chicago each summer and worked diligently to help raise money to rebuild.

In 1952, Monroe Williams took an option on the West Side Baptist Church, which was for sale by a white congregation. Then he went to Annual Conference and persuaded the district superintendent and bishop to present their problem to the Board of Missions and to obtain a loan for the purchase of the property.

When Marianna combined the Women's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild into "United Methodist Women," Mrs. Wesley Freemyer (center) of Helena, who is president of the Forrest City District UMW, was the guest speaker. Shown with her are Mrs. Ira Merritt (left), former WSCS president, and Mrs. J. B. Smith, former WSG president.



THE CHRISTIAN Storytellers from the Amboy United Methodist Church in North Little Rock, presented a Christmas program for Oak Forest United Methodist Women at the Dec. 4 meeting. Storytellers included Grace Postlewaite, Othella Peters, Arveria Bradford and Beverly Watts.

MRS. J. S. HOPKINS was recently honored in the Nashville United Methodist Church for being an active member of women's societies in the church for 63 years.

The transaction was completed in 1953 and the Rev. L. L. Haynes was the first pastor at the new location. The church was paid for and the mortgage burned in 1969.

Pastors who have served through the years include the Reverends Young, Luster, Henry, Bright, Brooks, Johnson, Haynes, Sanders, Bush, Newton, Mitchell, Loder, Franklin, Oliver, Terry, and the Rev. Lloyd Smith, the present pastor.

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## AMBOY WOMEN ORGANIZE "STORYTELLERS LEAGUE"

Amboy Church in North Little Rock reports that "the fine art of storytelling is being restored" through the establishment of a local unit of the National Storytellers League, the first to be organized in Arkansas.

The church reports that the league is a service organization open to both men and women and is sponsored as a sub-group of the United Methodist Women of the Amboy church. Its purpose is "to use the art form of storytelling to communicate the gospel message and to inspire others to read the Bible, Christian literature, and high quality books."

Members of the group visit children's groups, senior citizens' groups and others to share their faith through the form of storytelling. Mrs. Rowena Turnbow is chairperson of the local league and states that she will be glad to assist others in forming such organizations. The Rev. Muriel Peters is pastor of the Amboy Church.

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## MRS. STELLA FREEMAN

Mrs. Stella Moore Freeman of Quitman, age 94 years, died Nov. 23rd in Conway, Ark. She was the wife of the late Rev. George A. Freeman. The Freemans had served Washington Avenue United Methodist Church in North Little Rock for nine years during its early years, part of the time as a mission church. Later they served the church in Hardy, Ark.

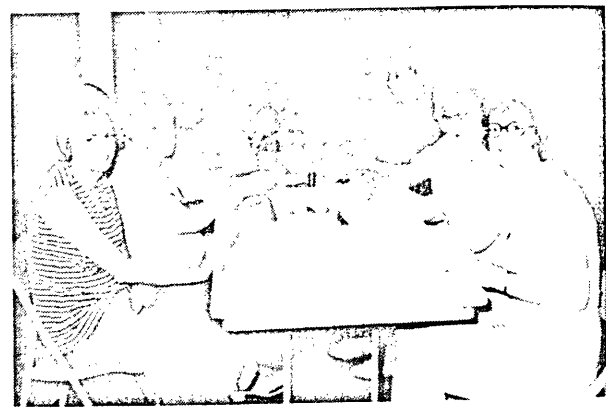
During their ministry the Freemans accumulated a large private library. When Mr. Freeman died, Mrs. Freeman donated a section of books on Christian Education to Philander Smith College. She had a special interest in young ministers and gave many of the books on theology from her husband's library to those who made her acquaintance.

Mrs. Freeman was the daughter of Dr. Avery E. Moore, one of the early physicians in the northern part of Faulkner County. Her father later served as State Auditor for a number of years.

Survivors include a son, Hugh Avery Freeman of Garland, Tex.; two daughters, Mrs. Joy Bates of Quitman, Ark., and Mrs. Dorothy Baker of Memphis, Tenn.; a brother, Hugh A. Moore of Quitman. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, Nov. 25th at Quitman United Methodist Church with the Rev. I. L. Claud and the Rev. Otha Strayhorn, pastor, officiating.

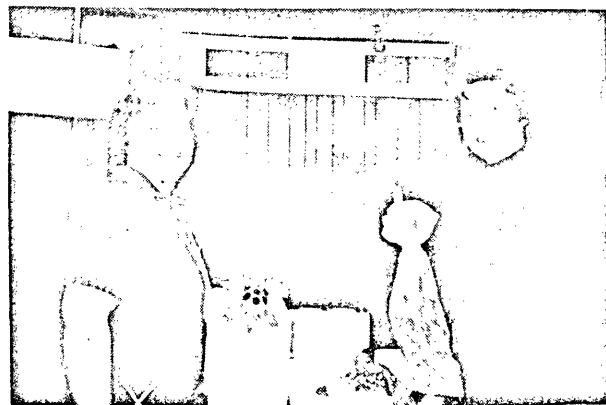
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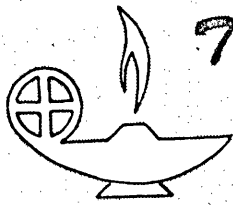
A CHRISTMAS DRAMA entitled, "The Madonna" was presented by Mrs. Ann Worthy and Mrs. Phylis Gregg under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Hollingsworth, at the Dec. 2 meeting of United Methodist Women in First Church, West Memphis. Jane Reece provided special music.



AT LEFT: This group in First Church, Van Buren, is making Chrismons. Similar workshops have been held during the days and evenings this fall to provide an opportunity for every member to make a Chrismon. The church plans an Open House on Sunday, Dec. 16, so that the community can see its Chrismon Tree, and hear an explanation of the various Chrismons (CHRIST & MONogram). The Rev. Arvest N. Lawson is pastor.

AT RIGHT: Lavelle Garr and Paula Williams display some handmade items being offered for sale at Van Buren's St. John Church's annual Christmas Bazaar, which was held Saturday, Dec. 8. The bazaar was followed by a spaghetti supper. The Rev. David Scroggin is pastor.





## The Sunday School Lesson

by Dr. Ethan W. Dodgen

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 23:

"The Word Dwelt Among Us"

**ORIENTATION:** This is the fourth lesson in our study of the Gospel of John. Since it falls on Christmas Sunday it is fitting that we give our attention to what this Gospel says about the significance of the coming of Jesus. The writer does not use the birth stories found in Matthew and Luke. In his purpose to lead his gentile audience into a profound experience of Jesus as the Son of God, he is more concerned with how Jesus fits into their understanding of the mystery and meaning of life. The Scripture selection is from the Prologue, or introduction, of the Gospel, and is adapted to the Greek conception of the beginning of things.

**SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND:** John 1:1-5; 14-18.

**MEMORY SELECTION:** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.—John 1:14

**PURPOSE:** We shall try to discover the full meaning and purpose of God, through the Gospel writer's experience, as the birth of Christ reveals the Father's love. As we reexamine our celebration of Christmas to grow more mature in our activities and relationships in this Holy Season. To find peace and joy in the realization of God's concern for us. And to be led to a deeper commitment to Christ and The Kingdom of God.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Spirit gives us a vague sense of unreality. But we are very much aware of something that is very real when we speak of the Christmas Spirit. Mood, atmosphere, widely experienced emotion, call it what you will, the Christmas Spirit has a powerful influence upon people in a certain period in the calendar. As I remind myself of how real this is, my belief in the words of Jesus, "God is Spirit," is strengthened.

There are times when the joy of the Christmas season only magnifies the tragic and unlovely experiences of life. The pain of loneliness is sharpened for some in the happy celebrations of strangers. This is illustrated for us in an incident taken from the life of a hale and hearty new resident of a retirement center. He attended a nearby church for the first time and was greeted at the close of the service by a lady who extended her hand and said: "Welcome, you must be from the old folks' home down the road." To be just one of a nameless group emphasizes the tragedy of loneliness in the loss of our identity. For some unavoidable reason to be separated from family and friends at Christmas brings a deep sense of loneliness.

Also, we bump into the weary workers through Christmas who dread the approach of December and end up exhausted, physically and spiritually, on Christmas Day.

"Keep Christ in Christmas!" as a slogan, reminds us of the pagan customs that tarnish the celebration of Christ's birthday. Industry and commerce promote the production and sale of shoddy goods for Christmas consumption to make a handsome profit. The greed of man is fed by prospects of exorbitant profits and the true significance of Christ's birth is lost.

This is based largely on the custom of gift-giv-

ing. In spite of all the apparent evils and the sufferings of some, there is still demonstrated generosity, compassion, and love in our celebration. In decrying the evils we do not want to lose sight of this. Because God has given of Himself and His Son, we want to share his spirit. We would do well to refine, purify, and promote the "Spirit of Christmas!"

### CHRIST AND CREATION

In the puzzling question of creation, the idea of "Logos" or "Word" (reason) was used by some to explain how things began. John appropriates this idea to help men understand God and Christ. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made through him . . . In him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:1-4). No one has ever seen God except through His Son, who was with him from the beginning of things. Jesus, then, is related to the whole creation process. "Joy to the World! The Lord Has Come! . . . Let every heart prepare him room!" we sing. In the song of creation, joy reaches its fullest in the revelation of God through His Son. The birth of Jesus is related to the whole creation process of God. It is not an afterthought but a continuing experience in creation.

### GOD IN HUMAN FLESH

The stories of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem are beautiful narratives that stimulate our imagination and emotions. They are rich in sentiment and appealing in suspense and fulfillment. John has a profound thought that enriches even the beautiful birth stories.

The ancient Greeks and others looked upon human flesh as evil. The Gnostics in John's day contended that the presence of evil and suffering in life was explained by the existence of matter, a power or fact that was in continuing warfare with God, who was pure spirit. God, therefore, could not be a part of human flesh without being corrupted by it, they argued. John challenges this heresy with the proposition, God became flesh and lived among men in the form of Jesus.

Jesus had been described as one who enjoyed humanity to the fullest — reveled in the joys of physical life. "He (Jesus) loved the humanity of flesh that he touched, embraced, handled. He was a great gentle nurse, soother of flesh as well as comforter of spirit." (William Goyen: A BOOK OF JESUS, p. 90). He was criticized for eating and drinking with sinners. His enemies condemned him for making merry at wedding feasts. And Jesus reveals to us the character of God. What a sharp contrast to the notion that all flesh and matter is evil.

"God selected flesh as the ideal vehicle for self-expression. And there is nothing so eloquent as flesh. The twitching of the lips, the pallor of the countenance, the crimsoning of the cheeks, the moistening of the eyes — these telltale signals are more eloquent and more revealing than any mere words could possibly be. For they are flesh; and flesh is the ideal medium of self-expression. That is why God chose it. He selected the one element in humanity that He Himself did not share." (F. W. Boreham in THE DRUMS OF DAWN, quoted by Tarbell's Teacher's Guide, 73-74, Revell).

The first chapter of John's Gospel is referred to by William Barclay as one of the "greatest adventures of religious thought ever achieved by the mind of man." The thought of God dwelling in flesh is one that stimulates joy and triumph in our human experience

### JOY THAT LEADS TO COMMITMENT

The late W. H. Auden, well-known poet, was interviewed by a television reporter shortly before he died. In answer to the reporter's question about what he thought of the current tendency to "celebrate life," the poet said he thought this was fine, because it was one of the essential elements of life. However, it was progressively meaningless without another basic element of living called "work." — For "celebrating" life has no meaning unless "work" or achievement of some sort has preceded it. The rejoicing that the coming of Christ brings to our life has meaning and fulfillment when we commit our lives to his service. The noblest commitment is that which is given to the highest value we know—God. As he dwells among us in His Son, we can commit our lives to him in following and serving Christ.

Commitment leads to a changed life. A former Pennsylvania State University student returned to the university to make restitution for things he had stolen while in college, according to a press release in October of this year. He brought back four telephones he had stolen and offered to make restitution for blankets and sheets he had taken. His explanation was that he had turned Christian.

### THE LIGHT STILL SHINES

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). A legend says "All the darkness of the world cannot put out the light of one small candle!" I was disturbed recently to read the answer of a Jewish rabbi to a Christian lady who sent him tracts and tried to persuade him to become a Christian. When he spoke of the persecution of Jews at the hands of nominal Christians and the other failings of Christianity I could not help sympathizing with his point of view and asking myself if we deserve to be called followers of Christ. Can the darkness of our deeds of selfishness and prejudice extinguish the light of Christ? Will the only view some people have of Christ be what they see in me?

A service to ministers and public speakers discusses the need for a Christian to practice his responsibility in unselfishly serving others. "There has been much criticism," it says, "in recent years of the earlier Christian missionary work. One place where heavy criticism has fallen has been in regard to missionary work carried out among primitive peoples of the islands of the Pacific. The modern charge is that these people, before they came in contact with Christian missionaries, were pure, fun-loving, happy and innocent creatures; and that after they had come under the influence of Christianity they became withdrawn, sin-conscious, unhappy individuals." But an old European inhabitant of the Solomon Islands, who had lived there both before and after the Christians came gave a different report. Before it was a fearful place to live. Natives never smiled, they were suspicious of each other, and hate was in everyone's eyes. There was at least one murder every day in the islands. Christianity changed this. There was much happiness. Suspicions gave way, and love began to replace old hatreds. When the true Light of Christ shines upon a people, all the powers of darkness or evil cannot put it out.

**NEXT WEEK:** This concludes the first Unit of our lessons. Next week we begin a series of six lessons taken from the Gospel of John which describes "THE SON OF GOD ACTIVE AMONG US." The first topic in this second unit is: "Water for the Thirsty."



## From Our Readers

### GLAD TO SEE CHURCH SPEAK OUT

Gentlemen:

The surge of letters from Louisianans being published in the Arkansas Methodist are baffling — concerning the resolution of the Women's Board passed on political corruption in Washington!

I am glad to see any part of the church speak out against evil. Such action is long past due. My gripe has been that Methodists are apathetic and let everything go.

Sincerely,  
Helen Washington Coyes  
Grover, Ark.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The *From our Readers* column appears in both the Arkansas and Louisiana editions of *The Methodist*. We have received more communications from Louisiana, hence more letters from that state.

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### THANK YOU NOTE

The Louisiana Methodist:

Thanks for your printing of the protest letters. We enjoy your paper, especially regarding the former pastors and the Sunday School lesson.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. James Levy, Sr.  
Slidell, La.

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### FORGIVENESS?

Dear Friends:

When I read Bishop Crutchfield's message and our editor's talk I am thankful that I belong to the United Methodist Church. Then when I read about (the resolution by) the ladies of Riverside Drive, New York, passing a resolution to impeach our President, I wonder if (they) just repeat the Lord's Prayer instead of really praying it, for from (their) actions (they) do not believe in forgiveness. And if we do not forgive, we plainly ask God to not forgive us.

All of us make mistakes . . . he that is without sin, cast the first stone. May God help us to do unto others as we wish to be done by.

Lola L. (Mom) Graves  
DeRidder, La.

†

### ONE FOR

To the Editor:

For the past several weeks I have been reading the letters written by United Methodist women condemning the resolution by the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries favoring impeachment of the President. I am a United Methodist woman, and a church employee, and I heartily commend these women who support the impeachment move. I feel that it is in the best interest of our country to remove Richard Nixon from office, as soon as possible.

Kathy Webb  
Little Rock, Ark.

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--RNS Photo



### Scout ousted for lack of faith

HANOVER, Me. — Donald J. Taylor talks with his son, Claude, after the youngster was not allowed to continue as a member of a Cub Scout pack in Hanover, Me., because he had crossed the word "God" out of the Scout Promise on his application.

Mr. Taylor, an author and former educator at Columbia University, said he and his son did not feel the decision to oust Claude from the Rumford Point Cub Pack was fair because the 10-year-old boy belonged to the Cub pack for more than a year before he was rejected as unfit for membership. Describing himself as an atheist, Mr. Taylor said that "the Scouts are not a religious organization" and "are very much afraid they are going to anger or antagonize some minister or

another and be denied their meeting place."

Boy Scout officials in Maine say they are "very concerned" about the publicity surrounding their rejection of the boy. In a statement, the executive board of the Pine Tree Council, Boy Scouts of America, said that "The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no boy can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing his obligation to God."

Pointing out that membership in the Scouts is voluntary, the board stated that "young men who do not believe that they can adhere to the principles of the organization need not join." (RNS Photo).

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## Prisoners 'suffer for all our sins' says Dr. Menninger

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (UMC) — In the wake of the nation's most costly prison riot, more than 650 Oklahomans were called together recently through the efforts of an Oklahoma City United Methodist Church to consider the consequences and future of the state's corrections system.

Sponsored by 31 local, state and national organizations, the unique "Crisis in Corrections Seminar" held at the Church of the Servant, sought to project directions for the upcoming legislative session beginning Jan. 8. The Oklahoma prison at McAlester was almost completely destroyed during riots in July.

Guest speakers for the one-day seminar included Dr. Karl Menninger of the Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kans., who told the participants that incarcerating law-breakers in prisons has become almost a "symbolic morality play."

"They are put in prisons to show the rest of us what would happen if we got caught," Dr. Menninger said. "If 400 of you today went out and committed your 'pet' crime, only two percent or eight would ever serve a prison sentence. Our correction system allows this small percentage to

suffer for all our sins."

The 80-year-old psychiatrist and author of the recent book, *The Crime of Punishment*, said American society is guilty of "not caring a damn what happens to these people when we do put them in prison."

Oklahoma Governor David Hall was the keynote speaker for the seminar, believed to be the largest meeting concerning penal reform in the state's history.

The atmosphere in the seminar became charged early in the afternoon when panel moderator Jerry Sokolosky invited an ex-convict who had served time in Oklahoma's prison system to speak. The ex-convict observed that most meetings dealing with penal reform eliminate the convict. "No one ever asks us to suggest ways the corrections system might be changed," he said. Critical of de-humanizing ways prisons are run, he said most prisoners are looking for ways to have some input into their destiny.

Co-chairmen of the seminar from the United Methodist Church of the Servant were Dr. Kent Potts and Public Defender Rees Evans. Ministers of the church are the Rev. Norman Neaves and the Rev. Bob Gregory.



**NO HELL'S ANGELS, THESE** — Steve Medarac (right) gets some pointers from his pastor, the Rev. Jack Dunlop. Both are members of a newly-formed motorcycle club at the Moravia United Presbyterian Church in New Castle, Pa. A church elder and "biker" suggested the club and his fellow elders said "why not?" Mr. Dunlop, who has ridden a cycle for 11 years, enthusiastically backed the idea and the club was born. The club meets weekly and members ride out to a strip mine area and compete in motocross and racing tests. Club members range in age from 10 to 42. "There's no great theological reasoning behind formation of the club," says the minister. "I guess you could say we're promoting safety along with fellowship." Or, as one local sage has put it: "VRRRRROOOMMMM, make ROOOOMMMM for Christians on wheels . . ." (RNS Photo)

# GCFA meets, cites progress, allocates and rejects funds

NEW ORLEANS, La. (UMC) The annual meeting of the church's general Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) was held Nov. 26-28 in New Orleans, La. CFA General Secretary R. Bryan Brawner, also general treasurer of the church, reported that substantial progress was being made in carrying out fiscal responsibilities assigned CFA by the 1972 General Conference.

One example cited was in the performance of treasury functions for three program agencies whereby it will be possible in 1974 to eliminate charges of \$47,000 to the agencies for these functions. This is because of economies of centralization and earnings from short term investments.

In actions relating to denominational finances, the CFA allocated \$25,000 in additional funds to the Board of Discipleship for each remaining year of the quadrennium for service to age level and family ministry coordinators. The Board of Discipleship has originally asked \$157,000 for this work and the General Council on Ministries had recommended that the funds be found from within the board's present budget.

A request of \$10,000 annually for the next three years from the Commission on Archives and History for use in its projected move to Nashville, Tenn., was rejected, as was \$5,000 for a news letter for the Bishops' Call for Peace and the Self Development of Peoples. Also turned down was a request from the Board of Global Ministries' Division on Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns that the balance in its contingency reserve fund at the end of this year, an estimated \$20,000 be allocated to the World Council of

Churches to help that agency meet its emergency financial crisis.

Approved was a request for solicitation of funds by persons interested in the restoration of Wesley Chapel in London, England, and by Scarritt College, in Nashville, Tenn.

The Staff Pension Fund administered by the General Board of Pensions was approved as the official pension plan for all general boards and agencies. The United Methodist Publishing House, which has its own plan, will be the only exception.

## BISHOPS ENSLEY, CRUTCHFIELD ADDRESS COUNCIL

Bishop F. Gerald Ensley of Columbus, Ohio, president of CFA, told the agency that he is "much concerned over the way in which World Service funds are declining." "As a church we aren't giving as sacrificially as we once did to this cause," he noted.

World Service is the basic program fund of the denomination with an annual goal this quadrennium of \$23,500,000. As of October 31, a total of \$13,474,374 has been received for 1974.

Addressing a dinner session of CFA,

Bishop Finis A. Crutchfield of the Louisiana Area said that United Methodists are the "most obedient, disciplined people anywhere," but that he thought the church's financial support would be increased by giving local churches more voice in how their contributions are allocated.

The bishop voiced deep concern at actions of some church agencies in adopting resolutions, such as those of two units recently calling for the beginning of impeachment proceedings against President Nixon, and said that "society isn't going to listen to us and our resolutions much longer." He also urged the church to "move out and find where needs are rather than waiting for the demonstrators to come to us."

A "new influence of the Holy Spirit," reports of youth returning "in great numbers" to the church, and "new strivings in the field of evangelism" were seen by Bishop Crutchfield as reasons for optimism by churchmen.

The Council on Finance and Administration will hold its next annual meeting, Dec. 2-4, 1974, in San Antonio, Texas.



Toge Fujihira

## Veteran Methodist photographer dies

NEW YORK (UMC) — Toge Fujihira, staff photographer of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries in New York, died suddenly Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 28, in Vancouver, British Columbia. He was 57.

At the time of his death he was on a special assignment for the United Church of Canada.

As the Board's photographer since 1942 Mr. Fujihira was a quiet, unassuming "artist with a camera" who was equally adept at photographing people, churches, community projects or football teams. He had been to nearly every area of the "free world" — Latin America, Africa, Asia, including such infrequently covered countries as Nepal, Okinawa, or Vietnam, before the war.

He also free-lanced for many other Protestant denominations, and his work has appeared in numerous church and secular publications.

Born in Seattle, he came to New York in 1938 and worked as a photographer for the Japanese-American News, a weekly newspaper that folded with the advent of World War II.

Mr. Fujihira was in New Orleans during the Board of Global Ministries meeting last October and did the photography for the special page on the Methodist Home Hospital which appeared in last week's edition of The Louisiana Methodist.

Mr. Fujihira is survived by his wife, Mitsu, of Roslyn Heights, Long Island, where they both resided; a son, Donald, 26, who is a law student at the University of Pennsylvania, and a daughter, Kay, a graduate student in Asian Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Other include his brothers, Tod, of Little Neck, L. I., and Shiro and Mako, of Seattle, Washington and a sister, Mrs. Yoshi Nakashima, of El Cajon, Calif.

Memorial services were held for Mr. Fujihira at Roslyn Heights United Methodist Church, on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m., and in the Chapel of the Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, on Wednesday, Dec. 5, at 1:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 13, 1973

## Insurance plan expanded, 400 churches covered

NEW ORLEANS, La. (UMC) — Expansion of the United Methodist insurance plan adopted earlier this year by the church's Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) was approved by that agency at its annual meeting here Nov. 26-28.

Added to the earlier programs of general coverage and workmen's compensation available to local churches and institutions will be personal, automobile, homeowners and accident insurance available to all ministers and full-time lay employees in the denomination.

Frank B. Hall & Co., New York, brokers for the general insurance plan and the workmen's compensation, also will be brokers for the new programs.

"We cannot say that the premiums on the new coverages will be lower, or even competitive, in all rating territories," Paul Adrian, Smolan, Kans., chairman of the CFA insurance committee, said. "We do know, however, that the program will offer excellent coverage and service at a premium that will be attractive in many areas of the country."

As in the case of the earlier coverages, the personal, automobile and homeowners insurance will be placed through local agents who will receive a ten per cent commission. The accident insurance will be handled directly through the Hall company.

Explanatory material will be sent to all ministers and lay employees as soon as possible.

Reviewing the general and workmen's compensations programs, the

CFA was told that more than \$1,000,000 in coverage now has been written on more than 400 churches and four general agencies. More than 6,000 quotations have been issued to interested local congregations.

John A. Kraeutler, an assistant vice-president of Frank B. Hall & Co., said that savings in premium costs to churches and agencies entering the plan over previous coverage have totaled some \$200,000.

It also was reported that in addition to these savings, many churches have been motivated by the program to re-evaluate their coverages and, while they have not entered the CFA-sponsored plan, have been able to effect lower premiums through other companies. One church is saving about \$900 per year this way.

Other churches are obtaining coverage through the CFA plan that have not been able to get protection before, or are covered for special perils such as hurricanes.

Also available to churches that choose to use it is an appraisal service that is expected to cost not more than \$60 in most cases. The insured churches do not have to use this service, nor are they bound to insure for the appraisal figure.

In his report, R. Bryan Brawner, general secretary of CFA and general treasurer of the church, said that while there is much interest in the insurance program, there also has been severe criticism in some places by state regulatory groups and independent insurance agents.



Ms. Martha Man, staff writer for the Dallas Times Herald, will succeed the Rev. Leonard M. Perryman as news director of the New York Office of United Methodist Communications Jan. 15. In her new position, Ms. Man will be based in New York with offices at the Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, and will have major responsibility for coverage of the world-wide activities of the church's largest unit, the Board of Global Ministries. Perryman recently transferred to Dayton, Ohio, to become associate editor of The Interpreter, the denomination's monthly program journal.

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## Council Directors to Local Churches

### NEW AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCES

Below you will find a list of additional, new resources available through your Conference Audio-Visual Library.

### LEARN TO TEACH ADULTS:

Skill Training Package. Step-by-Step Guidance for Developing Skills for Teaching Adults. Seven leaflets and a cassette tape. Blocks of time over a six-to-eight week period. Two or three persons are a desirable number for a group. Teaching is not easy. It demands commitment and discipline. Excellence in teaching will not result from half-hearted preparation in bits and pieces of left-over time. Neither does it accompany the attitude of some church school teachers — "I'll let the Spirit lead me." (In all likelihood, the Spirit can work far better through a teacher who is well prepared to teach.) But the rewards of teaching are worth every effort that goes into study and preparation. Growth takes place, both in the teacher and in the members of the group. And where there is growth,

there is, of course, life. And where there is life, there is excitement and enthusiasm. Even fun! Yes, that's it! Teaching and learning become fun.

### HOW DO I RATE AS A TEACHER?:

Skill Training for the Experienced Teacher. Step-by-Step Guidance for Developing Skills for Teaching Adults. Designed to enable the experienced adult teacher to assess his or her skills in the adult classroom and with an adult group. It has two basic resources for your guidance: a cassette tape and eight four-page leaflets. The package can be used by the individual teacher or by groups of two or three teachers. But an important word should be said to any user: As you begin, commit yourself to completing the work with all of the leaflets and the tape in a disciplined fashion. Snatching minutes here and there to work at it or choosing to complete only those assignments that appeal to you will result in very little satisfaction or real growth. Time required for completing the work in the leaflets varies. Altogether, the work in this skill training

package will cover a four-to-six week period.

**LORD, COME!:** Filmstrip, record, study paper, seven photoposters of contemporary scenes coordinated with the verses of the hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and a utilization guide. Designed as an aid to strengthening the user's understanding of and appreciation for the season of Advent. Realizing that the liturgy treats Advent as a season when we await the Christ Child as though he had not already come two thousand years ago, and that we also keep our eyes fixed on the Second Coming of Christ in the Final Days, the producers of this program have given us a sound filmstrip, employing the excellent artwork of J. K. Lambert, which emphasizes the various Messianic expectations in the Old Testament, the problems of sin, death and unmerited suffering, the doctrines of the incarnation and atonement, the Kingdom of God, and the present moment of God's judgment and grace. Scenes of war, poverty, and social problems remind us that we, today, urgently need Christ's coming.

†

## Saline County residents attend drug abuse seminar

The Rev. Loyd A. Perry, pastor of Salem United Methodist Church, was a member of a team of six residents of Saline County who attended a drug abuse seminar held recently in Miami, Fla.

The training session, sponsored by the U. S. Office of Education, was an extensive two-week program held at the Southeast Regional Training Center in the Florida city. While at the Center, the team underwent intensive training programs designed to assist communities to help themselves.

In addition to Mr. Perry those attending from Saline County were Mike Weed of the Benton public schools; Roy Ables of the Benton Police Department; Mack Rogers of the Saline County Boys Club; Van Stamps of the Central Arkansas Development Council; and Shirley Robinson and Nick Griffin, representing the youth of the community.

The team members will be available in January to civic clubs and other interested groups for programs on drug problems and drug abuse.

†

## A Gift That Pays You Life Income

Many Hendrix alumni and friends, recognizing the financial pressures on higher education, would like very much to help their college. But these same people feel financial pressures of their own and regretfully conclude that there is nothing they can do.

The facts of the matter are frequently quite different. The present tax law favors the use of the Charitable Remainder Trust, which enables a donor to make a gift to Hendrix during his lifetime while continuing to receive the income from the gift as long as he and a designated beneficiary live.

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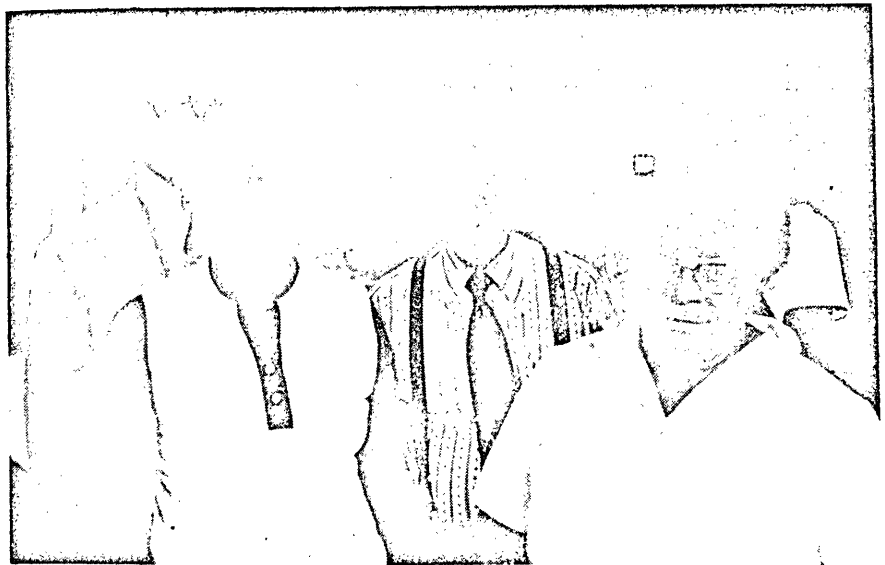
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Dear Sir:

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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These members of New Hope United Methodist Church at DeQueen hosted a recent sub-district Prayer Breakfast in Hope District. The breakfasts are held regularly. Dr. Mouzon Mann is district superintendent.

†

### CROSSETT DIRECTOR MOVES TO ST. LOUIS CHURCH

Mr. Bobby Harris, administrative assistant at First Church in Crossett, has accepted a position on the staff of University United Methodist Church in St. Louis.

Mr. Harris served as District Scout executive for the Saline District from 1969-71. He has been employed by First Church in Crossett since that time.

In serving at the St. Louis church Mr. Harris will be assistant to the pastor, in charge of evangelism work. He will be serving under the Rev. Ferris Norton, Jr., a former member of the Little Rock Conference. The position becomes effective Jan. 1, 1974.

Mr. Harris, his wife Lu Lu and their daughter, Leslie, will live at 2384 Wescreek Ave. in St. Louis.

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## Poetry Panorama

by barbara mulkey

*"Hold steady when the fires burn, when inner lessons come to learn, and from this path there seems no turn - Let patience have her perfect work." (L.S.P. - author unknown except for initials)*

### Question

Tormented by the fires of worldly hells  
And tempted by the siren call of sin,  
I often miss the sound of peaceful bells  
That seek to calm my storms that rage within.  
I taste forbidden fruits and know remorse;  
I cannot stay the hurting words and deeds;  
I fail to travel on a straighter course;  
I let life's garden fill with choking weeds.  
Someday my soul will catch a passing breeze  
And leave behind its heavy fleshful pod  
To soar, unweighted, and with graceful ease,  
To dwell again within the Heart of God.  
Will it be worthy of an honored place,  
Or will the stains preclude this higher grace?

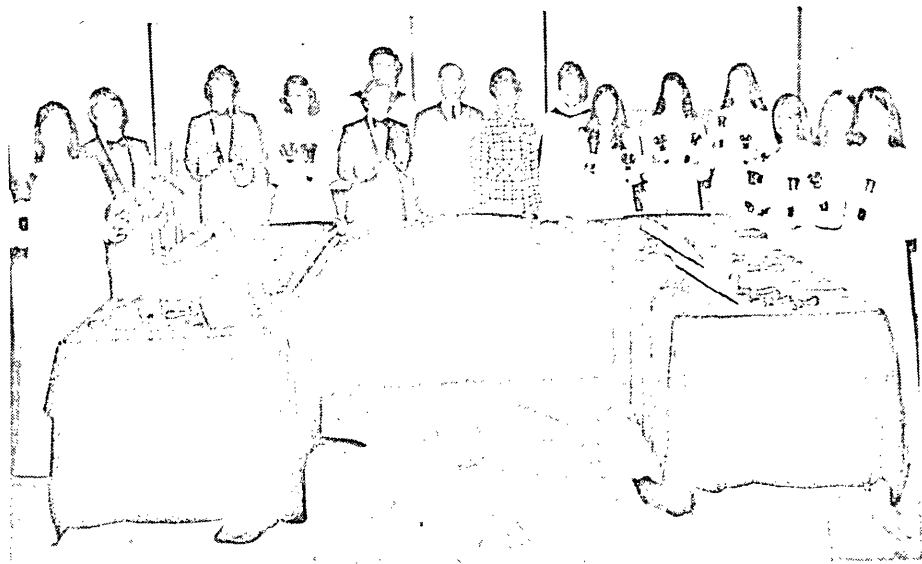
-by Deener W. Wardlow

### Who Shall Dwell

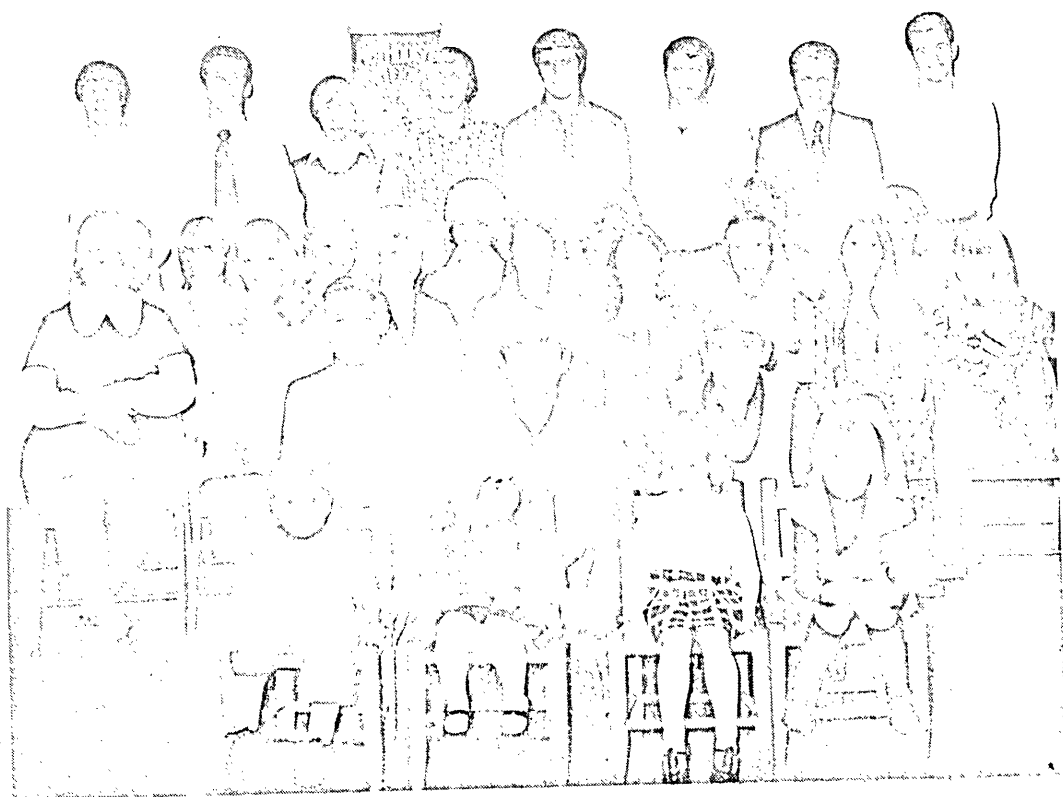
Another mountain,  
Another place,  
Another cry,  
Another prayer,  
Another temptation,  
Another agony,  
Another surrender,  
Another child of God.

-by Rosemary Clements

The Covenant Handbell Choir and the Sanctuary Choir of First Church, El Dorado recently returned from their annual Fall Concert Tour. This year's journey of over 3000 miles included four days in Washington, D.C., and two days in historic Williamsburg, Va., and several concert appearances. The handbell choir is shown below with Sen. and Mrs. J. William Fulbright. The choirs are under the direction of Gordan and Helen Betenbaugh, Ministers of Music at the El Dorado church. Dr. Alvin C. Murray, Jr., is pastor.



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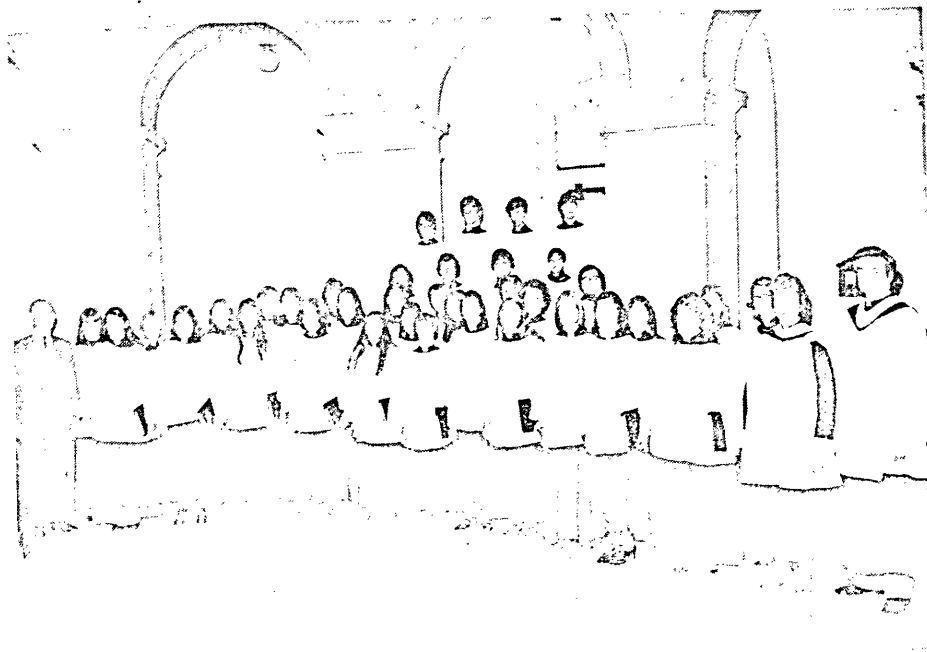


This photo of Norphlet United Methodist Youth (including the little people on the front row) will appear on a community calendar. The junior high, senior high and young adult groups of the church are sponsoring the sale of the calendars which list community-wide events, and will contribute the proceeds to the UMY Fund. Mrs. John P. Abshire, the minister's wife (seated at left, third row from front), has spearheaded the project. Only about half of the youth engaged in the project appear in photo.

†



AT LEFT: The Covenant Choir of First United Methodist Church, Sheridan, presented the musical drama, "It's Cool in the Furnace," on Sunday evening, Dec. 2nd. The choir was accompanied by members of the Genesis Singers. The drama, written by Beryl Red and Grace Hawthorne depicts the biblical account of King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel, Meshach and Abednego. Directors were Mrs. Mary Coleman and Mrs. Joanna Wilson. The Rev. Jack A. Wilson is pastor.



The Sanctuary Choir (above) of El Dorado's First United Methodist Church is shown with Sen. J. William Fulbright in Senate Rotunda. Thirty-four youth and five adults made the tour in the church's bus. The choirs have now covered 15,000 miles in their travels. The handbell choirs are currently planning next summer's tour through Florida and a cruise to the Bahamas.

DECEMBER 13, 1973